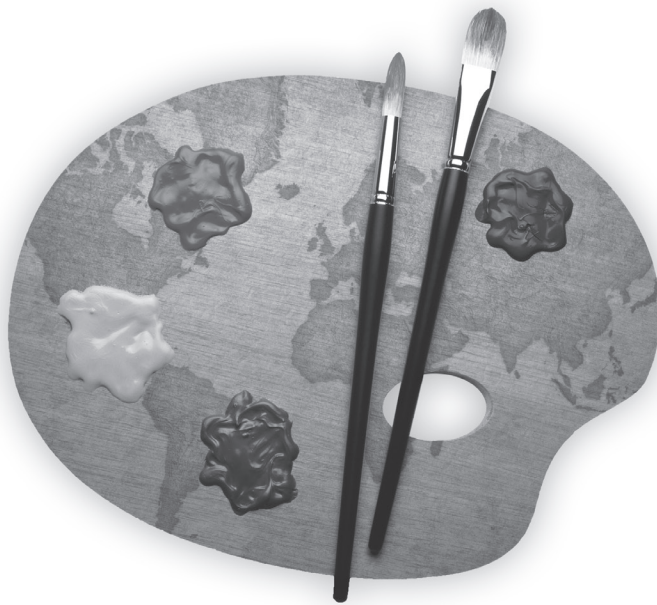


# GEOGRAPHY THROUGH ART

U.S. & International Art Projects for Kids!



BY SHARON JEFFUS & JAMIE ARAMINI

*Geography Through Art* by Sharon Jeffus and Jamie Aramini

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Published by Geography Matters, Inc.

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ISBN: 978-1-931397-58-2

Library of Congress Control Number: 2008923054

Printed in the United States of America

Geography Matters  
800-426-4650  
[www.geomatters.com](http://www.geomatters.com)

## **DEDICATION**

I would like to dedicate my work on this book to my wonderful father who went to be with the Lord on December 26, 2000. This book is for him. He was going to write a book for me on succeeding in business from his experience. Although this book is about geography, I want to give him the credit for my love of learning and ability to write.

~Sharon Jeffus

I would like to dedicate my work on this book to all the favorite children in my life: Nick & Alyssa Aramini; Jacob Childers; Darrell, Bobby, & Abby Johnson; Taylor Jones; Zack Lose; Maggie & Megan Miller; Katie Nichols, and my favorite of favorites—Joey Aramini. You all are my inspiration for writing something that is fun.

~Jamie Aramini

## **ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS**

We wish to extend our heartfelt appreciation to Kathy Wright who drew many of the illustrations in this book. Her tireless efforts to create QuickSketch examples to help students draw was a tremendous contribution to *Geography Through Art*.

Thanks to Josh Wiggers for creating the wonderful maps; to Cindy Wiggers for providing the geography information that introduces each continent; to Alex Wiggers for the beautiful new cover design and layout.

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# TABLE OF CONTENTS

**INTRODUCTION**..... 8

**INSTRUCTIONS**..... 9

Features and symbols..... 9  
 Geography Notebook..... 10  
 Art Tips..... 11  
 Safety Tips ..... 14  
 Teaching Tips..... 15  
 Tips for Teaching Groups..... 15  
 Supplies..... 16

**WORLD**..... 16

**The Planet Earth**..... 20

Positive and Negative Space..... 20  
 Earth from Space ☆..... 21  
 Paper Mache Globe ☆☆..... 21

**All About Maps**..... 22

Pangea Puzzle ☆☆..... 22  
 Make a World Map ☆☆..... 23  
 Treasure Map ☆☆..... 23  
 How to Age Your Maps..... 24

**Country Projects** ..... 25

**AFRICA** ..... 26

Masks ☆☆..... 28

Sculpture..... 29

**Central African Republic**

Butterfly Wing Art ☆☆..... 30  
 QuickSketch: Zebra..... 31

**Egypt**

Hieroglyphics ☆..... 32  
 Egyptian-Style Drawing ☆..... 33  
 Carved Orthostat ☆☆..... 34  
 QuickSketch: Cat..... 35  
 QuickSketch: Pyramids at Giza..... 35

**Ghana**

Kente Cloth ☆☆..... 36  
 Golden Staff Finials ☆☆☆..... 37

**Tanzania**

Mount Kilimanjaro, Tanzania ☆☆☆..... 39

**Morocco**

Rug Making..... 40

**Zimbabwe**

Animal Art ☆..... 42  
 QuickSketch: Giraffe..... 43  
 QuickSketch: Lion..... 44

**ASIA**..... 46

**China**

Terra Cotta Soldiers ☆☆☆..... 48  
 QuickSketch: Pagoda..... 49  
 Tangram Puzzle ☆☆..... 50  
 Paper Cutting ..... 51  
 Chinese Calligraphy..... 52  
 QuickSketch: Great Wall of China..... 53  
 Chinese Seals ☆☆..... 54  
 QuickSketch: Dragons..... 55  
 Chinese Scrolls..... 56  
 QuickSketch: Hall of Prayer/Good Harvest... 57  
 Hmong Story Cloth ☆☆☆..... 58

**India**

Miniature Painting ☆☆..... 59  
 Batik ☆☆☆..... 60  
 Easy Batik ☆..... 61  
 QuickSketch: Elephant..... 61  
 Taj Mahal ☆..... 62

**Japan**

Fish Printing ☆..... 63  
 Sumi-e Ink Painting ☆☆..... 64  
 Origami ☆☆..... 65  
 Divider Screen ☆☆..... 66  
 Girl's Day Dolls ☆☆☆..... 67  
 Boy's Day Fish Banners ☆..... 68  
 Folded Fan ☆..... 69

**Russia**

Russian Mosaics ☆..... 70  
 Matryoshka Doll ☆..... 72  
 Lubok ☆☆..... 73  
 QuickSketch: Reindeer..... 74  
 Russian Pins ☆..... 76

**AUSTRALIA** .....78

Aboriginal Dot Painting ☆	80
Aboriginal Stone Painting ☆	81
Aboriginal Bark Painting ☆	82
QuickSketch: Kangaroo	83
Didgeridoo ☆	84
Spiny Anteater ☆☆	85
QuickSketch: Sydney Opera House	86
Boomerang	87

**EUROPE** ..... 88

Castles	90
Coat of Arms	91

**England**

Stonehenge ☆	92
QuickSketch: Big Ben	93
Inn Sign ☆	94

**France**

Palace at Versailles ☆☆	95
QuickSketch: Eiffel Tower	96
Stained Glass Windows ☆	97

**Germany**

Gingerbread House ☆	98
---------------------	----

**Greece**

A Minoan Fresco ☆	99
Parthenon ☆☆	100

**Italy**

Sistine Chapel ☆	102
QuickSketch: Leaning Tower of Pisa	103
Roman Concrete ☆☆	104
QuickSketch: Arch of Septimius Severus	105
Mona Lisa Portrait ☆☆☆	106

**Poland**

Polish Paper Cutting ☆☆	108
-------------------------	-----

**Sweden**

Viking Ivory Chessman ☆☆	109
Viking Rune Stones ☆☆	110
Switzerland	112
Painting	112

**Ukraine**

Easter Eggs ☆☆	113
----------------	-----

**NORTH AMERICA** ..... 114**Canada**

Maple Leaf Rubbings ☆	116
QuickSketch: Moose	117

**Guatemala**

Huipil Weaving ☆	118
------------------	-----

**Mexico**

Wall Hanging ☆	119
Oaxacan Woodcarvings ☆	120
Papel Picado ☆	121
God's Eye ☆	122

**Panama**

Mola ☆	123
QuickSketch: Sloth	124

**United States**

Native American Sand Painting ☆	125
Native American Hide Paintings ☆	126
Scrimshaw ☆☆☆	128
Eskimo Plate	129
Pennsylvania Dutch Hex Signs ☆	130
Pennsylvania Dutch Fraktur ☆☆	132
Patchwork Quilt ☆	134
Corn Husk Doll ☆☆	135
Easy Log Cabin ☆	136
A Model Log Cabin ☆☆	137
QuickSketch: Antebellum Architecture	137
Chainsaw Carving ☆☆☆	138
QuickSketch: Mount Rushmore	139
QuickSketch: Washington Monument	140
Central Park ☆	141
Cityscape ☆☆	142
QuickSketch: Statue of Liberty	145
Graffiti ☆	146
QuickSketch: Seattle Space Needle	147

**SOUTH AMERICA** ..... 148**Brazil**

Rain Stick ☆	150
Emerald Tree Boa ☆	151
QuickSketch: Frog	152
QuickSketch: Hercules Beetle	152

## Chile

Easter Island ☆	153
QuickSketch: The Hummingbird	154
Piñata ☆☆☆	155
QuickSketch: Bombardier Beetle	156

## Ecuador

Tagua Nut Carvings ☆☆	157
Butterfly Watercolors ☆	158
QuickSketch: Harpy Eagle	159

## Peru

Retablo Art ☆☆	160
QuickSketch: Machu Picchu	161
Macaw ☆	162
QuickSketch: Llama	163
Bulls of Pucara ☆☆	164

<b>APPENDIX</b>	<b>165</b>
-----------------	------------

## Recipes and Templates

Clay Recipes	167
Illustrated Geography Terms Sample	168
Illustrated Geography Terms Template	169
Countries of the World Sample	170
Countries of the World Template	171
Chinese Paper Cutting Designs	172
Carp Template - Boy's Day Banner	173
Matryoska Doll Template	174
Boomerang Template	175
Graph Paper Grid	176

## Outline Maps

World	177
Africa	178
Asia	179
Australia	180
Europe	181
North America	182
South America	183

<b>GLOSSARY</b>	<b>184</b>
-----------------	------------

Art Terms	184
Geography Terms	186

<b>INDEX</b>	<b>187</b>
--------------	------------



# AFRICA

## Continent Summary

Africa is the 2nd largest continent in the world. It is generally divided into two regions: North Africa and south of the Sahara. It has many climate changes and contrasts. As a result, Africa is home to more than 7,000 species of mammals, fish, and birds; over 100,000 species of insects; the largest (elephant) and tallest (giraffe) animals on earth.

Africa is known for its diversity of animals and plants. The Serengeti, in northern Tanzania, is a vast plain of grassland, acacia bushes, forests, and rocky outcrops. The Serengeti National Park has been set aside as a protected area for African wildlife. If you were to visit the park, you'd see antelope, buffalo, cheetahs, elephants, gazelles, giraffes, hyenas, leopards, lions, black rhinoceros, and zebras. Chimpanzees, gorillas, and many birds make their homes in the forests of Central and Western Africa.

The world's largest desert takes up a vast amount of northern Africa where the climate is arid. It is the Sahara Desert, which covers nearly the same amount of space as the United States. The camel is still the preferred mode of transportation in the Sahara as it is well suited for the climate and desert conditions.

Some other geographical features of interest include the Great Rift Valley in the east which is surrounded by a number of plateaus; volcanic eruptions and elongated lakes and valleys along the rift; the Atlas Mountains in the northwest. The highest elevation in Africa is at Kilimanjaro where the mountain peak rises over 19,000 feet above sea level.

Africa is surrounded by the Atlantic Ocean on the west, Indian Ocean on the east, and the Mediterranean Sea on the north. Africa boasts the longest river in the world, the Nile, which flows north through Uganda, South Sudan, Sudan, and Egypt. The banks of the Nile flood yearly, leaving rich deposits of fresh fertile silt. This annual soil replenishment provided for abundant agriculture for thousands of years. Other major rivers are the Congo, in the midst of the Democratic Republic of the Congo (formerly Zaire), and the Zambezi, running through western Zambia. Africa's largest lake, the beautiful Lake Victoria, is not too far from Serengeti National Park.

A discovery along the banks of the Orange River near Hopetown in 1867 marked a turning point in South Africa's history. Can you guess what it was? A 21-carat diamond! This area eventually became the diamond capital of the world. South Africa boasts the world's greatest deposits of gold, chromite, manganese, and platinum metals.

### Facts

Size: 11,700,000 square miles

Rank: 2nd largest continent

Highest point: Kilimanjaro 19,319 ft.

Lowest point: Lake Assal, Djibouti, 512 ft. below sea level

Main rivers: Nile, Congo, Zambezi

Largest country: Algeria

Smallest country: Seychelles

Main languages: Arabic, English, French, Portuguese

Major industries: agriculture, tourism, recent growth in services industries such as banking, financial services, communication and information technology

Natural resources: diamonds, gold, iron, cobalt, uranium, copper, bauxite, silver, petroleum, woods, tropical fruit



# Africa



# AFRICA

## Masks ☆☆☆



Masks are an important part of African tribal culture. Richly decorated masks have been an important part of tribal and religious ceremonies for many years. The masks are usually carved from wood, painted, and accented with gemstones, ivory, or other items.

1. Lay a piece of cardstock on the table. Place your head, facedown, on the cardstock. Have someone trace the general shape of your face. This ensures that your mask is the proper fit.
2. Cut your mask out, following the traced lines. Decorate your mask. Look online or in a book at samples of African masks to help you get the idea.



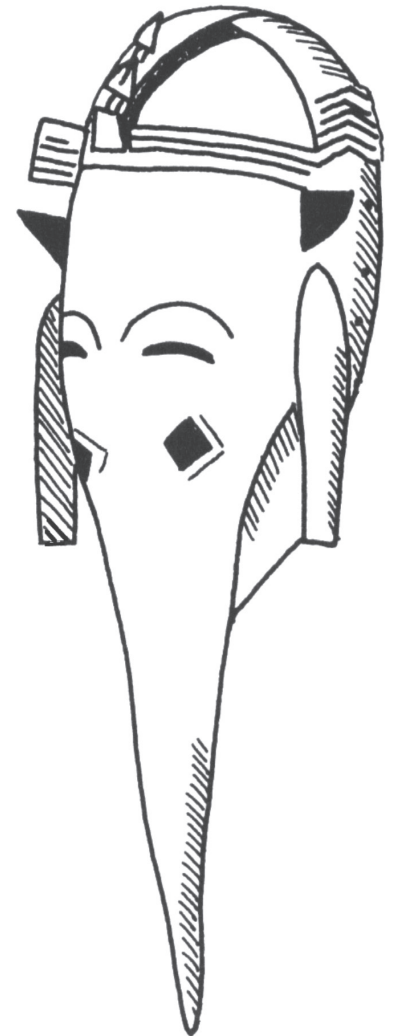
3. Tape strands of raffia or twine to the back side of your mask if you want your mask to have hair. Cut out holes for your eyes if you plan on wearing the mask.
4. Use your hole punch to put holes on both sides of the mask. Tie a long strand of twine or raffia to each hole. Have someone tie the mask to your face, or simply tie the strands together to hang on the wall.



Primary students can skip the cutting step. Instead, use a paper or Styrofoam plate for the mask.



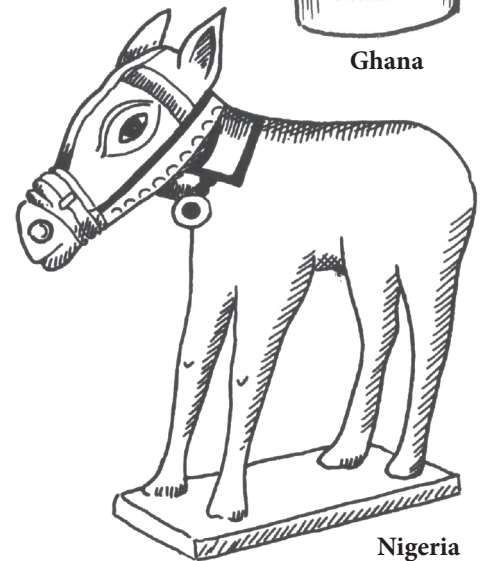
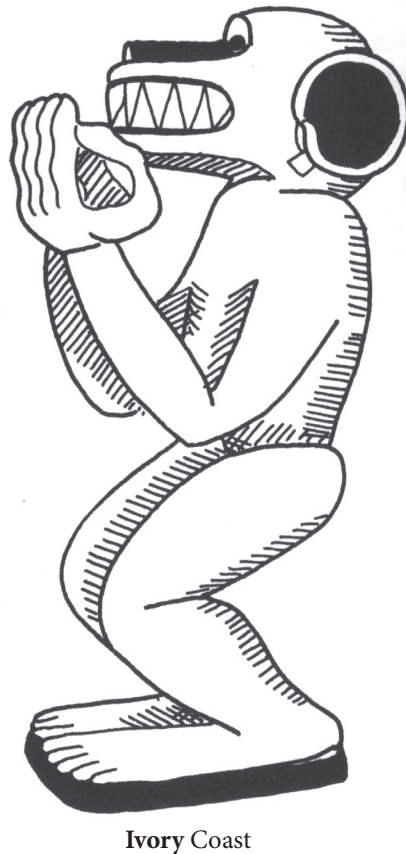
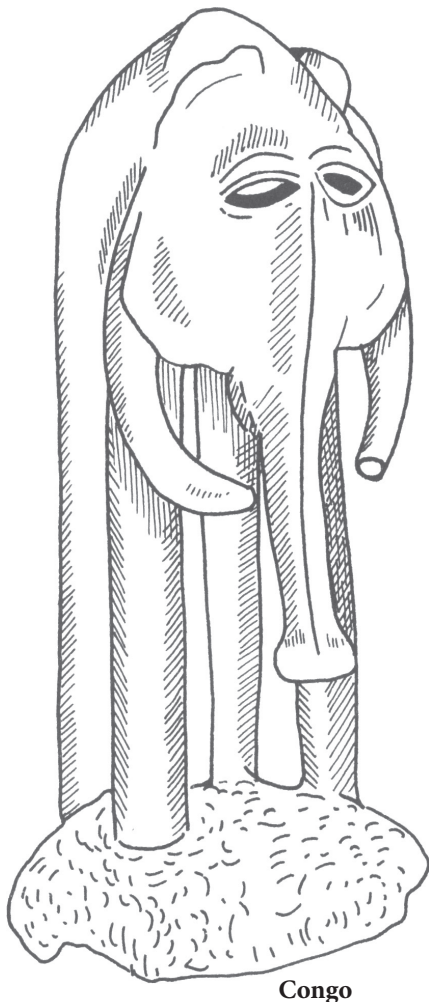
Secondary students might try making their mask from paper mache.



## Sculpture

The people of Africa have a great heritage in primitive sculpture. Look at the samples on this page. Each region of the continent has different types and techniques of sculpture that are popular. The sculptures are usually woodcarvings, but we will make ours out of modeling clay.

1. Sketch a design on paper of what you want your sculpture to look like. Try to make a design that looks like some of the African ones below. Look online or in a book about Africa for more inspiration.
2. Sculpt your design using modeling clay. Use a wood-toned color such as brown or tan. You can use toothpicks or disposable plastic silverware to help sculpt smaller details.
3. Dry or bake your clay according to the directions that came with the clay.





## CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC

### Collage

A **collage** is a picture put together of many different parts. For example, the sun in a collage would be made of many different kinds of yellow paper. The grass would be created from many different kinds of green paper. To make a collage, you can use patterned scrapbooking papers. You can also use the pages of an outdated magazine or calendar, with your parent's permission.

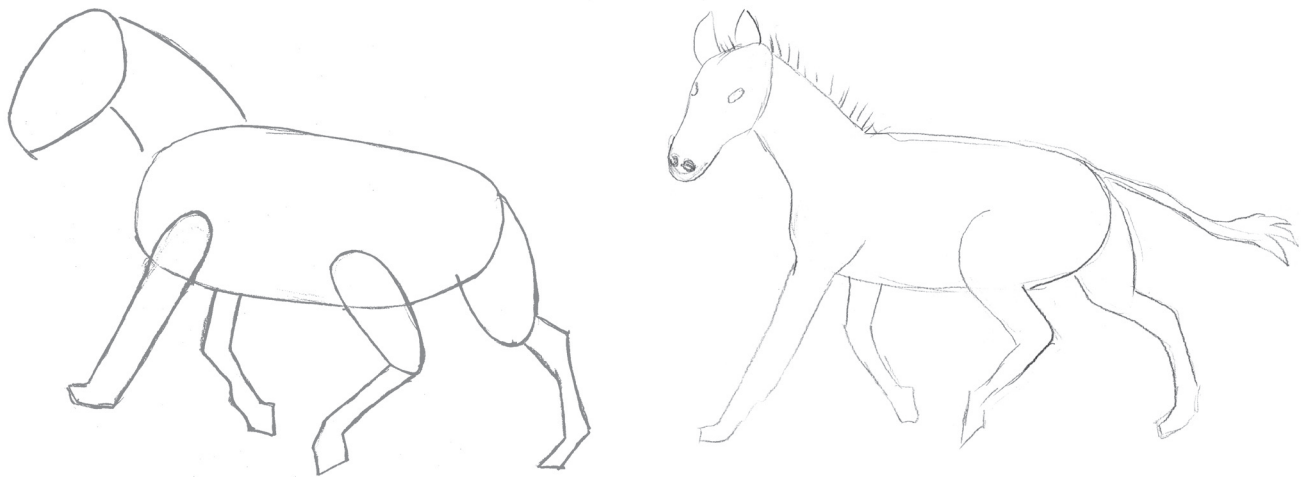
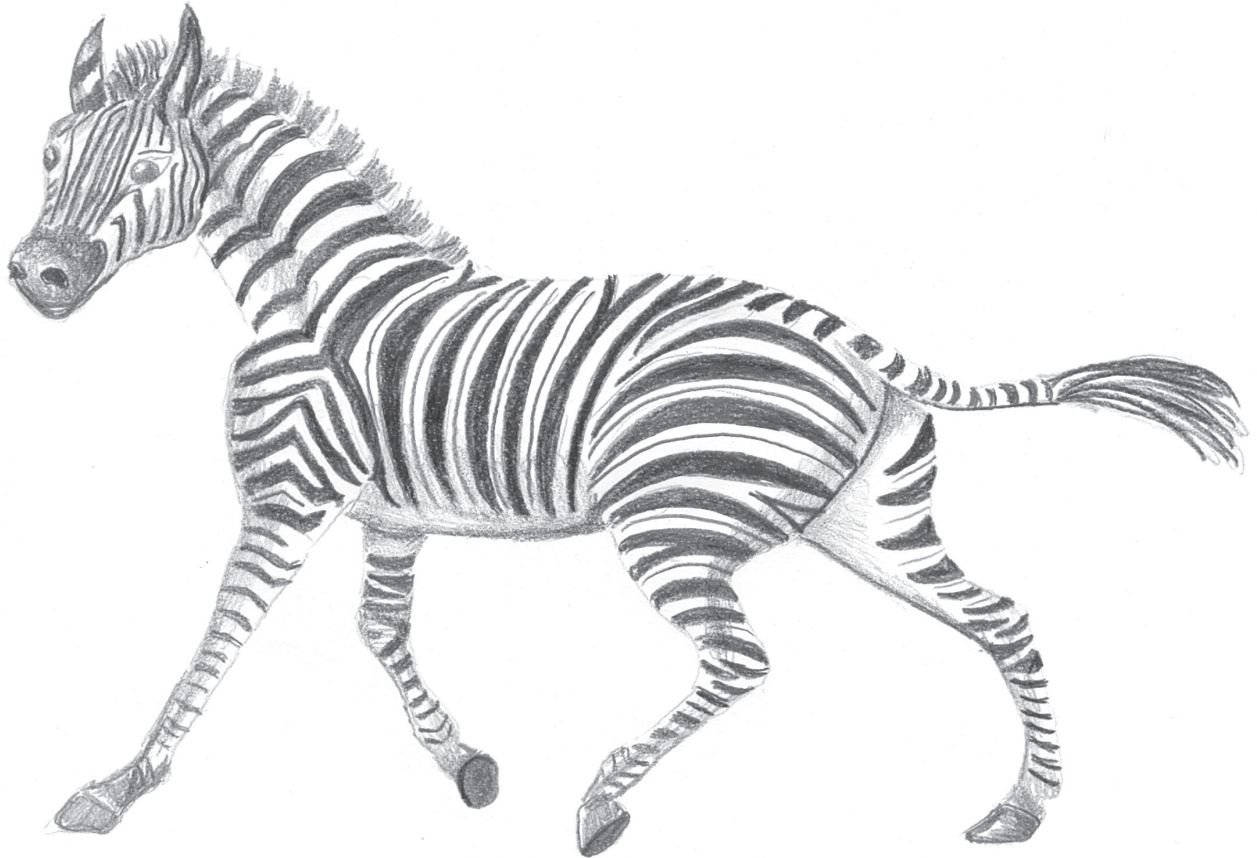


### Butterfly Wing Art ☆☆



Butterfly wing art is a common folk art in the Central African Republic. Each picture is composed of many delicate butterfly wings. (The wings come from butterflies that are not endangered and that have lived out their natural life span.) The wings are carefully arranged to create a beautiful scene or animal.

1. Decide what picture you want to make for your collage. You might choose an African animal such as a zebra, lion, or giraffe. You could also make a picture of an African tree or flower. Look on the Internet or in a library book for images of Africa to give you some ideas.
2. Lightly sketch your picture onto a piece of cardstock. Big, bold shapes will be easier to collage than small details. Write inside each shape what color you want it to be.
3. Select papers in the colors you will need for your collage. Cut or tear your papers into small pieces.
4. Glue the colored papers onto your cardstock. Use the colors you wrote in earlier as a guide.
5. You can color in the background if you want. Butterfly Wing Art usually has a plain white background so that the wings stand out boldly from the page.



### QUICKSKETCH: ZEBRA

What is the first animal that comes to your mind when you think of Africa? Is it the zebra? The zebra, a member of the horse family, is a beautiful animal covered with black and white stripes. The stripes are not only beautiful, but serve a purpose as well. The stripes help the zebra blend in when standing in a grove of trees. Some scientists believe the stripes also make the zebra look like blades of grass in a field to the color-blind lion. In your geography notebook, draw a picture of a zebra. Pay close attention to how you place your stripes. A zebra's stripes are vertical everywhere except on its back end and legs, where the stripes are horizontal. To make your zebra stand out even more in your picture, put it in front of a beautiful African sunset of reds, oranges, and yellows.