



IT'S A SMALL WORLD: SOUTH AFRICA

Project Skills:

- Youth will make two craft projects related to South Africa and experience a folk story representative of the nation.

Life Skills:

- Accepting differences

Academic Standards:

- Social Studies E.4.11. Give examples and explain how language, stories, folk tales, music, and other artistic creations are expressions of culture and how they convey knowledge of other peoples and cultures.

Grade Level: 3

Time: 60 minutes

Supplies Needed:

Palm Tree Activity

- Newspapers
- Masking tape
- Scissors

Shakers Activity

- Balloons
- Split peas or small beans
- Masking tape
- ½-inch dowel, 4 inches long
- Beads, feathers and string (optional)
- Colored markers (optional)

Song/Story Activity

- Book/Tape: *Abiyoyo* (book or tape/CD available at Pete Seeger-Scholastic Inc., 1989, ISBN 0-590-42720-2)

BACKGROUND

South Africa really is south! It is the most southern of all of the countries of Africa – it's located at the very bottom tip of the continent. This land, whose history includes riches of diamonds and gold, also has a rich diversity of cultures.

WHAT TO DO

Activity: Palm Trees

Palm trees are common sights in Africa. They are an important tree because they produce saps that can be made into syrup. They are also important for their oils and fruits, including sweet dates. Each participant will make a palm tree to help set the stage for the story.

- To make the palm tree, place one full sheet of newspaper in "proper" reading position in front of you. Roll the newspaper (about the thickness of a cardboard tube) starting at the bottom and rolling to within 2-3 inches of the top.
- Overlap a new sheet of newspaper on the first newspaper and continue to roll as before, incorporating the new sheet. Continue by adding another sheet as you reach the top until you have added 4-5 more sheets.
- Tape the bottom securely. Make several four-inch cuts in the top of the paper roll. Have a helper pull from the center of the roll and "leaves" will appear from your palm trees. Prop up against walls (or tape to the floor) to set your stage for *Abiyoyo*.



Activity: African Shakers

African shakers are traditionally made from natural materials. The true shaker is made from a ground gourd that is hollowed out and filled with beads or seeds. It is used as a percussion instrument – to keep the beat!

- To make the shakers, add peas to the balloon. *Caution:* An adult will need to blow the balloons up to the size of a *small* gourd, making sure not to inhale the peas! Tie the balloon. Wrap the end of the balloon around the dowel and secure with masking tape.
- Youth may decorate their dowels with colored markers, and add beads and feathers on strings for a more authentic touch.
- Note: If you are meeting for several sessions, you may cover the balloon with paper-mâché and paints to create a very sturdy colorful shaker.

Activity: Song/Story

Songwriter/Storyteller Pete Seeger adapted an old South African folktale called *Abiyoyo*. It is a wonderful tale full of repetitive phrases and a musical interlude.

Play the song from the Seeger album or read the book (or do both!). The youth may join in with their instruments during the song.

Enhance/Simplify

- Dried gourds
- Pictures of South African art
- Film canisters or soda bottles
- Colored tape

Sources:

- Created by Paula Rogers Huff, 4-H Youth Development Agent, UW-Extension, Oconto County

TALK IT OVER

Reflect:

- What did you like best in this story about Abiyoyo?
- How would you describe the music on the tape of Abiyoyo?
- How did the music make you feel?
- Who were the heroes in the story?
- What did they do that made them heroes?

Apply:

- Who are your heroes in everyday life?
- Why do you consider them heroes?
- What other things would you like to know about South Africa and its customs?
- In what ways do you think the children of South Africa may be different from you?
- In what ways do you think they may be like you?

ENHANCE/SIMPLIFY

Enhance for Older Children:

- Use dried gourds to make a more traditional African shaker. Display pictures of representative South African folk art to inspire learners in their decoration of the shakers.
- Act out the story of Abiyoyo – don't forget the chorus!

Simplify for Younger Children:

Substitute film canisters or soda bottles for the balloon shakers. Decorate with colored tape.

Reviewed by Wisconsin 4-H Afterschool Team: October 2004.