



Crafts Around the World Series Africa: Paper Beads

Enjoy learning how to make simple crafts from seven continents: **Africa, Antarctica, Europe, Asia, Australia, North America & South America.**

Purpose:

Introduce youth to some simple cultural traditional crafts from around the world. Journey around seven continents, learning how to make simple crafts and having fun creating.

Objectives:

- ◇ Learn the cultural history and origins of the craft.
- ◇ Find the country on a map and/or globe.
- ◇ Develop fine motor skills in paper wrapping.
- ◇ Increase cultural awareness, recycling and creativity.

Education Standards:

- ◇ Understand the visual arts in relation to history and culture.
- ◇ Apply geometric methods to solve design problems.

Experiential Learning:

- ◇ Create beads from paper.
- Use these phrases:
Do it, What happened,
What's important, So What,
Now What?

Audience: Grades K-12



Photo courtesy of Janis Brinn 2020 Michigan 4-H Winterfest Participant's

CONTINENT: AFRICA

Africa is the second largest of the world's continents. Home to 54 countries. The two African Great Lakes countries Uganda and Kenya are partners in many areas.

COUNTRIES: UGANDA & KENYA

LESSON: AFRICA: PAPER BEADS

Paper beads are the oldest craft done on the entire African continent. Women of the villages generally make the paper beads from magazines found. You can find many organizations that support and empower villages with their beautiful paper bead creations.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT:

Developed by MSU Extension Educator, Janis Brinn with History and instruction sheets from *African Cultural Heritage Series, BeadforLife: Curriculum for Youth grades 6-12*

AFRICA: PAPER BEADS

TIME: 30-45 minutes or multiple days depending upon the interest to learn more.

MATERIALS:

- ◇ Colorful paper i.e. Magazines, Holiday paper, maps, etc.
- ◇ Scissors and/or paper cutting board
- ◇ Rulers
- ◇ Glue or Mod Podge
- ◇ Clear Nail Polish (optional glitter polish) —suggested over varnish
- ◇ Coffee Stir Sticks, thin straws, toothpicks, cotton swabs with cotton ends cut, or wire (plant flags type) for wrapping paper around—depends on size of hole desired.
- ◇ Paint Brushes
- ◇ Markers
- ◇ Foam board, cups and/or modeling clay for paper drying beads holder
- ◇ Wet cloths for possible mess
- ◇ String and/or wire for making into jewelry if desired
- ◇ Optional: Samples and instruction sheet

INSTRUCTIONAL VIDEO LINK:

https://mediaspace.msu.edu/media/Michigan-State-University-Extension-4-H-Grab-Go-Crafts-Africa-Beads/1_7xk0kfxz

PROCEDURE: How to make paper beads

- ◇ Cut the paper into long tapered or triangular strips that are $\frac{1}{2}$ " – $\frac{3}{4}$ " wide at one end and from 6"-10" long.
- ◇ Start at the wide end of one strip and wind it around the straw or wire (whatever you chose for the hole size). You can add the glue to help hold – just be careful to not glue your bead to the toothpicks if they are used. Generally, it will not stick to the wire or plastic straws. Apply thinly on the end of the strip on the inside of your paper.
- ◇ Roll the beads slowly and evenly making sure to smooth the paper and keeping the edges even. After gluing the end of the strip, take the bead off (or you can leave on to dry) and start your next bead.
- ◇ Final touch is to use the clear (or sparkling) nail polish to give all the beads a nice protective coating. For a more matted look you can cover with the mod podge. Let dry and apply other coats if you feel needed. Two to three coats of polish are recommended.
- ◇ Create by stringing the now dry beads into necklaces, bracelets, earring, and so much more with your finished beads! Be creative!!

Art Science – Experiment with different types of paper (i.e. Wall paper used in the Victorian days), try different sealers, different designs, and different techniques. Ask questions & make discoveries!

Community – You can find many organizations that support and empower villages with their beautiful paper bead creations i.e. Beads for Life, Tears to Pearls, NEBSTAR, Nyaka AIDS Orphans Project, etc. Make paper beads as an environmental/recycling project or fundraiser.

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