

MEET THE MUSEUM

Discovery Theater & African Art!

Classroom Activities—Stories from Grandmother Africa

Granny Names, Granny Stories

What do you call YOUR grandmother (or your other favorite extra-special grown-up)?

Where is your grandmother from? Make a class list. On a map of the world, put a star on each grandmother's "home."

Make a poster of your grandmother with her granny name underneath. Put everyone's drawing up to make a "grandmother quilt!"

Ask your grandmother for a story from her growing-up days. Who taught it to her? Why has she remembered it?

Learn the story and act it out for the class, or make a book by writing it down and illustrating it!

Art from What's Around You

1) Many useful and beautiful things in African homes are made from the natural objects that people find in the world around them. For instance, clay can become a cooking pot, or a tree branch can become a chair.

Find two or three natural or manmade objects (for instance, a paper cup, a pencil eraser, and an interesting stick). How can you combine your objects to make something useful? Glue the objects together or draw a poster showing your invention.

2) Make a collage that tells about you! One of the objects in the Workshop Gallery was a clay vessel decorated with symbols of a farmer's life. What symbols describe YOUR life?

Find six things—small objects, pictures cut from magazines, etc.) that tell who you are and what you like to do. (Or make a class collage—find one thing that tells about your class.) Glue all the **symbols** on a piece of paper or cardboard and decorate any way you please!

3) In the Body of Evidence gallery, the sculptor El Anatsui made a sculpture from rough branches. He looked for bumps and cracks in the wood that looked a little like faces, then used paint to make the faces clearer by adding a mouth, eyes, or whatever he thought was needed.

Find a stick or a small rock, or crumple a piece of paper or a paper cup. Can you see a face? Use markers or paints to add a feature or two. Make up a story about the character you've made!

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