

Do you know how
this fabric was made?
How was the pattern
put on it?





This fabric was made with a block-printing technique.

Were you correct?

Block printing has been used in India since the 12th century. It is used to create bold and vibrant patterns on fabric.



The main tool used to create block-printed fabric is a wooden block called a bunta. The blocks are shaped and then a design is carved into one side. A wooden handle is attached to the other side of the block so the printer can hold the block and use it.





This man is block printing some fabric. The printing always starts from the left and moves to the right. When the block is in place it is slammed down hard to leave a clear and sharp impression.

Let's have a look at some block-printed fabric. Did you know the blocks are soaked in oil first so they are soft enough to be carved. They are hand carved into many different shapes.





What can you see in this picture? Look at the fabric the man is holding. What colours were used? What shapes were used? How many different blocks do you think were used to make it?





