

African Art



Three African art projects for nursery
aged children



DIOCESE of
WINCHESTER



Diocese
of Portsmouth
Introduction

Dear parents

This booklet invites you to get creative with you children and enjoy some art projects inspired by the wonderful continent of Africa.

I have tried, as far as possible, to limit the need for lots of equipment that you may not have at home.

We have been speaking to the children in our church schools about how the Covid 19 pandemic has affected every country on Earth.

We talk about how people across the world have been isolated, scared and sometimes poorly.



But we say that there is good news. Different countries are now working together to help each other, care for each other and pray for each other.

This year in church schools across the Portsmouth and Winchester dioceses, children have enjoyed our 'Standing Together' project. They have been involved in activities to help them to learn that, by standing together, we can all play a small part in creating peace and unity across the world.

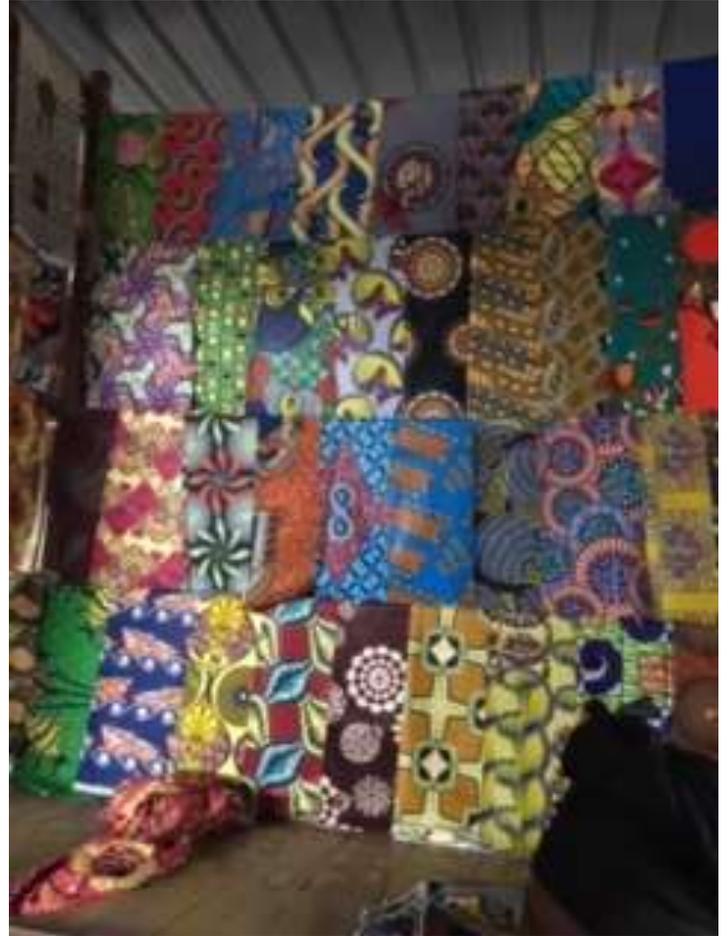
Each of the art projects below remind us of that important message. I hope that you enjoy them with your younger children.

Sue

Sue Bowen

Diocesan Schools Advisor

Paper Weaving



Africa is famous for its traditional colourful fabrics which have been worn by people for hundreds of years and are still popular today.

Show your child these pictures of lovely patterns.

Many African women wear their most colourful outfits to church on Sundays. Worship is seen as a celebration of life and love of God. Wearing your best clothes is a sign of respect.

The patterns are usually repeating designs using bold colours and simple shapes.

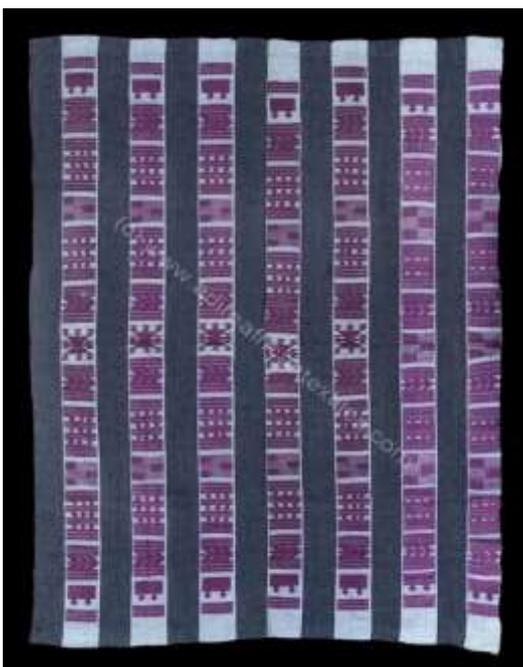
Follow the steps below and have a go at creating an African pattern. The pattern will be repeated by weaving strips of paper to create the design.



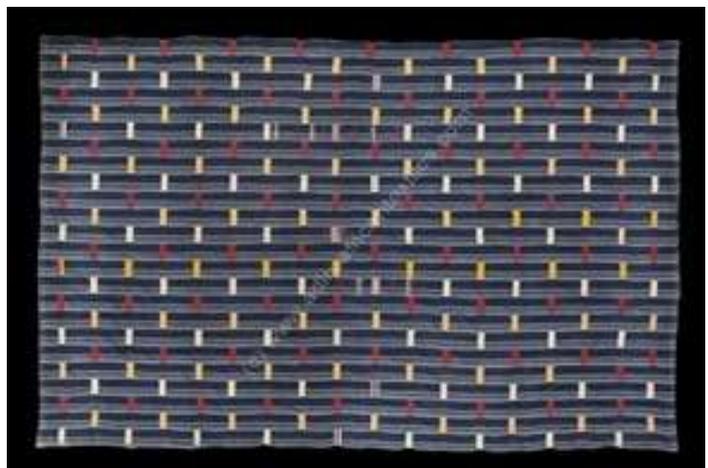
1. Use 2 pieces of paper the same size, help your child fill one paper with lines of blue and red zig zags and the other with green and red circles.

4. Once your designs are complete, cut each piece of paper into strips

5.. Then help your child to start weaving your strips in and out to create your design. This is excellent for fine motor control. It is an activity that will build muscles for when your child starts to write.



Ask your child which design they like the best.



Simple People



Show your child the picture above. It shows hundreds of people standing together.

Can they pick out any shapes?

The picture is made from triangles and circles.

This piece of art hangs in the entrance to a luxury hotel in Africa. It has a price tag of more than £2000.

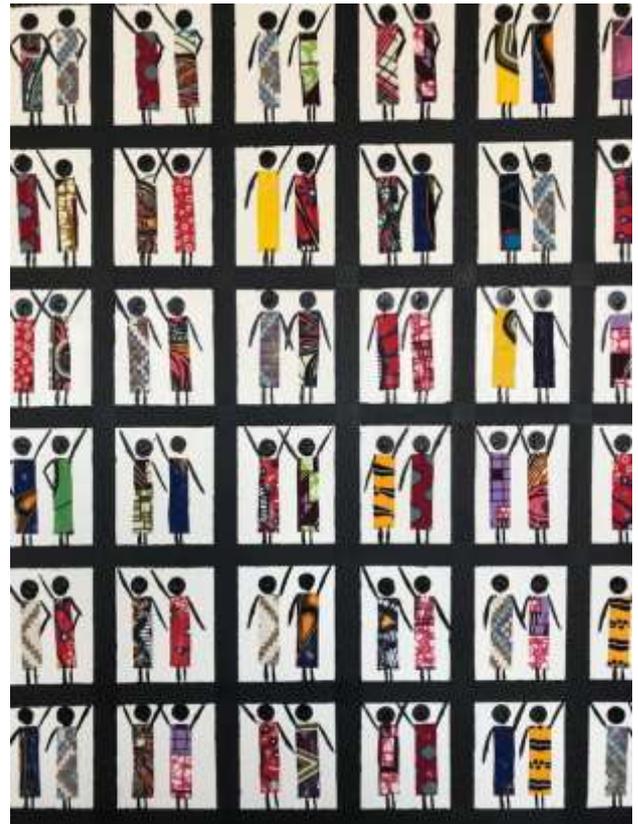
The picture is dramatic but actually very easy to create. It looks effective because of the number of people it shows standing together.

Here is how to create a picture like this:

1. Decide what you could use for your base – a canvas, a piece of card or a piece of paper.
2. Ideally you will need scrap pieces of cloth for the bodies, maybe you have some old cloths or clothes that you could cut up. It would be great if they were bright colours. If not, you could help your child to cut out colourful triangles using old magazines or comics. Alternatively, you could just use plain paper, cut triangles and ask your child to draw African patterns on each one using crayons or felt tips. (see above for design ideas)
3. The size of the triangles will depend on the size of your base and how many people you want to have on your picture. Try to have enough to make it look like a crowd.
4. Once you have cut out your triangles, let your child arrange them on your base until they are happy with where everyone is standing.
5. Now help your child glue down each triangle.
6. Next let your child use black paint or a felt tip to draw head on the top of each triangle. If you are using paint, this can be a fingerprint.
7. Next you will need to paint/draw on the arms and legs. If you are using paint, you can use black paint to paint the thin edge of a piece of card (from a cardboard box) and print on the arms and legs.



You can use different coloured backgrounds to adapt this technique and create different kinds of pictures.



Adinkra Printing

Adinkra is a type of cloth worn in Western Africa. It is a printed grid pattern made up of combed grid lines and a small shape printed in the squares.

You will need:

Black paint

Paper

A small potato

Wide toothed comb

1. To make the grid pour some paint into a paper plate or tray.
2. Dip the comb deep in the paint so that most of the length of the teeth are covered.
3. Drag the comb along the paper, turning the comb over and adding more paint when needed until you have drawn a grid pattern.
4. Cut the potato in half and cut out a design from one side. Try to think of a simple shape that could stand for unity – a heart, a cross, two stick people standing together
5. Dip your potato in the paint and ask your child to stamp the design in the centre of their grid.

