

Welcome to AFRICA: One Continent. Many Worlds.

This activity book is designed to help young people develop an appreciation and respect for Africa — its diversity, its wealth in peoples and cultures, and its rich history.

Some of these activities ask visitors to observe portions of the exhibit. Others ask visitors to apply themes from the AFRICA exhibit to their own lives, for example, by mapping their community, designing their own Royal Palace or drawing their own memorial tusk.

We recommend that you choose a few activities to do when you visit the exhibit. Other activities are best done either before you reach the Museum, or when you return to your home or classroom.

To help you choose activities, we've come up with the following system.



Activities to do in the exhibit are marked with this icon.



Activities that are better done before or after your Museum visit are marked with this icon.

We hope you enjoy your visit to AFRICA: One Continent. Many Worlds.



Trace Your Itinerary

Welcome to AFRICA.

When you enter the AFRICA exhibit you'll land in Dakar, Senegal, a gateway to Africa. Then you'll begin your journey across the continent. There are 53 countries in Africa. This exhibit will take you to just a few of them.

Connect the numbers to see where you're going. (Check and make sure you have your airline and bus tickets. Don't forget your hiking boots and a camel saddle — you're going to need them on this trip.)



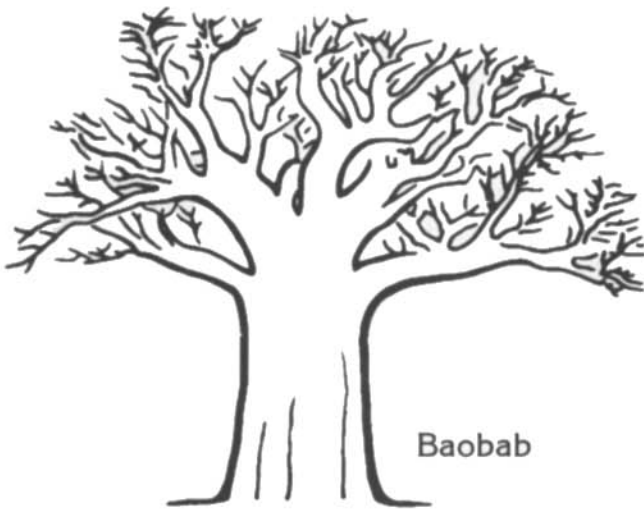


Trace Your Itinerary

Watch for this design as you go through the exhibit.



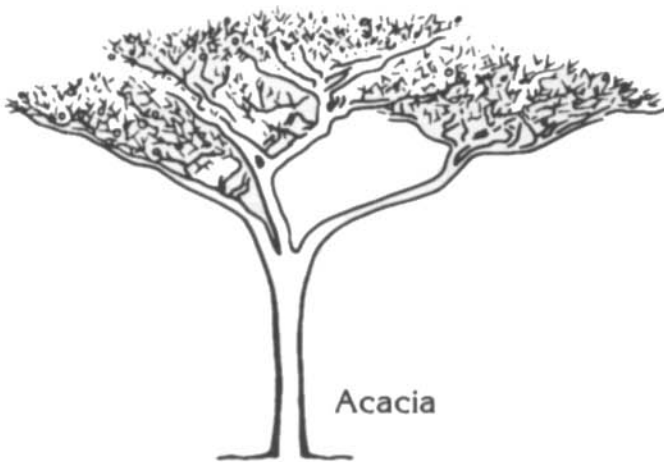
And also watch for these trees:



Baobab



Date Palm



Acacia



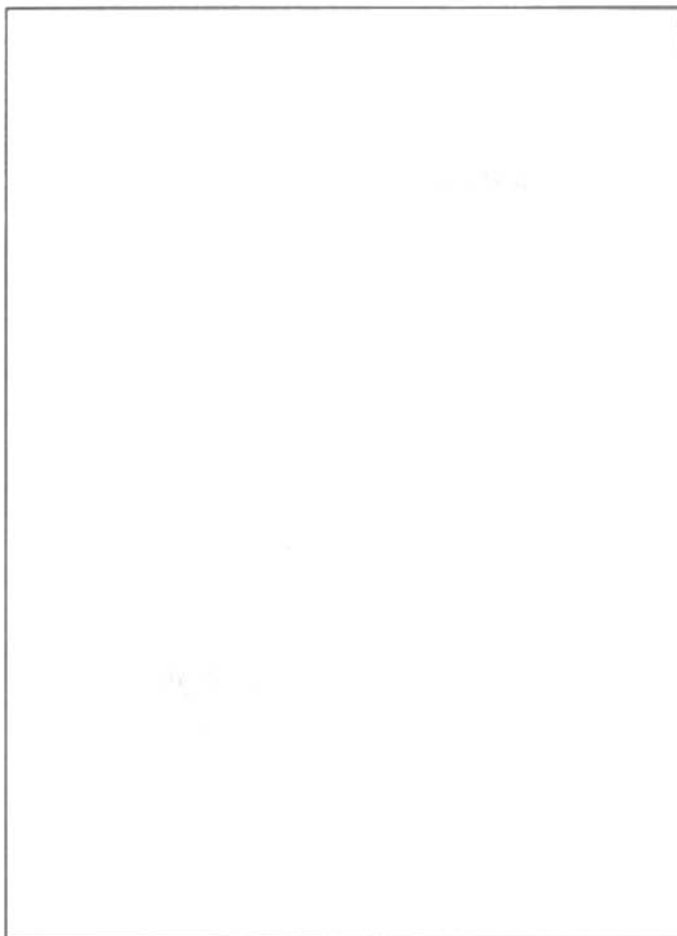
Map Your Community

When you walk through the streets of Dakar, you'll see a street marker painted with a picture of the South African leader Nelson Mandela.

Senegalese artists often paint street markers with portraits of important political or religious figures. Schools, parks and public buildings also are named for important people.

Make a special streetmarker for your community. Be sure to put a picture of one of your heroes on it.

During your visit to Senegal, you'll leave the high rises of Dakar to go to a suburb called Grand Yoff with Marietou, a Senegalese woman who has invited you to visit her family for the Muslim holiday of Tabaski. On the way there, you'll see the members of Marietou's community—some neighborhood boys, Mamadou the tailor, her brothers in the courtyard drinking tea, the women in the kitchen, and the girls that do their hair in the courtyard during the afternoon.



After your museum visit, draw a map of your community. Put in your street, other streets nearby and special places like your home, school, church, store, playground or ball field. Include pictures of the people who are most important to you.

Who was your school, street or park named for? What was so special about that person?

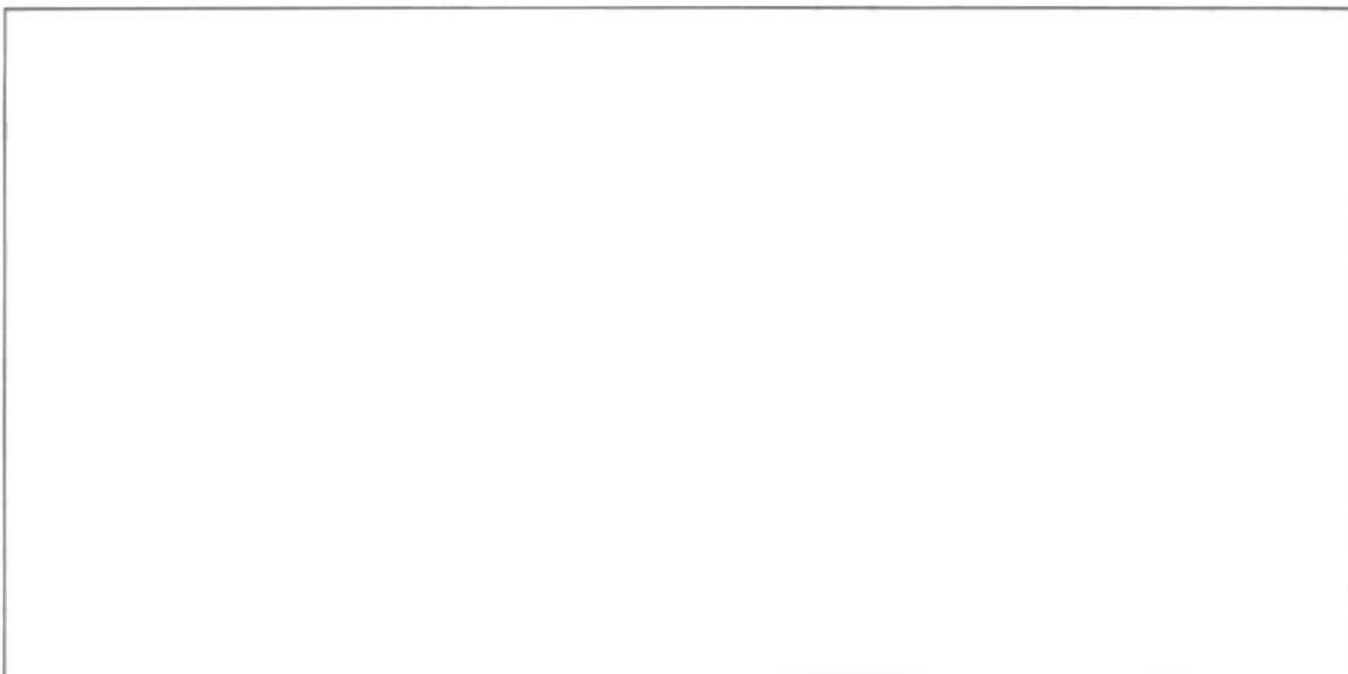


Design Your Own Royal Palace



When King Njoya designed the Royal Palace of the Bamum people, he brought together elements from all his favorite buildings. He combined the yellow brick of German colonial buildings, the rounded cone-topped columns of traditional Bamum buildings and the geometric designs of Islam. Over the doorway he placed carving of the double-headed snake, an ancient symbol of the strength of Bamum royalty.

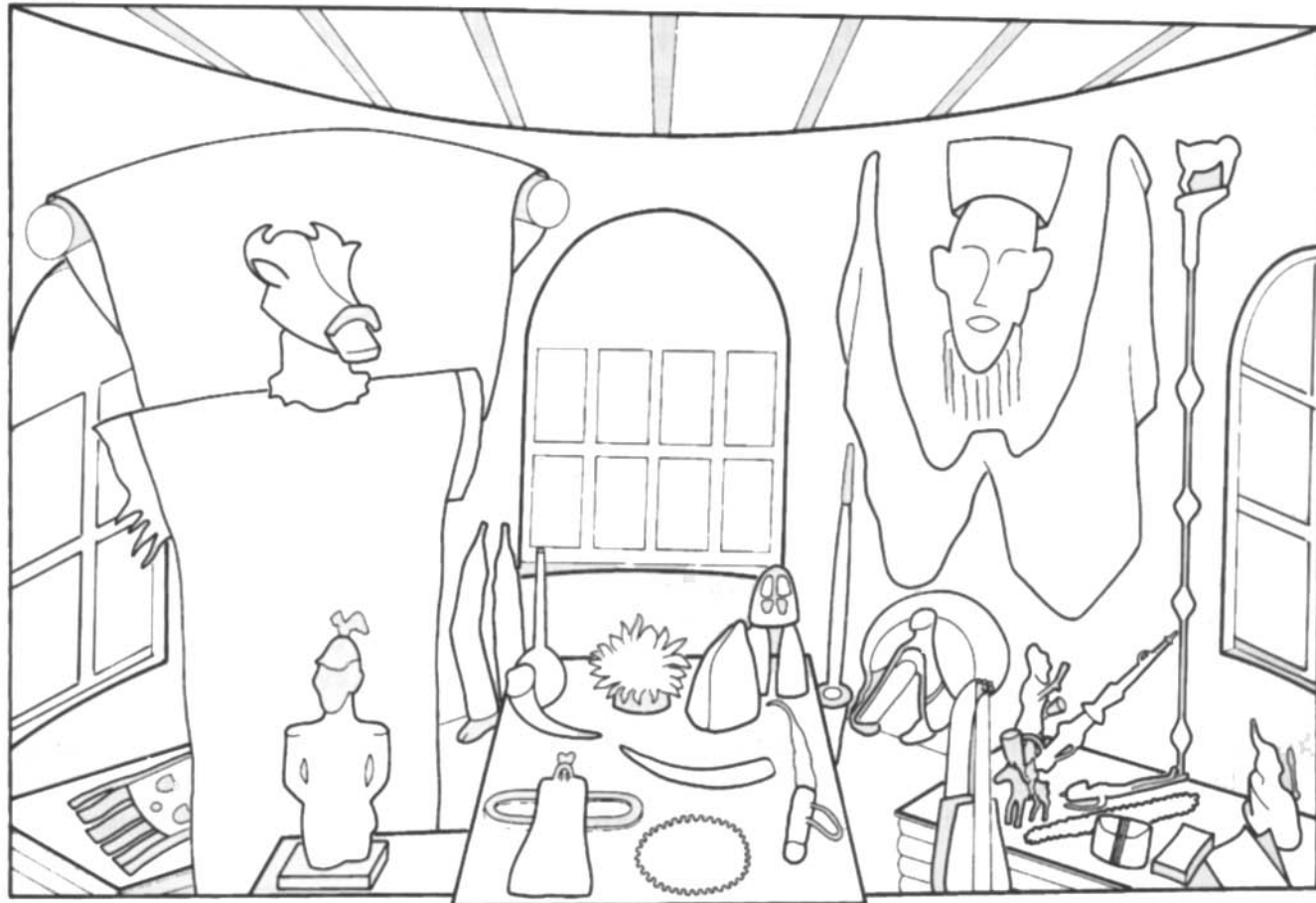
You've just been made ruler of your own kingdom. Design a royal palace for your people, using pieces of your favorite buildings, as well as your imagination. Choose an animal to be the symbol of your kingdom, and then draw that animal over the doorway.





Inside King Njoya's Museum

Inside the Royal Palace, King Njoya made a museum where the most sacred objects of the Bamum people are stored and displayed when they're not being used in ceremonies or rituals.



Circle one of the objects from King Njoya's museum. Then write a label that explains why the object is so important.

Name of object: _____

Why it's so important: _____



Director's Chair

You've been asked to make a film about Africa. You may want to make it about just one place, or you may want to take viewers on a tour of the continent. It's entirely up to you.

Draw four scenes from your film. Then tell us about the action that's taking place.

Scene One:

Scene Two:

Scene Three:

Scene Four:



Metals Make a Difference

We don't know exactly when African peoples began working with metals. But by 5,000 B.C., they were making objects of copper and gold.

Working with iron required new technologies. By about 500 A.D. ironworking had spread throughout Africa. Pump the bellows to find out how much work was required to heat the furnaces which melted the iron ore.

Choose one metal object in this section. Draw or describe its size, shape and design in the space below.

This object was used as (check one)

- ☐ a weapon
- ☐ a tool
- ☐ an ornament
- ☐ other _____

It is made from (check one)

- ☐ gold
- ☐ brass
- ☐ iron
- ☐ bronze
- ☐ other _____

As you walk through the other sections, try to find another object used for the same purpose. What material is it made from?

Object _____ Made from _____

If the object you find is made from another material, can you explain why?



The Tusk

To honor important people, such as their ruler, the Oba, the Edo people of Benin carve memorial tusks. The one in this exhibit was carved in the early 1800s to honor a famous war chief, the Ezomo. It's carved with images from the history and religion of the Edo people.

Every image has many meanings in Edo artwork. Experienced interpreters can take just one image and use it to tell dozens of different stories and to teach different lessons. For instance, if you look on the fourth band of the tusk, you'll see an image of the great Oba Ewuare, holding a mudfish—which is a lot like a catfish—in his hand.

Because mudfish can be fat and delicious, a carved mudfish may stand for the Oba's prosperity. The Oba is wealthy and powerful, so he always has good things, like mudfish, to eat. But some mudfish give off an electrical shock if you touch them, so a carved mudfish also can stand for the Oba's power.

Below you'll find images of some of the animals used in Edo artwork. Look around the Benin section. Write down what kind of object each animal was a part of.



Example:

Bird

Statue



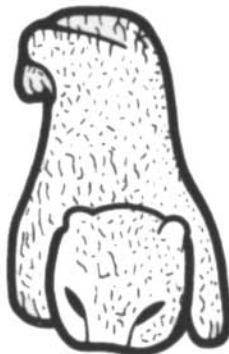
Crocodile



Rooster/Hen



Scorpion



Leopard



Snake



Tales from the Tusk

Here are a few of the stories told about images on the eleven bands of the tusk.

Band Two: The Fish-legged Oba Ohen—Some say the gods paralyzed Oba Ohen's legs after he sinned against them. Others say that the gods sent power, in the form of dangerous mudfish, into each of his legs.

Band Three: This carving shows Oba Esigie, who ruled in the early 1500s, holding hands with a Portuguese man. Early in his career, Esigie traded with the Portuguese; later on, he ended their alliance.

Band Four: This carving shows the Oba Ewuare holding a mudfish, a symbol of wealth and power.

Band Five: The bird on the fifth band represents the Oba's ability to see and overcome fortunetellers and false prophets.

Band Six: Two snakes divide the tusk. Historical images are below, sacred images are above.

Band Seven: This flat elephant tusk ending in a human hand refers to a story about how a warrior from the Ward of the Elephant hunters helped the Oba defeat his enemies.

Band Eight: This carving shows one of the female attendants of the Queen Mother, the most powerful woman in Benin City. The attendant holds a rectangular charm to ward off evil.

Band Ten: This image shows the god Osuan, holding a wooden wand in each hand to show that the ceremony has been blessed and a sacrifice may begin.

Band Eleven: The leaping leopard symbolizes the Oba's power over evil.

Tip: The tip of the tusk is carved like the ceremonial helmet and beaded collar worn only by the highest chiefs



Mudfish



If you were an oba, how would you decorate a tusk to honor one of your ancestors? Below draw a scene showing an event or objects that were important to that person. After your Museum visit you may want to combine the scenes, one on top of another, into a tusk shape.

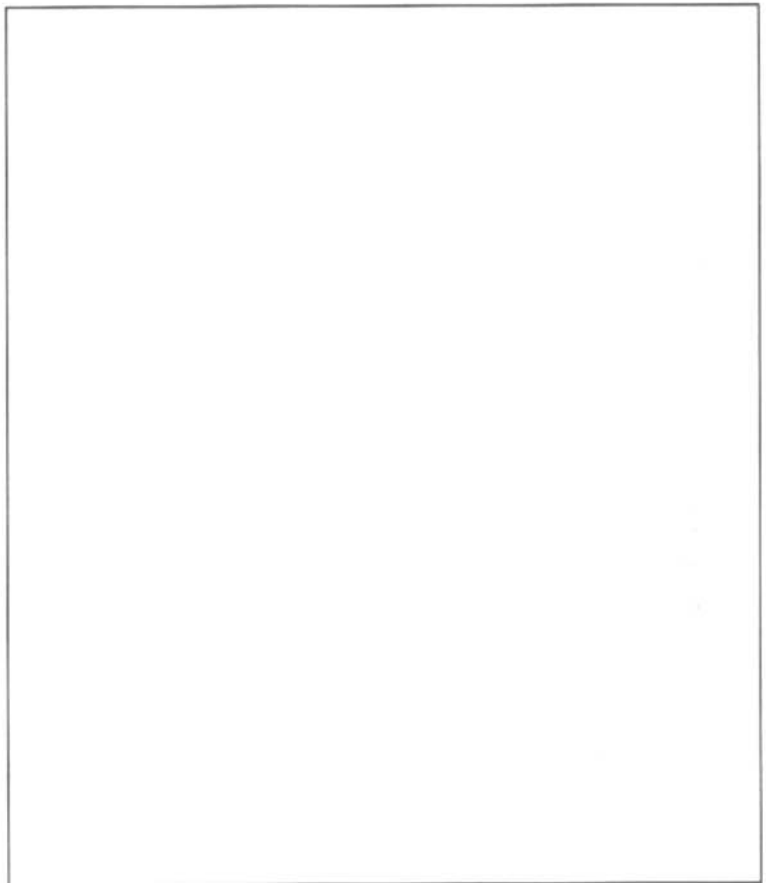


Looking Good

For more than 800 years, metalworkers in the wealthy and powerful kingdom of Benin City have created works of art. Benin, the capital of this kingdom, was destroyed in 1897. This centuries-old kingdom now exists as the Edo State in the country of Nigeria.

Wealthy people in Benin hired dressmakers, hairdressers and jewelers to make them look good. Look at the metal and carved heads and figures in this section. These may not represent a particular person, but they do reflect the kind of dress and decoration used. An oba, or king, and his family had special privileges which included what they could wear.

Pick out a head you like and draw it at the right.



Now add these details:

The cap or head gear. The collar or necklace, if there is one. Any scars or tattoos you see.

If the label tells who your head represents, write it here. _____

Look at the photos of Edo people today. Compare the photos with the head you've drawn. Find a photo that shows some similar decorations.

What kinds of materials may have been used for the decorations on your head or in the photos? Check the ones you find:

☐ fabric

☐ feathers

☐ leather

☐ coral or stone beads

☐ metal

☐ other _____



Dentist to the Megaherbivores!

You've recently moved to the African savanna to set up a dental practice for the animals there. Your first three patients are megaherbivores—the rhino, the hippo and the giraffe.

Before you can come up with a treatment plan, you need to understand the eating habits of each animal. List the foods that each one eats.

A rhino eats:

A hippo eats:

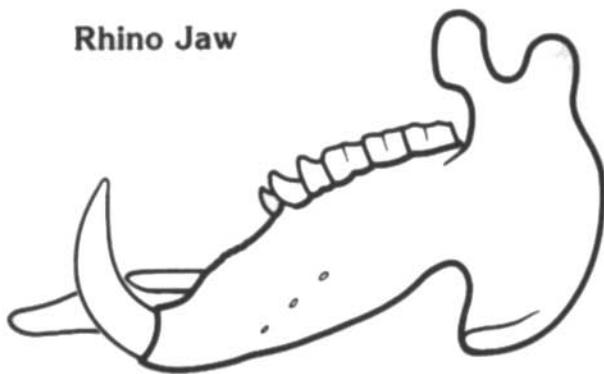
A giraffe eats:

Oops! It looks like your assistant got these pictures mixed up. Can you match each lower jaw to the right animal?

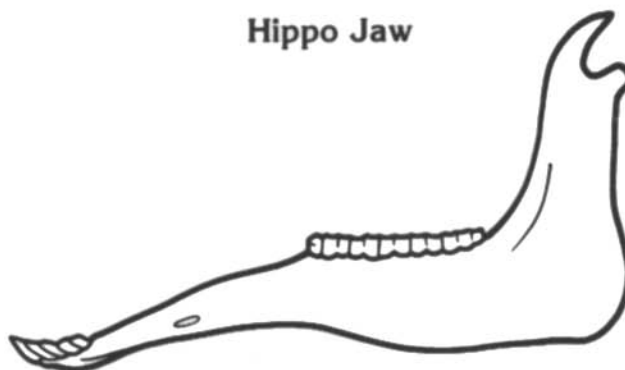
Giraffe Jaw



Rhino Jaw



Hippo Jaw



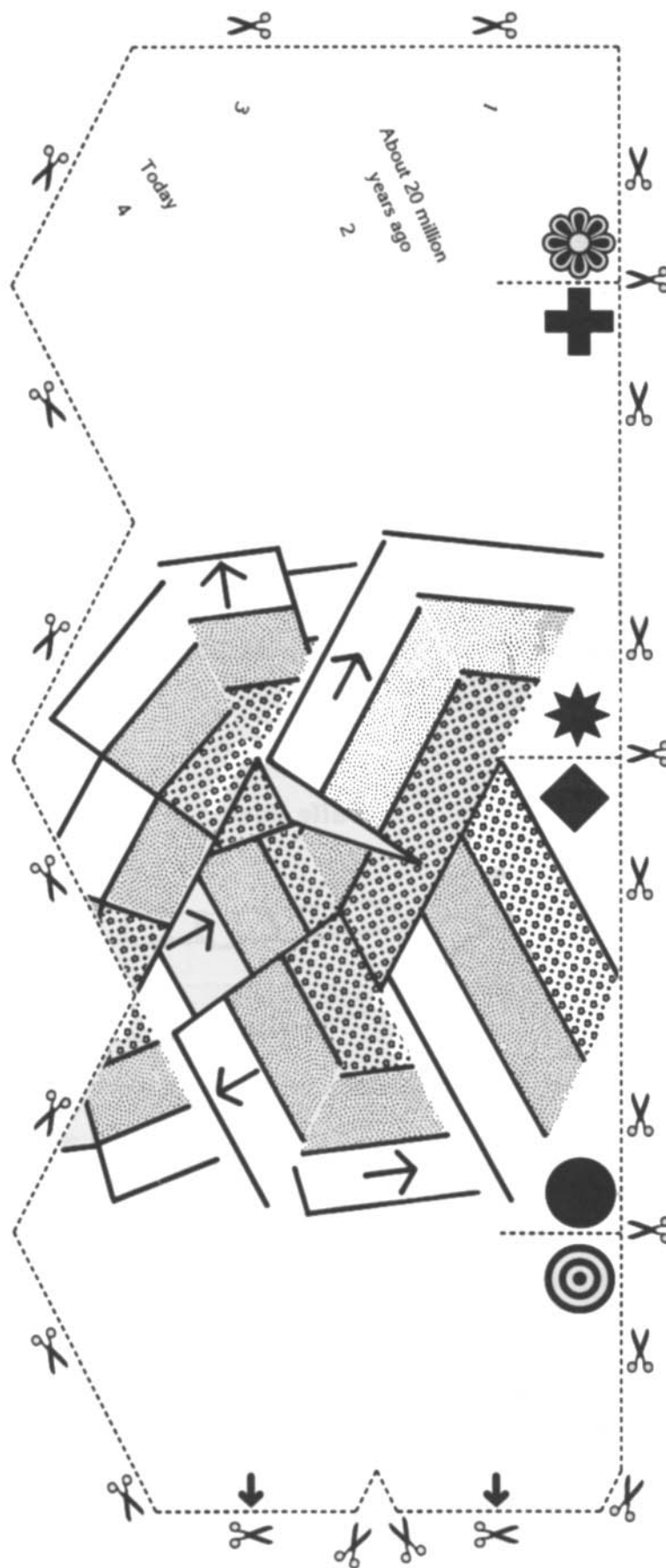


Rift Shifter

A rift is a feature of the earth's surface caused by the pulling apart of the continental plates. At times in the far past, all of the earth's continents were one gigantic landmass. The most recent unification of plates was called Pangaea. This large landmass was broken apart by the process of rifting. Today East Africa's Great Rift is the largest rift visible on land. Most other rifts occur along the ocean floor.

To learn more about rifting, assemble the rift shifter:

1. Fold and crease along every line and then flatten back out.
2. Cut along the dotted lines.
3. Match the ● to the ● and tape together.
4. Match the + to the + and tape together.
5. Do the same with the *, ♦, ● and ⊙.
6. Make the Rift Valley model into a doughnut shape.
7. Put the end into the opening on the other end and tape together on both sides.





Rift Shifter

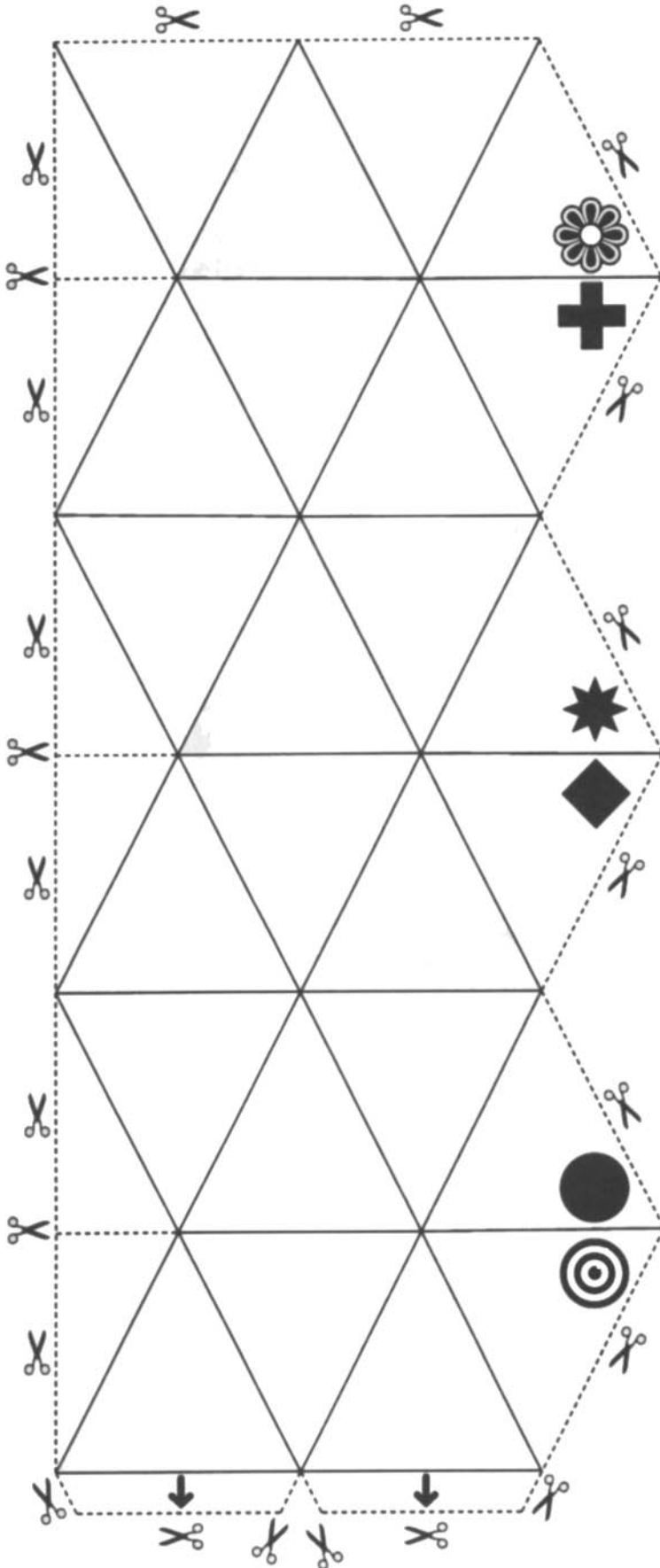
After your Rift Shifter is assembled, watch how Africa's Rift Valley was formed. Rotate the hexagon so you see the sequence of geologic events which formed Africa's Rift Valley.

1. Large landmasses are usually composed of layers and layers of rock.

2. Sometimes geologic forces within the earth pull apart the earth's surface. This is called rifting.

3. Along this split, the center block sinks (is downfaulted), while the blocks on either side rise (are uplifted). A valley begins to form in the center.

4. Over millions of years as the rifting continues, pieces in the rift's center tilt and slide until they look like tilted steps on either side of the rift. This is called stepfaulting. Such stepfaulting is characteristic of the African Rift Valley.

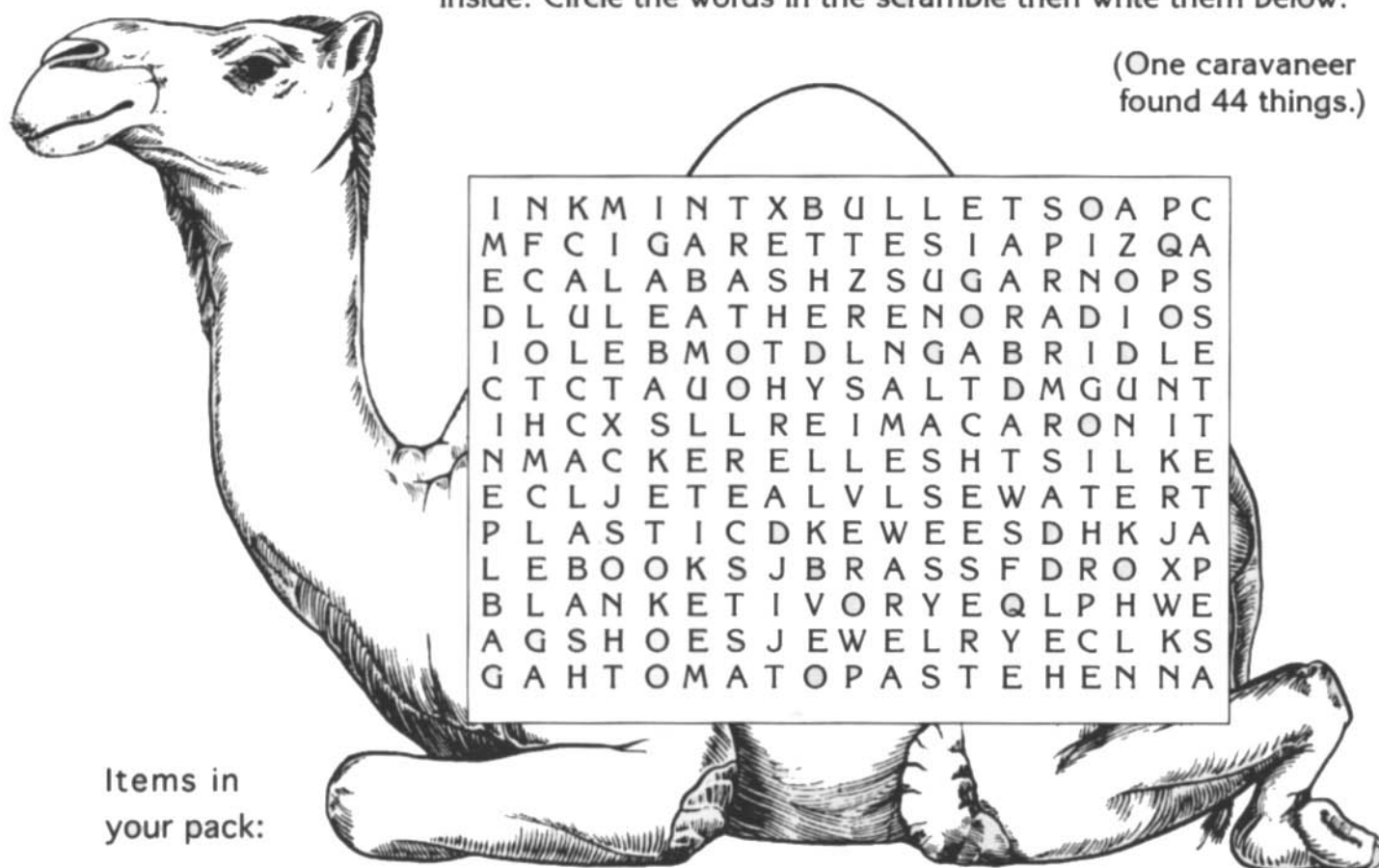




Unpack that camel!

For centuries caravans have carried goods across the Sahara, from North Africa to the markets of the South, and back again. But as time has passed, the items packed on camels—or loaded into trucks—have changed. As you unpack this word scramble from one of your camels, see how many different items you can find inside. Circle the words in the scramble then write them below.

(One caravaneer found 44 things.)



Items in
your pack:

_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____



A Camel By Any Other Name...

Buying a camel is the best investment you could make if you were going to cross the Sahara. Camels can go for days—sometimes weeks—without eating or drinking. Unlike trucks, they have no hard-to-fix mechanical parts. They seldom break down. And they give milk to drink, meat to eat and their skins can be tanned into useful leather.

For centuries, the Tuareg people have relied on camels for their desert caravans. The Tuareg love their camels so much that they have special words to describe them. A single word may tell about a camel's color, age, behavior, sex or disposition.

For instance:

ajmilal (ACH-me-lal) means a camel with lots of small spots next to each other

azerraf (AZ-er-ravf) means a two-toned camel

arenennas (are-REN-nen-nas) means a camel that neighs with joy when it sees something it likes

emerregreg (EM-merr-reg-reg) means a camel that roars mournfully when separated from its master or grazing mate

arewaha (ARE-wa-cha) means a camel that makes a pitiful roar when it's loaded and unloaded

taletmot (tel-TMUT) means a very fine, fast-riding camel

In the United States, we also give our vehicles special names. Name five cars below, and describe what their names mean.

Example: Ford Explorer

Explorer might mean a person who goes out in search of new adventures.



Containers

Years ago a Tuareg woman received calabash bowls—made from dried gourds—at her wedding. She used them to store food and displayed them on her bed during celebrations. When a woman needed money, she sold her calabashes for quick cash.

Today many Tuareg women use many types of containers, including durable enamel pots.

Look at the containers in front of the Tuareg tent. Write down the materials used to make them and how they're used.

What containers does your family use for the same purposes?



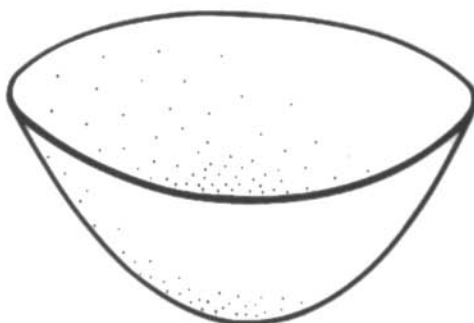
Material? _____

How Used? _____



Material? _____

How Used? _____



Material? _____

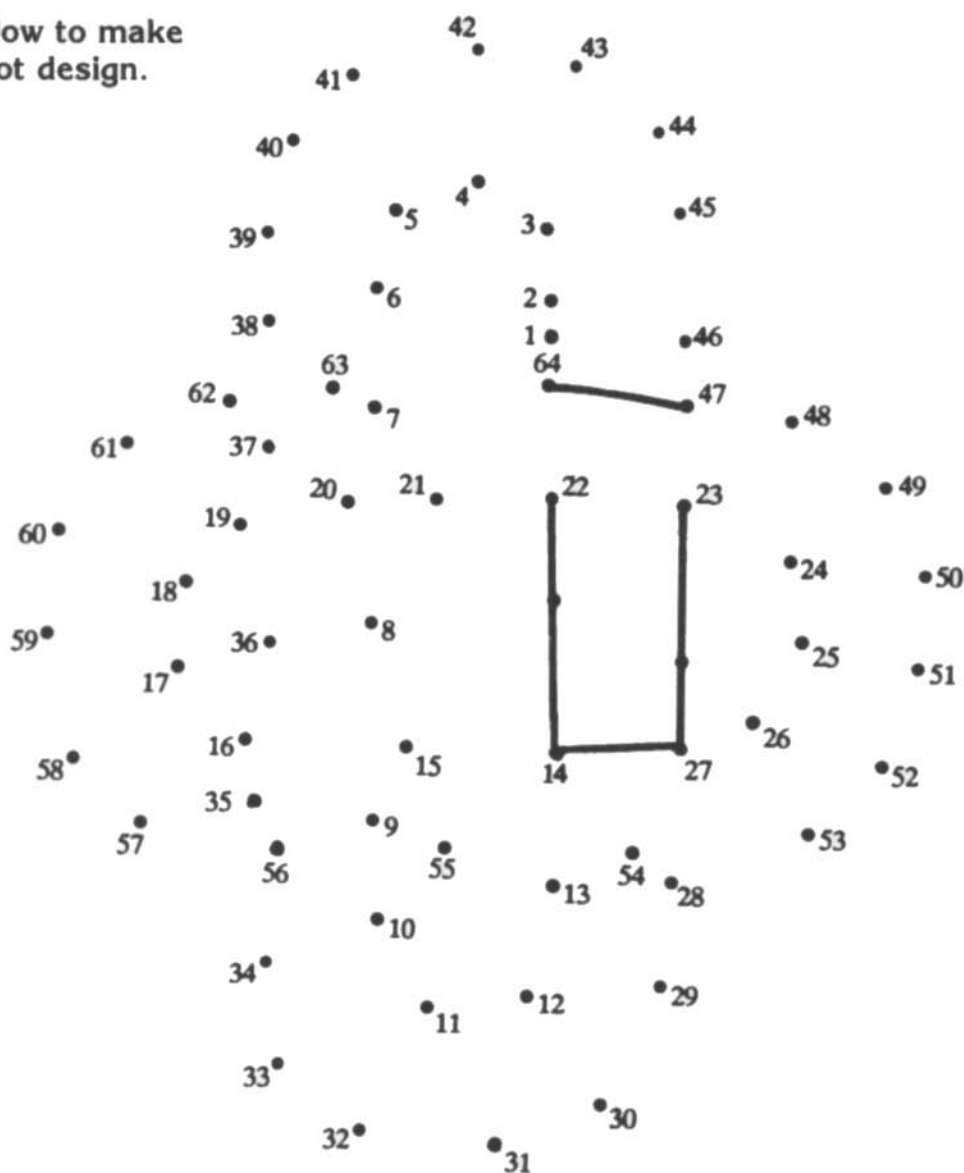
How Used? _____



Kano Knot Dot-to-Dot

The Kano knot is a design often found on leather goods, clothing and other objects from the city of Kano in Nigeria.

Connect the dots below to make the ancient Kano knot design.



When you get back to your home or classroom, dip a table fork into tempera paint and practice making this design.