

7. Traditional Textiles in Indonesia

Languages Online: Indonesian, Section 31

Many kinds of fabrics are made in Indonesia. There are different methods of weaving and dying fabrics to create beautifully-patterned cloth in cotton and silk. Certain regions specialise in a particular fabric, such as **batik**, **ikat**, **songket** or **tritik**. Women use dyes made from roots, bark, berries and leaves to colour the fabrics, which are used for traditional clothing. Traditional fabrics are also an important part of many rituals and ceremonies from war dances to weddings and burials.



► Instructions

Choose a type of fabric of Indonesian fabric and answer the questions below. These websites can be a starting point for finding the information you need:

<http://www.nga.gov.au/IndonesianTextiles/Code/Default.cfm>

<http://www.expatriat.or.id/info/traditionaltextiles.html>

<http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Batik>

<http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ikat>

<http://indo.com/culture/textile.html>

<http://www.indonesianmusic.com/batik.htm>

Present your answers in the form of a:

- report
- poster
- display
- electronic slideshow
- talk
- dramatic presentation

Questions:

- Where in Indonesia is this cloth made?
- Describe briefly how the cloth is made. Include pictures if you can.
- Draw or provide examples of the cloth, and explain some of the symbolic patterns that appear on the cloth.
- List some of the uses of this fabric.
- Draw and colour your own design for this fabric.
- Have you ever seen this type of cloth in Australia? How do you think it got here? Why do you think Australians like it?

