

Passport to the Nations | Crafts and Activities

Lesson 1: Kenya

African Shield

In some African countries, like Kenya, tribes create unique initiation shields for boys entering adulthood. Shields are handed down from generation to generation and painted over for each new owner. Have your students make their own version of an initiation shield and decorate it with their favorite objects and colors. Don't forget to add a central "eye" to look through. This craft is a jumping-off point for teaching children about the importance of cultural traditions.



What You Need:

Large piece of cardboard, paintbrush, acrylic or poster paint (in black, red, white, brown), scissors, water, pencil, newspaper, rag or sponge

What You Do:

1. Before cutting out the cardboard shield, have your student practice cutting the shape on newspaper, which is easier to cut. Fold a piece of newspaper in half and cut out a half-oval shape, and then unfold it to see if it's a good shape and size.
2. Once your student has a shield shape they like, they can lay the paper on cardboard, trace it, and then cut it out.
3. Carefully poke the scissors through the middle and cut out the "eye" circle.
4. Help your student dilute some red and brown paint with a bit of water and rub the colors on the shield using an old rag or sponge. The color and spongy texture will create a hammered metal effect on the shield.
5. Once the paint is completely dry, your students can sketch their designs onto the shield. They can use symbols that represent their favorite sports, foods, hobbies, and more.
6. Paint the designs with red, black, and dark brown paint for an authentic feel.
7. Now show it off to friends and family!

How to Make Maracas

Kenyans use maracas for rhythm in their music. These maracas make a racket, and they couldn't be easier to make.

What You Need:

2 plastic drink bottles, rocks, dried uncooked pasta, beans, rice, masking tape, and markers

What You Do:

1. Rinse out the plastic bottles. Talk to your students about the fact that each of the materials on the table (rocks, pasta, beans, and rice) can be used to fill the maracas. Discuss the qualities of each of the filler materials, and ask them to make some predictions about what each material would sound like and what it would do if it filled a bottle (for example, "The rocks are big, so they'd be hard to shake," or "The rice is light, so the bottle wouldn't feel very heavy").
2. Allow your students to fill the plastic bottle with the fill material of their choice. Close the bottle, let them shake it, and tell them they can exchange it for something else if they'd like. This is a great time to allow your student to experiment with different fill materials. How is the sound made by rocks in the bottle different than the sound made by rice?
3. Once your student has settled on the perfect fill materials, place a lid on each bottle and secure with masking tape. Cover the entire bottle with layers of masking tape and give students the markers so they can decorate them. Strike up the music and shake!



Lesson 2 – Myanmar

Paper Bag Puppet People

Have a blast with your students helping them create a self-portrait puppet or a puppet of a person from Myanmar! Students can use it to stage their own puppet theater and for storytelling. This project is helpful for children to learn the parts of the human face and practice cutting and gluing.

What You Need:

Brown paper lunch bag
Skin-colored construction paper
Colored construction paper for hair
Crayons, oil Pastels or markers
Scissors
Pencil
Glue stick

What You Do:

1. Discuss with your students what the parts of the face are, and what color their hair is.
2. Help them draw the shape of their face in three parts with a pencil on skin-colored paper:
 - a. The top of the head to the bottom of the UPPER lip
 - b. From the bottom lip all the way to the chin
 - c. Both of the ears
3. He/She can now cut out each of these parts.



4. Flip the closed paper bag over so the “bottom” of the bag is at the top with the folded-over side facing up.
5. Glue the top of the head starting at the top of the bag. The paper chin can be glued under the fold of the “bottom” of the bag. Finally, he/she can glue the ears onto either side of the face.
6. Now draw out the hairstyle on construction paper, cut it out and glue it so it overlaps the ears.
7. Help remind the students of the parts of the face, and they can draw and color them onto the face of the bag. Make sure the top part of the face ends at the fold of the bag.
8. After drawing the eyes, nose, lips (bottom lip on chin piece), they can draw lines or hair ornaments on the paper hair and add final lines inside the ears.
9. Carefully have them lift the “bottom” of the folded part of the bag and color in what the inside of the mouth looks like - teeth, tongue, darkness...
10. Finally, they can draw in any clothing they would like to wear on the bottom part of the bag.

Tip: If you have time and materials, your students can add on arms and hands from behind the bag to create even more personality!

Praying Hands Cards

What You Need:

Construction paper, crayons or markers, washable inkpads or washable fingerpaint, and wet wipes

What You Do:

1. Fold a piece of construction paper in half for each student.
2. Inside the folded cards, have students write “We’re Praying for You!” (or for younger students, you can write it inside). Give students these prepared cards and instruct them to draw on the inside of their card and write their name if they’re able to.
3. When they’re finished coloring, open the card and place it face down so that the front and back of the card are showing.
4. Assist students in pressing their hands into the inkpads or paint and making a handprint on each side of the card with their pinkie fingers placed near the outer edge of the paper. When folded, it’ll look like the student’s praying hands are holding the card.
5. Clean students’ hands and set aside the cards to dry.
6. Pray for Unknown Nations’ Indigenous Leaders (missionaries) with the kids. Have the students pick someone to pray for and have them give that person the card.



Lesson 3 – Indonesia

Batik Design

Batik is a traditional Indonesian craft, which uses a technique of drawing wax on fabric to create patterns before dyeing it. Your students can use glue instead of wax and a sheet of paper as fabric for this fun project.



What You Need:

Sketch paper and pencil, white paper, glue, watercolor paints

What You Do:

1. Invite your students to look at examples of Batik artwork online or at your local library. Batik is an ancient art form where cloth is drawn on with a tool called a canting, which is a thin container, like a pen, filled with melted wax. Then, the fabric is dyed, traditionally with brown or blue dye.
2. Your students can create a sketch for their Batik design before beginning to work on their paper. Traditional designs use nature as influence, such as flowers or birds, alongside geometric patterns and lines.
3. Now they can replicate that sketch onto a fresh sheet of white paper, using a glue bottle as a canting. Encourage them to take their time and focus on their design, honing fine motor skills and attention to detail.
4. After the glue has dried, they can get out their watercolor paints and paint between the lines of glue using either blue or brown.
5. Once the Batik creation is finished, they can hang it on the wall for others to see!

Did You Know? Some nobility, such as the Royal Javanese Family on the island of Java, only wear certain patterns of Batik fabric. Some Batik cloth is even dusted with gold for ceremonies!

Jesus Loves You Map

What You Need:

A world map and star-shaped stickers

What You Do:

1. Display a world map on the wall.
2. Talk with kids about how missionaries are people who go to different countries and tell people that Jesus loves them. Unknown Nations uses Indigenous Leaders who already live in those countries. In many nations, people don't speak English, so missionaries must learn a new language so they can talk to the people.
3. Then teach kids different ways to say "Jesus loves you"—and put a star on the map on a country where people speak that language. We've included some of the



languages that are spoken in the countries we're learning about during the Passport to the Nations program.

French (many countries in Africa): Jésus t'aime

Swahili (Kenya): Yesu anakupenda

Indonesian (Indonesia): Yesus mengasihimu

Burmese (Myanmar): ယေရှုသည်သင့်ကိုချစ်သည် yayshusai sang kohkyit sai

Hindi (India): यीशु तुम्हें प्यार करता है yeeshu tumhen pyaar karata hai

Bengali (India): যীশু আপনাকে ভালবাসে Yīśu āpanākē bhālabāśē

Lesson 4 – India

Lotus Flower Sand Painting

The lotus is the national flower of India and is found throughout many different artworks and customs. While sand painting can be done with any picture, this lotus flower is a great beginner project.

What You Need:

Lotus flower template, colored sand and glue (if sand is too messy, this craft can be colored instead).

What You'll Do:

1. Create a template that your students can trace for the lotus flower.
2. Using a paintbrush, cover one single area with glue. You will work one color at a time.
3. Cover your glue with your colored sand of choice. Try to carefully pour the glue over your glued area, covering the entire thing.
4. Continue to add more colors in this way, pouring off the excess sand without running into the other colors (as much as possible).
5. When your lotus flower is done, consider framing it with black for stunning artwork you can hang in your classroom.

Note: If you prefer, students can just color the lotus flower in bright colors.



Flag Banner

Throughout this program we've learned about four different countries and saw images of the flags of those countries. Students can create several flags that can be strung together to form a colorful banner representative of the countries that we've learned about.

What You Need:

Four white envelopes per student (the kind used for greeting cards works best), assorted markers, string, images of the flags, ruler, pencil, piece of white paper, safety scissors, and craft glue

What You Do:

1. Show your students all the different flags.
2. Have your students trace the design of each flag onto an envelope - one envelope for each flag. The flag design will go on the back of the envelope (the side without the fold-over flap) with the envelope facing upside down (so that the flap is on the bottom).
3. If you're working with a younger student, you can help them outline the flag designs on each envelope using a pencil and ruler, and then let them color it in. For older students, let them give it a go on their own. The flags don't have to be perfect.
4. Ask your student to pronounce the name of the country represented by each flag.
5. Sound out the letters so your younger child can write the name of the country on the bottom flap of each flag. On the back of the envelope, older children can write a brief description of the history of each flag or what the colors represent. For example, for the flag of Kenya, they might write: "Black is for the people, red is for the blood shed during the struggle for freedom, green is for natural wealth, white stands for peace. The Masai shield and two spears symbolize the defense of these things." Write the name, and description (if applicable), of each country for each of your flags on the bottom flap of each envelope.
6. Help your students measure and cut strips of white paper approximately a quarter-inch wide and 3 inches long. You'll need two for each flag. These will be the tabs used to hang the banner.
7. Your students can place a dot of glue at one end of the strip and press both ends together. Repeat to create the second tab. Encourage students to continue until they've created two tabs for each flag.
8. Have your student put two evenly spaced dots of glue on the back of each flag and adhere the tabs to it. Make sure that each flag has two tabs sticking up from that top so that the string can slide through to connect all the flags together.
9. Once the glue dries, your student can slide a long piece of string through the tabs and hang it up for display.



These banners instantly add visual interest and pizzazz to any wall, doorway, or mantle.