

Nigerian Iro, Buba and Gele

Children love to play dress-up—which makes a multicultural costume a terrific tool for stimulating interest and teaching about life in another land. As children examine and wear this traditional costume, they will naturally want to know more about the people and places associated with it.



This ceremonial skirt (*iro*), blouse (*buba*), and headscarf (*gele*) are worn by women and girls throughout Nigeria. It is common for an entire family or village, from infants to grandparents, to wear the same print

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for all their clothing. A method we know as “batik” is used to create the intricate and unique designs seen on this fabric.

The *gele* headscarf is several yards long and is wrapped around the head like a turban, as shown below.

