

# Lesson Plans: 03 SS LPQ1 097 African Art, Culture & Symmetry

**Title:** 03 SS LPQ1 097 African Art, Culture & Symmetry

**Grade Level :** Grade 3

**Subject :** Art - Elementary, Social Studies - Elementary

**Standards/Assessed Benchmarks:** Florida STATE FL Social Studies Standard (2008)  
Grade 3  
Florida Sunshine State Standards  
Geography

- 1: The World in Spatial Terms  
SS.3.G.1.1 Use thematic maps, tables, charts, graphs, and photos to analyze geographic information.
- 2: Places and Regions  
SS.3.G.2.4 Describe the physical features of the United States, Canada, Mexico, and the Caribbean.

**Description/Abstract of Lesson:** Students will locate the African continent on a map of the world, identify three geographical characteristics/features of Africa, identify characteristics and uses of specific types of African artwork, identify symmetrical features in a given piece of artwork; complete symmetrical patterns.

**Essential Question-Scope & Sequence:**

**Technology Connections and Teacher Materials:** Works of art and statuary from 47 different cultural groups at <http://www.zyama.com/index.htm>

**Technology Connections and Student Materials:** Book: *Anansi the Spider*  
KWL Chart Blank world map worksheet (attached below) Chart paper Construction paper

**Duration :** 1 Days

**Vocabulary:** symmetry

**Steps to Deliver Initial Instruction:**

- Put art objects or pictures of art objects in a bag before class begins. Explain to students that they are going to be “explorers” today. They are going to visit a new continent. Display the art one piece at a time.
  - Divide the students into groups and give each group one piece of art from the bag. Give the students time to study the art piece.
  - Write the following questions on the board and have each group cooperatively answer them on a sheet of paper.
    - What do you think your artwork is?
    - Why do you think that?
    - Who do you think would use it?
    - How would they use it?
    - What is it made of?
    - What does it remind you of?
  - Allow groups to share their art objects and their answers. Ask the students what similarities and differences they can see between the different objects. Generate a list on chart paper.

**Guided Practice with Feedback:**

- Ask students if they can guess the continent from which the artwork originates. Remind them to consider from what materials the artwork was made, what characteristics the masks have, etc. Once students guess correctly, have them locate Africa on a world map and label all of the continents and oceans on the continent map attached below.
- Divide a large piece of bulletin board paper into 3 sections. Label the top of the first section “Know”, the second “Want to Know” and the third, “Learned.” Ask the students what they already know about Africa and record it on the chart (“Know”). Ask them what they want to know and record it on the chart (“Want to Know”). Use the chart to help guide further instruction (if you prefer, students can also keep individual “KWL charts”).
- In small groups, individually, or as a whole class, have students explore the [PBS “Africa for Kids” website](#).
  - After sharing the resources, have each student write on a post-it note one

thing he/she learned and put it on the "learned" part of the KWL chart after they share it.

- If any of the students changed their opinions of the objects after learning more about Africa, allowing them to share their new ideas.

**Independent Practice:**

- Give each student a world map (attached below) and have them color Africa. On the back of their papers, have students write three interesting things they learned about Africa.
- Write the word "symmetry" on the board. Ask students if any of them can tell you what it means. If they cannot, fold a piece of paper in half and cut out a heart or other symmetrical shapes. Keep cutting out examples until students begin to see the pattern. Once they can define "symmetry", have students locate the line of symmetry on the samples.
- Look at the African artwork from <http://www.zyama.com/index.htm> for more examples of symmetry. Discuss how symmetry may also be found in the design and patterns of an object, not just the shape. Locate the lines of symmetry.
- Give each student a piece of paper and instruct the class to fold their papers and cut out a symmetrical shape. Allow them to imagine what their shapes look like. Decorate the shapes with symmetrical patterns, using markers.
- Allow students to pick 10 shape blocks. Instruct the students to make designs out of their blocks. Give each child a mirror. Show them how holding a mirror next to the design so it allows them to see the other side – symmetrically.
- Assign a partner to each child. The partners must complete the other's pattern by imagining a line of symmetry at the edge of the design. Students can check their work by holding up a mirror in the middle to see if the image is the same as their creation.

**Differentiated Instruction/Small Groups:**

- Explain to students that you are going to read a story from Africa that contains many examples of symmetry and that students should be looking and listening for them as you read. Read the story *Anansi the Spider* and discuss with students what they learned about Africa. Identify places where there is symmetry in the illustrations.
- Add highlights of the discussion to the KWL chart that was created during the first part of the lesson.

**Lesson Closure/Review:**

Review the concepts learned; add to the KWL chart; follow regular clean-up procedures.

**Assessment with Clear & Compelling Product Standards:**

- Has each student defined the artistic concept of symmetry? Monitor and assess class discussion.
- Has each student identified symmetrical features in a given piece of artwork? Assess class discussion.
- Has each student completed a symmetrical pattern? Assess cut paper and marker designs.
- Has each student identified a line of symmetry in a given piece of artwork? Assess pattern block designs and the complete sides.

**Creator :** Social Studies Content Team

**File Attachments:** 3rd grade Continent map.pdf

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