

Science Story Adventures



African Languages and Cultures

Learning outcomes

» Looks at the beliefs, customs, ceremonies, traditions, and social practices of varied cultures, drawing from folklore. (Grade 1)

Adapted from *California History-Social Science Content Standards*.

Books we read

Moja Means One by Muriel Feelings

Masai and I by Virginia Kroll

Activities we did

» Ampe Clapping Game

<http://library.thinkquest.org/J0110166/>

» Zulu Children's Stalking Chant

<http://www.canteach.ca/elementary/africasong.html>

Today's craft: Kente Cloth

You will need:

- » Black construction paper
- » Strips of colored construction paper about an inch wide - all colors
- » Scissors
- » Sticky tape



Directions:

1. Take a sheet of black construction paper: that is your frame. Fold it in half.
2. Cut zigzag lines from the middle fold to about an inch from the edge. Start these about an inch from the top and space them an inch apart until about an inch from the bottom. Don't worry if the lines are not even.
3. Weave a strip of colored paper through the zigzags and secure at each end with sticky tape.
4. Weave a second strip the opposite way through the zigzags and secure with tape. Continue until the frame is full.

Adapted from *Around the World Art Activities* by Judy Press

Want to find out more?

Here is a selection of further resources to explore in the Naturalist Center, in the public library or at home. Please ask if you can't find what you're looking for.

Books

Halala Means Welcome by Ken Wilson-Max
A book of Zulu words.

Jambo Means Hello by Muriel Feelings. Nat. Ctr. Juv.
PL8701 .F43 1974
A Swahili alphabet book in the same style as *Moja Means One*.

Kente Colors by Debbi Chocolate
Read more about Kente cloth.

The Lonely Lioness and the Ostrich Chicks by Verna Aarderna. Nat. Ctr. Juv. PZ8.1.A213 Lo 1996
A re-telling of a traditional Masai tale.

Websites

Games from Africa
Games from Ghana, Zambia and Zimbabwe.
<http://library.thinkquest.org/J0110166/>

Wrapped in Pride
Lots of information about kente cloth including how it is made and how to wear it. You can even design your own kente with a plug-in.
<http://www.nmafa.si.edu/exhibits/kente/top.htm>