



present

A World of Art

PROJECTS FOR KIDS

SOUTHEAST ASIA

Art in South-East Asia is completely integrated into everyday life. Buildings are lavished with the same careful detail as textiles, woodcarving and storytelling items. Artists create masks, puppets, baskets, statues & embroideries with equal care.



Masks

In traditional Indonesian dramas, dancers wear carved wooden masks. The masks' symbolic colors & designs enhance legends representing good & evil. The Ramayana, a popular epic, is a story of courtly intrigue, heroic action, fierce battles & the standoff between good & evil.

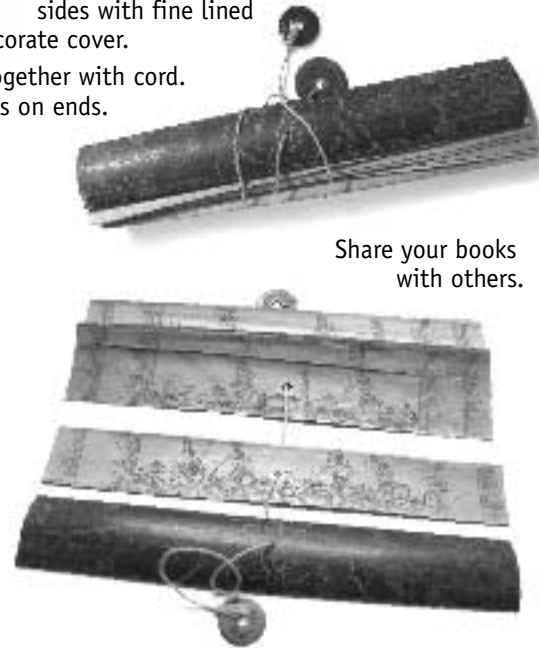
- ◆ To make a lively papier mache mask, place a balloon on a ring of newspaper. Tear strips of newspaper about 2" x 6" long.
- ◆ Cover top side of balloon with 3 layers of strips dipped in adhesive (wallpaper paste, water/flour paste or liquid starch).
- ◆ Build up eyes, ears, lips & hair with wads of newspaper. Cover with strips.
- ◆ Let mask dry. Paint with bright colored tempera paint.



Palm Leaf Book

Traditional rectangular books of palm leaves come from Southeast Asia & India. The palm leaves are cut & strung together by a cord in a center hole. Each page has pictures scratched on one side & text on the other, the fine lines blackened with soot. The story sequence flows from one page to the next.

- ◆ Cut 4 pieces of heavy paper & 2 mat board covers 1 1/2 x 9 inches. Punch holes in center.
- ◆ Plan your story with a beginning, middle, & end. Consider: "Yesterday, Today, Tomorrow" or "Morning, Noon, Night."
- ◆ Write parts of story on each paper strip. Illustrate other sides with fine lined pen. Decorate cover.
- ◆ String together with cord. Tie beads on ends.



Share your books with others.

Shadow Puppets

During Indonesian shadow plays the puppet master manipulates leather puppets behind a lit up screen. His voice changes with the many characters & is accompanied by a gamelan orchestra of gongs, drums & flutes. The elegant puppets act as royalty & his larger, cruder puppets show funny buffoons.

- ◆ Shadow puppets are cut to let light through their silhouetted shapes.
- ◆ Draw a head profile on a frontal body. Cut out shapes & attach paper doily for lacy silhouettes.
- ◆ Cut out & attach arms & legs with brads to allow movement.
- ◆ Tape a stick or skewer to puppet back.
- ◆ Shine light through puppet onto large paper screen to create your shadow play.



Batik

Indonesians dye cloth using ancient batik methods. Artisans use a tjanting tool to draw wax lines onto cloth. They stamp wax patterns with a metal stamp. The cloth is dipped in dye, coloring all but the waxed areas. More wax is added & the cloth dyed again, creating intricate, colorful designs

- ◆ Indonesian landscape is tropical & lush inspiring many nature designs. Use thin black marker on white paper to outline flowers, birds, & animal designs.
- ◆ Press heavily with bright colored crayons to color in the designs.
- ◆ Paint over the design with black watercolor paint. Watch the "wax" of your drawing resist the paint "dye".



Palm Leaf Ornaments

Balinese women cut & bend palm leaves into many forms for decorations during festivals & ceremonies. Experiment with bending leaves & grasses to make your own creations.



- ◆ Many tropical plants used in native crafts grow in Southeast Asia's tropical climate. Find the temperature for Jakarta, Bangkok, & Kuala Lumpur on the weather page.
- ◆ Search the Asia News section for articles about countries in Southeast Asia.