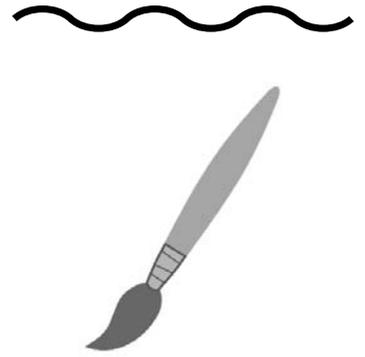


# Kids Explore!



## Making Natural Dyes in the Kitchen

Use red cabbage to make different colors!

### Materials

- ◆ A head of red cabbage
- ◆ Vinegar, liquid soap
- ◆ Ammonia (optional)
- ◆ Water
- ◆ Stainless-steel pot, strainer
- ◆ Large pot, 4 cups or jars
- ◆ Something to dye—eggs, coffee filters, drawing paper

*Steps with a ⇒ may require adult help.*



1. Peel off the leaves of your cabbage and put them in your pot. Add four cups of water.

⇒ 2. Simmer for an hour. Don't boil. Allow to cool.

3. Strain liquid into a large container. Compost leaves.



Pour your liquid into your four containers.

4. Add a teaspoon of vinegar to one container to make RED.

5. Add a teaspoon of liquid soap to another container to make PURPLE.

6. Leave the third container as it is. This water should be BLUE. *Note: You can make a very bright shade of blue by simmering red cabbage leaves in an iron pot. Simmer for one hour and let stand overnight.*

⇒ 7. Optional: Have an adult add a teaspoon of ammonia to another container to make GREEN.

8. Cover your work area with newspapers. Then paint on paper or coffee filters, or color eggs!

*— Activity borrowed from the book **Berry Smudges and Leaf Prints** by Ellen B. Senisi (originally published in *Nearby Nature News* Spring 2007)*

### Tell Me Why...

#### Some Creatures Lay SO Many Eggs

Imagine having hundreds or even thousands of kids, all at once! Humans don't (thank goodness), but lots of other living creatures do. Pacific treefrogs can lay 450-700 eggs in one spring. Spiders lay up to 2,000! Insects like dragonflies can lay hundreds of eggs. Even birds lay lots of eggs and have lots of youngsters compared to how many babies people have at once.

So why so many offspring? One reason is that many eggs don't actually make it to adulthood. All sorts of animals think there's nothing better than a fresh egg feast for dinner! Eggs that escape being eaten face other dangers — heat, cold, drying out, and getting stepped on, just to name a few.

Finally, the struggle for survival isn't over once you hatch. Small critters are favorite snacks for those higher on the food chain. It's not easy being an egg!

### Unscramble Spring

See if you can unscramble the spring words below. What do all of them have in common? Hint — they are all words for things that come out of EGGS!

1) OPAEDTL

2) IGGOLNS

3) VELNIA\*\*

4) MHYPN

5) LICRTPAARLE

6) CIKHC

7) CGUDIKN

8) ARLVA

*\*\*This tricky one is what first hatches out of a salmon egg.*

Answers: TADPOLE, GOSLING, ALVIN, NYMPH, CATERPILLAR, CHICK, DUCKLING, LARVA