



## YAC Activity Template

Branch Name: **Fenland**

Leader Name: **Chris Carr**

Brief Activity Description: **Woad Banners**

Materials Needed:

- **Cotton or linen fabric cut into A4 sized pieces**
- **Woad powder (from Woad Inc 01362 860218 or see their website <http://www.woad-inc.co.uk/index.html>)**
- **Soda crystals (must be bleach free)**
- **Batik wax**
- **Brushes**
- **Water**
- **Large pan**
- **Heat source**

Step by step guide to the activity:

1. **Members paint a design of their choice on the fabric rectangle. Celtic designs would be best reflecting the best known users of woad but our group produced some really good modern art.**
2. **Wax must be left to dry. While this is happening the water should be heated. We did this over an open fire in our Iron Age roundhouse.**
3. **Add woad powder and soda crystals to the water. The amount used will depend on the amount of fabric. I found 10grams of woad was plenty for 12 banners.**
4. **Stir the mixture slightly. It is important to introduce as little oxygen as possible as this affects the colour.**
5. **Once dye bath is steaming, banners can be added (by an adult) and left for about 30 mins. A game at this point helps the waiting.**
6. **Adult should remove banners one at a time. This is when the magic happens: green banners exposed to the air turn blue! Once the fabric has cooled the children can run around with them to help them dry. Further dipping in the dye bath will deepen the colour.**

Safety Points:

**Obvious really: this activity involves a heat source and very hot water. Children will need to be supervised closely and any part of the activity requiring close contact with either needs to be done by an adult.**