



ART from the PAST

PROJECTS

FOR SOCIAL STUDIES

Unusual Animals

Since earliest times, people have lived alongside animals, honoring their usefulness, knowledge & skills in stories & artwork. Certain unusual animals stood out, touching people so much that they have been remembered in unique ways.

Cat Mummy

Ancient Egyptians kept cats as pets & revered them as a symbol of the goddess Bastet. After a cat died, it was mummified, carefully wrapped in linen & preserved in a cat-shaped wooden coffin to accompany them to the afterlife.



Cat Mummies and Coffin
Egypt, Late Period-Ptolemaic, (525-30 BC)
Wood, cat mummy, H: to 45 cm

Rosicrucian Egyptian Museum
RC 390,608,739

- ◆ Visit the Rosicrucian Egyptian Museum in San Jose to learn about mummies & Ancient Egypt: www.egyptianmuseum.org

- ◆ Form a simple cat from clay. Wrap clay in strips of plaster gauze or use cloth or newspaper strips dipped in thinned glue. Let dry.
- ◆ Adorn & protect your mummy. Make a paper mask, bead jewels, magic scrolls & amulets.
- ◆ Cut, score, bend, tape & decorate a cardboard mummy coffin & lid to preserve your mummy for all time.



Bafun; Cameroon, Southern Grasslands
Zoomorphic Mask, late 19th century; Wood
Cantor Arts Center at Stanford University 2002.69
www.museum.stanford.edu

Roman Mosaic

How many stones make a mosaic floor? Early Romans needed 250,000 pieces of cut stone & ceramic for each room. The colorful mosaics showed mythological scenes, family images & favorite animals. Birds like this peacock lived in Roman gardens.



Mosaic with a Peacock and Flowers, 3rd-4th century
Roman or Byzantine, Probably from North Africa
Tesserae; H. 19 3/8 in. (49.2 cm), W. 22 5/8 in. (57.5 cm)
The Metropolitan Museum of Art, Gift of Kirkor Minassian, 1926 (26.68)

Animals on Wheels

Since the ancient people of Veracruz, Mexico had no wheels (imagine no carts, wheelbarrows, or wagons!) this small, wheeled toy is very unusual. Its whimsical clay shape & rolling wheels must have seemed amusing & playful.

- ◆ Make a wheeled animal from found materials.
- ◆ Try cardboard for a base, skewers in straws for axles, bottle caps for wheels.
- ◆ Fold, draw & cut an animal. Color & decorate with scraps.



Mexico, Veracruz
Dog on Wheeled Platform; A.D. 450-650
Ceramic with post-fire applied paint; 2 7/8 x 4 in. (7.3 x 10.16 cm)
Los Angeles County Museum of Art,
Gift of Constance McCormick Fearing; AC1996.146.40
Photograph ©2006 Museum Associates/LACMA

African Animal Mask

Do you feel different when you put on a mask? In Africa, people often wore animal masks to gain new powers. Hidden behind carved wood, they felt transformed with animal skills: ferocity, speed, strength & gentleness.

- ◆ Choose an animal with qualities you admire.
- ◆ Fold a paper & outline 1/2 the face. Cut out. Fold it over another paper. Trace & cut a larger shape. Exaggerate features.
- ◆ Continue cutting & layering different colors for fur, ears, eyes, cheeks & mouth. Glue down.



- ◆ Cut small squares from magazines & colored papers. Sort by color.
- ◆ Fill paper with outline of a favorite bird. Plan its colors.
- ◆ Spread glue over a small area of bird outline. Carefully fill with paper squares. Bit by bit add more pieces to fill mosaic.

Look in the Mercury News

Animals are important in our daily lives. Search for articles in the San Jose Mercury News about animals.

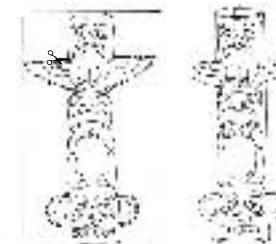
Read a pet adoption ad. Write & illustrate your own.



Guapiles, Limon, Costa Rica; Metate in the Form of a Jaguar, 600-700
Stone; 118.1 x 54.7 cm.; Cantor Arts Center at Stanford University 1966.76
www.museum.stanford.edu

Animal Tools

Jaguar metates to grind corn? Bird pitchers to pour water? Yes! Latin Americans designed animal-shaped kitchen tools. Try it! Choose an everyday useful object. Redesign it into the shape of an animal. Will it work in the same way? Draw & name your animal tool.



Don Yeomans, Haida carver
British Columbia, Canada; Totem Pole, 2002
Cedar wood, h: 40'; Permission:
Cantor Arts Center at Stanford University
www.museum.stanford.edu

Peru, Early Nasca; Bird-Shaped Vessel with Single Spout; 100 B.C. - A.D. 200
Ceramic, hand built, slip painted, burnished and fired
3 1/2 x 4 1/2 in. (8.89 x 11.43 cm)
Los Angeles County Museum of Art,
Gift of Nasli M. Heeramanek; M.73.48.21
Photograph ©2006 Museum Associates/LACMA

In 2002 Stanford University commissioned this totem pole about its history. Visit this & 75 outdoor sculptures at Stanford: www.museum.stanford.edu.

ARTS FOR ALL!

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

COMMUNITY SCHOOL OF MUSIC AND ARTS (CSMA) AT FINN CENTER
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