



## Pigments of the Flowers

### HOW TO CREATE YOUR ELEMENTS

#### STORAGE

For these sequences, the material created should fit in a box (or a shoebox).

#### CRAFT THE ELEMENTS

##### A. Extracting Pigments of the Flowers

1. Take the petals off a few flower heads (flowers with strong or bright petals).
2. Drop them into little bowls (small bowls, one for each colour, that you don't use in the kitchen).
3. You can leave the petals for a few days in the sunlight, to dry them.



Co-funded by  
the European Union

# SCIENCES

4. Place small amounts of dried petals in test tubes (optionally- if you don't have test tubes, you can use the little bowls).
5. Pour boiling water over the petals – just enough water so the petals are covered (it will be a maximum of half a centimetre of water in your bowl, or the colour will be too diluted).
6. Using your wooden sticks or paintbrush, mix the petals in the water. The dye will change colour right away, but will continue to darken for a while longer.
7. Repeat steps 4-6 again to make more small bowls of dye of different colours.



8. Insert a white lace into each bowl (or testing tube) to colour the lace with natural dye (Sequence 1).
9. Add a sprinkle of bicarbonate of soda to one of the bowls. The alkaline (basic) pH will shift the colour to a darker orange/red. (Sequence 2).
10. Squeeze some lemon juice (or white vinegar) into the other pot of dye. The acid will instantly turn the dye yellow, and it may look almost neon.



## B. Create a 100% eco-friendly dye

You can paint fabric with flower dye. When it's dry, iron the fabric with a hot iron and ideally wait a few days before rinsing out the excess colour. Since the dye is pH sensitive, it will shift colour with your tap water, so you could make a bucket of slightly acidic (by adding lemon juice or white vinegar) or alkaline water (by adding bicarbonate of soda) to rinse the fabric.

## C. Flower pounding

Flower pounding, or Tatakizome, is an ancient Japanese technique of hammering plants to create patterns on fabric. It is a very simple technique that renders gorgeous results. All you need is fresh flowers, a hammer and either paper, canvas or fabric to transfer the flower "dye".



Co-funded by  
the European Union