

Recommended Resources

BOOKS FOR EDUCATORS

The Balch Institute for Ethnic Studies. *Extended Lives: The African Immigrant Experience in Philadelphia*. Philadelphia: The Balch Institute for Ethnic Studies, 2001.

Berns, Marla C. *Ceramic Gestures: New Vessels by Magdalene Odundo*. Santa Barbara: University Art Museum, University of California, 1995.

Blier, Suzanne Preston (ed.). *Art of the Senses: African Masterpieces from the Teel Collection*. Boston: MFA Publications, Museum of Fine Arts, Boston, 2004.

Danto, Arthur, et al. *ART/artifact: African Art in Anthropology Collections*. New York: Center for African Art, 1988.

Dowling, Katie. *Arts of Africa*. Chicago: Division of Student and Teacher Programs, Department of Museum Education, The Art Institute of Chicago, 1998.

Gilfoy, Peggy Stoltz. *Patterns of Life: West African Strip Weaving Traditions*. Washington, D.C.: Smithsonian Institution Press and National Museum of African Art, 1987.

McClusky, Pamela. *Art from Africa: Long Steps Never Broke a Back*. Seattle, Wash.: Seattle Art Museum; Princeton, N.J.: Princeton University Press; 2002.

Remer, Abby. *Enduring Visions: Women's Artistic Heritage Around the World*. Worcester, Mass.: Davis Publications, Inc., 2001.

Vogel, Susan Mullin. *Africa Explores: 20th Century African Art*. New York: Center for African Art, 1991.

Vogel, Susan Mullin. *African Aesthetics: The Carlo Monzino Collection*. New York: Center for African Art, 1986.

Wardwell, Allen. *African Sculpture from the University Museum, University of Pennsylvania*. Philadelphia: Philadelphia Museum of Art, 1986.

Visonà, Monica Blackmun, et al. *A History of Art in Africa*. New York: Harry N. Abrams, Inc., 2001.

CHILDREN'S BOOKS

Related to the Objects Featured in This Guide

Aardema, Verna. *Bringing the Rain to Kapiti Plain: A Nandi Tale*. Illustrated by Beatriz Vidal. New York: Dial Press, 1981.

This magical story uses the same rhythm and repetitive structure as “The House That Jack Built” to tell how young Ki-pat helps end a terrible drought on Kapiti Plain and saves his cows “so hungry and dry.” The colorful, stylized illustrations vividly convey a sense of vast space and sky on the savanna. (Preschool–grade 4)

Assembly of Necklaces, Maasai culture, Kenya

Echewa, T. Obinkaram. *The Ancestor Tree*. Illustrated by Christy Hale. New York: Lodestar Books, 1994.

This upbeat story is about an old, blind storyteller named Grandfather the Onlooker, who is loved by all the children in the village of Amapu. After his death, the children find a special way to honor him, which involves helping their parents understand that some of the village customs must change in order to have meaning when new circumstances arise. (Grades 3–8)

Mercedes-Benz Coffin, Kane Quaye, Ghana

Echewa, T. Obinkaram. *The Magic Tree: A Folktale from Nigeria*. Illustrated by E. B. Lewis. New York: Morrow Junior Books, 1999.

The relatives of an orphan boy named Mbi (mm-BEE) treat him poorly until he discovers a magic tree. When Mbi sings to the tree, it quickly grows and provides wonderful fruit. As soon as the villagers understand that the tree will respond only to Mbi, he earns their respect and love. The watercolor illustrations are exquisite. (Grades 1–6)

Hunter's Shirt, Bamana culture, Mande tradition, Mali

Diakitè, Baba Wagué. *The Hatseller and the Monkeys: A West African Folktale*. New York: Scholastic Press, 1999.

In this humorous tale, monkeys teach BaMusa the hat seller an important lesson through a proverb: An empty satchel cannot stand, or, it is with a full stomach that one thinks best. The Fulani culture of Mali provides the setting for this story; there are also European and British versions. (Kindergarten–grade 5)

Kente Cloth, Asante kingdom, Ghana

Porcupine Ring and **Bird Ring**, Asante kingdom, Ghana

CHILDREN'S BOOKS

(continued)

Kroll, Virginia L. *Masai and I*. Illustrated by Nancy Carpenter. New York: Aladdin Paperbacks, 1997.

After learning about the Maasai people of East Africa in school, Linda feels a sense of kinship and imagines how her life would be similar and different if she lived with the Maasai on the open plains instead of in an American city. The realistic oil and colored pencil illustrations feature people and scenes in both locales, including traditional Maasai beadwork necklaces. (Grades 1–5)

Assembly of Necklaces, Maasai culture, Kenya

Mollel, Tololwa M. *Big Boy*. Illustrated by E. B. Lewis. New York: Clarion Books, 1995.

Inspired by a theme that runs through African folklore—the myth of a boy with miraculous powers—the author sets this story in contemporary Tanzania, his native country, and gives it a realistic spin. (Kindergarten–grade 3)

Hunter's Shirt, Bamana culture, Mande tradition, Mali

Untitled (Three Girls and a Baby), Malick Sidibé, Mali

Paye, Won-Ldy, and Margaret H. Lippert. *Head, Body, Legs: A Story from Liberia*. Illustrated by Julie Paschikis. New York: Henry Holt & Company, 2002.

This traditional creation story from the Dan people of north-eastern Liberia teaches the value of each part of the body, or each member of a family or community, working together cooperatively. (Preschool and kindergarten)

Assembly of Necklaces, Maasai culture, Kenya

Step toe, John. *Mufaro's Beautiful Daughters: An African Tale*. New York: Lothrop, Lee & Shepard Books, 1987.

Based on a story collected in Zimbabwe, this beautifully illustrated book describes the adventures of two lovely daughters of marriageable age invited to come before the King, who is looking for a wife.

As the story unfolds, the daughter's different personalities determine their fates. (Grades 4–12)

Assembly of Necklaces, Maasai culture, Kenya

Sowei Mask, Mende culture, Sierra Leone

Toussaint, Kimani Christopher. *The Old Hermit and the Boy Who Couldn't Stop Laughing: An African Fable*. Illustrated by Alphonso Lassiter. Philadelphia, Pa.: United African Educational and Scholarship Foundation, 1999.

This story, which originated with the Bini people of Nigeria, addresses the universal issue of teasing. When an unusual old man encounters a young boy who can't refrain from making fun of him, there are consequences. (Grades 3–6)

Basinjom Mask and Gown, Ejagham culture, Nigeria and Cameroon

Standing Figure, Kongo culture, Democratic Republic of Congo

Washington, Donna L. *A Pride of African Tales*. Illustrated by James Ransome. New York: HarperCollins Publishers, 2004.

A professional storyteller retells six traditional African stories, which are enhanced with watercolor illustrations of rural African life. "Shansa Mutongo Shima," from the Democratic Republic of the Congo, describes how a beautiful young woman outwits a suspicious suitor by using a clever disguise made of leopard skins and antlers. "The Wedding Basket," from Nigeria, and "The Roof of Leaves," from the Congo, describe what can make or break a marriage. "The Talking Skull," from Cameroon, is a comical story about the dangers of talking too much. (Grades 3–12)

Assembly of Necklaces, Maasai culture, Kenya

Basinjom Mask and Gown, Ejagham culture, Nigeria and Cameroon

Mercedes-Benz Coffin, Kane Quaye, Ghana

Sowei Mask, Mende culture, Sierra Leone

Wisniewski, David. *Sundiata: Lion King of Mali*. New York: Clarion Books, 1992

Generations of griots (GREE-ohs), storytellers who preserve history and wisdom for many African ethnic groups, inspired this telling of the epic of Sundiata, from his birth to his exile to his triumphant return. Magnificent cut paper illustrations and an extended note on the history of Ghana, the first great empire of West Africa, make this book an excellent resource for teaching. (Grades 3–12)

Hunter's Shirt, Bamana culture, Mande tradition, Mali

General

Diouf, Sylviane A. *Kings and Queens of Central Africa*. New York: Franklin Watts, 2000.

———. *Kings and Queens of East Africa*. New York: Franklin Watts, 2000.

———. *Kings and Queens of Southern Africa*. New York: Franklin Watts, 2000.

———. *Kings and Queens of West Africa*. New York: Franklin Watts, 2000.

Each book in this series contains brief histories of important kingdoms of Africa, well-researched biographies of three rulers, a look at contemporary African life, a glossary, recommended books and websites. The books are well organized, well written, and liberally illustrated with photographs of the art and peoples of each region. (Grades 3–8)

CHILDREN'S BOOKS

(continued)

Knight, Margy Burns, and Mark Melnicove. *Africa is Not a Country*. Illustrated by Anne Sibley O'Brien. Brookfield, Conn.: Millbrook Press, 2000.

From Algeria to Zimbabwe, the incredible diversity of the fifty-three countries that make up the continent of Africa is presented through brief descriptions of the everyday lives of children who live in them. Colorful illustrations depict children walking to school on city streets, playing games in rural villages, riding ponies down snowy mountains, drinking tea in a desert tent, and cavorting on sandy beaches. (Kindergarten–grade 4)

Leslau, Charlotte, and Wolf Leslau, comp. *African Proverbs*. New York: Peter Pauper Press, Inc., 1985.

This is a lively, lovely selection of proverbs from various African countries and cultures, including Ghana, Sierra Leone, Kenya, and the Asante people. (All grades)

RELATED WEBSITES

Related to the Objects Featured in This Guide

African Art, African Voices: Long Steps Never Broke a Back

<http://www.philamuseum.org>

Philadelphia Museum of Art, Philadelphia, Pa.

Art from Africa: Long Steps Never Broke a Back

<http://www.seattleartmuseum.org/Exhibit/Archive/Longsteps/default.htm>

Seattle Art Museum, Seattle, Wash.

African Museums and Artists

AfricanCraft.com, <http://www.africancrafts.com>

African Crafts Online, Inc., Washington, D.C.

Showcases traditional artisans and modern artists, as well as designers whose work incorporates African materials or designs. Includes several lesson plans and opportunities to shop

African Museums and Related Organisations on the Internet

<http://www.icom.org/africom/africa1m.htm>

International Committee for Documentation, International Council of Museums, Paris, France

A checklist of museums in Africa, organized by country, with website and e-mail information

Africa, http://www.universes-in-universe.de/africa/e_kont.htm

Universes in Universe—Worlds of Art, Berlin, Germany. (Pat Binder and Gerhard Haupt, editors)

Lists a limited number of exhibitions, publications, and museums related to traditional and contemporary African art

Culture, Anthropology, and History

Ijele: Art eJournal of the African World, <http://www.ijele.com>

Africa Resource Center, Inc., Binghamton, N.Y.

Ijele is an electronic journal on “modern and contemporary art and photography, iconography, symbolism, and aesthetics of Africa and African artists around the world.”

Wonders of the African World, <http://www.pbs.org/wonders>

Gates, Henry Louis, Jr. PBS, Alexandria, Va.

The online guide and information resource for the PBS television series *Wonders of the African World*, an exploration of the wealth of African history and culture.

Africa: One Continent, Many Worlds

<http://www.lam.mus.ca.us/africa/main.htm>

Natural History Museum of Los Angeles, Los Angeles, Calif.

Features maps, stories, an activity guide, classroom ideas, and lesson plans

Africanhiphop.com, <http://www.africanhiphop.com/>

Madunia Foundation, Amsterdam, Netherlands

Presents information about African hip-hop around the world

Modern African Art: A Basic Reading List

<http://www.sil.si.edu/SILPublications/ModernAfricanArt/modern-african-art.htm>

National Museum of African Art Library, Smithsonian Institution Libraries, Washington, D.C. (Janet Stanley, compiler)

An annotated bibliography of recent publications and exhibition catalogues as well as popular and scholarly periodicals

African Pottery, <http://www.uiowa.edu/~intl/rft/pottery.html>

Roy, Christopher. University of Iowa, Iowa City, Iowa

Explains techniques of traditional African pottery-making through slides, videos, essays, a list of publications, and a DVD available for purchase.

RELATED WEBSITES
(continued)

U.S. Museums with African Art Collections

The Art Institute of Chicago, Chicago, Ill.
<http://www.artic.edu>

The High Museum of Art, Atlanta, Ga.
<http://www.high.org>

Metropolitan Museum of Art, New York, N.Y.
Timeline of Art History, <http://www.metmuseum.org/toah/>

Museum for African Art, Long Island City, N.Y.
<http://www.africanart.org>

The Nasher Museum of Art at Duke University, Durham, N.C.
<http://www.duke.edu/web/duma/>

National Museum of African Art, Washington, D.C.
<http://www.nmafa.si.edu>

National Museum of Natural History, Washington, D.C.
African Voices, <http://www.mnh.si.edu/africanvoices/>

Saint Louis Art Museum, Saint Louis, Mo.
African Art, <http://www.slam.org/african.html>

University of Iowa, Iowa City, Iowa
Art and Life in Africa Project, <http://www.uiowa.edu/~africart/>

University of Pennsylvania Museum of Archaeology and
Anthropology, Philadelphia
<http://www.museum.upenn.edu>

Virginia Museum of Fine Arts, Richmond, Va.
Our Collections: African Art,
http://www.vmfa.state.va.us/collections/collect_african.html