

African Art Activity

African Masks

Masks have been made for thousands of years from all kinds of materials and for many different uses. They represent spirits of animals or ancestors, mythological heroes, moral values or a form of honoring of a person in a symbolic way. They are made from wood, pottery, textiles, copper and bronze. Some are religious, or represent nature. Also, dancers wear masks in combat, ceremonies to bring rain or chase away evil or sickness.

Using a paper plate fold in 1/2. Cut out eyes, nose and mouth. These can be painted. You can hole punch all around edges and add yarn or raffia (grass or string).

Materials:

- Paper Plate
- Beads
- Paint
- Crayons, Markers
- Fake grass
- String
- Pipe cleaners
- Scissors, clear tape, glue



African Art Activity

African Shields

Shields were made to be used in combat, dance rituals and to symbolize a specific tribe by various ethnic groups among Africans. A shield was carried in the left hand as the only piece of defensive armor. Warriors attacked their opponents with the shield to knock them off balance. Colors and shapes varied from tribe to tribe.

Using a poster board or paper plate staple a pipe cleaner or a strong strip of paper to the back and staple on each side of the plate or poster. The child will insert a hand into the back of the plate/poster and the paper/string will keep the shield in place. Students will decorate the shield similar to African imagery. After completion, students can dance with the shields to African style music.

Materials:

- Poster board
- Paper Plate
- Strip construction paper
- Pipe cleaner
- Stapler
- Markers, paint, crayons
- Glitter
- Pop sickle sticks

