

present

A World of Art

PROJECTS FOR KIDS



Woven Basket

In Namibia, African women weave beautiful baskets from palm tree leaves. The fronds are pulled into strips, naturally dyed & hung to dry. When woven tightly, these baskets can even hold liquids. In the cities of Zimbabwe, where fewer trees grow, artisans adapt skills to city materials, making colorful baskets from recycled telephone wire.



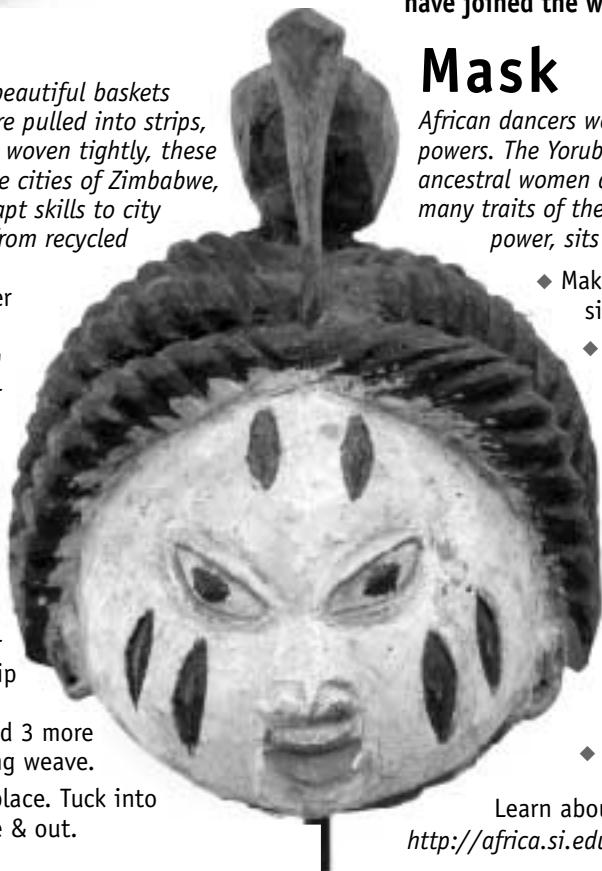
- ◆ Make a newspaper basket.
- ◆ Roll & crease 14" x 24" newspaper pages into 1" wide, flat tubes. Tape ends. Make 12 strips.
- ◆ Weave 4 strips across 4 strips to create base.
- ◆ Fold up strips for sides. Tape a strip to base & weave around sides. Add 3 more strips, alternating weave.
- ◆ Fold strips over to hold sides in place. Tuck into weaving. Paint your basket inside & out.

AFRICA

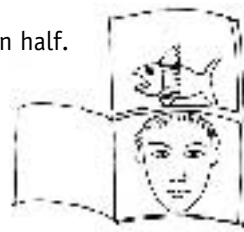
African artists use everyday materials to create sculpture & masks for traditional ceremonies, clothes & jewelry for adornment, & baskets for everyday tasks. Recently, recycled materials have joined the wood, grass, bark & beads they use to transform their art.

Mask

African dancers wear masks to transform themselves & gain powers. The Yoruba of Nigeria wear Gelede masks to honor ancestral women at planting ceremonies. The masks show many traits of these women. A bird, symbol of spiritual power, sits on this calm face mask (shown left).



- ◆ Make a mask "split book" showing different sides of yourself.
- ◆ Fold 2 papers in half. Staple. Cut middles of top three.
- ◆ Draw an outer self on each bottom half: happy, grumpy, mischievous, worried etc.
- ◆ On top halves, use animal symbols for your inner strengths: fast as a cheetah, clever as a mouse, strong like a bear, etc.
- ◆ Turn pages to see your many sides.



Learn about African children and masks at:
<http://africa.si.edu/exhibits/playful/behindindex.html>

Ancestor Figure

Artists in western Africa carve large figures to honor heroic ancestors. Symbolic carving & decorations tell of the leader's skills & community history. These statues teach life lessons, social customs & bring protection for future generations.

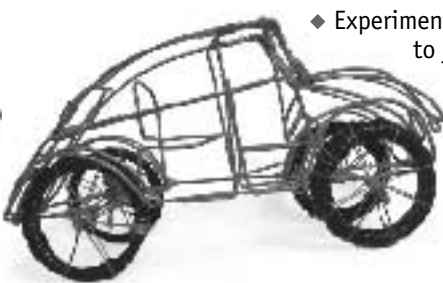
- ◆ Choose a person from history you wish could protect your community.
- ◆ What made him/her special? What symbols could show those qualities?
- ◆ Glue together paper sheets with wallpaper paste. While damp, twist & wrap in figure shape. Let dry into stiffened form.
- ◆ Use colored paper, fabric, beads & ornaments to complete your powerful guardian figure.



Galimoto

In Malawi, Africa, children use recycled materials to create "galimoto" toys. Bits of wire, tin cans, sticks, cornstalks & string become cars, trucks, bikes, insects or animals. A long wire helps push them along the ground.

- ◆ Gather materials to make a toy: wire, soda cans, string, cardboard, etc.
- ◆ Experiment. Try twisting, bending, looping to join shaped & movable parts.
- ◆ Snip tin can, insert scissors & cut away ends for lightweight tin scraps.
- ◆ Create a vehicle, animal or insect. Be imaginative. Invent something new.



Ndebele Doll

The Ndebele women of South Africa use beaded dolls as good luck talismans for important events like weddings. Make a beaded doll with a cardboard tube body & crumpled fabric head. Decorate with fabric scraps, wire & beads.

ARTS FOR ALL!

Information & activities created for teachers, parents & kids by:



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Many thanks to: Folk Art International, Marj Pitchon, Phillip Kirkeby

Supported by:



Pacific Gas and Electric Company

Look in the Mercury News

- ◆ Search for articles about people who work to protect their communities. What makes them good leaders?
- ◆ African villagers use baskets as containers. Search for pictures of containers. What are they made of? How are they made?

