

Longwood Center for the Visual Arts
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Professional Development Teacher Workshop
Power and Beauty: New in the African Art Collection
October 5th, 2012

Lesson: *Fit for a Chief*
Grade Level: 3

Goals	Virginia Standards of Learning
The student will make a 2D chief's chair with a variety of art processes.	3.2 The student will use various art processes and techniques to produce works of art that demonstrate craftsmanship.
The students will discuss how the community supports its leader by creating the chair only for them, and how it is seen as being a work of art.	3.13 The student will discuss how history, culture, and the visual arts influence each other.
The students will look at examples of the Chief's chairs and be able to explain what the chair means, what they think it means, and how it makes them feel. The will be able to discuss the chief's chair's importance.	3.23 The student will express informed judgments about works of art
The students will look at examples of Chief chairs and be able to discuss how it holds an important place in African cultures.	3.25 The student will examine the relationship between form and function in the artifacts of a culture.

Supplies and Materials:

- White paper 12" x 15"
- Acrylic paint to mix into the methylcellulose (blues and purples would make great backdrops for the Chief's chairs)
 - Lineco Methyl Cellulose Adhesive can be bought at dickblick.com for \$8.39. After the powder is mixed with water the paint is added to make the paste for the paste papers.

- Water
- Bowls for water
- Sponges for wetting paper and then applying the paste
- Tools for making designs on the paste paper (combs, shaped sponges, opposite ends of paint brushes)
- Scissors
- Colorful papers
- Paper scraps
- Glue
- Other items for decorating the chairs (beads, feathers, markers, etc.)
- Drying rack for paste papers
- Smocks to wear when making paste papers

TEACHER AND STUDENT PROCEDURE

TIME MIN	TEACHER PROCEDURE	STUDENT PROCEDURE
First class		
3 Minutes	Facilitate questioning to get the students think about African cultures.	Students will make educated assumptions on African cultures based on what they know already.
10 minutes	Show examples of Chief's chairs and ask questions. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Look closely at the chair, what do you notice? - What role might these figures play in this community? - Who might sit in a chair like this? - Why do you think a leader might want scenes of daily life, or rituals, or animals on his or her throne? 	Students should be engaged in looking at the examples of chiefs chairs and thinking critically about the answers to the proposed questions.
5 minutes	Explain that they will be making a chief's chair, show an example of a finished piece, and explain that they are making a chair for a leader they admire. Leaders can range from parents to presidents.	Students should start thinking about a leader they admire and want to make a chair for.
5 minutes	Show a demonstration of how they will make their paste paper. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Wet both sides of your paper with water, using a sponge 	

<p>2 minutes</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Drop dime size globs of the pigmented paste onto one side of the wet paper - Use the damp sponge to spread the paste around on the paper, covering it completely with color. - Use tools like combs to create patterns in the paint - Set to dry <p>Here is a great video on how to make paste papers and the paste paper process: http://youtu.be/aR5MoJQRmOE</p>	
<p>Remainder of class</p>	<p>Make sure everyone has their name on the backs of their paper</p> <p>Facilitate classroom work time</p>	<p>Students will put their names on the backs of their paper</p> <p>Students will spend the remainder of the time making their paste paper.</p>
<p>Second Class</p>		
<p>5 Minutes</p>	<p>Recap on the class before. Talk about the Chief's Chairs and ask questions for freshen the memories of what the students remembered about the Chief's Chairs. Also discuss who some of their leaders are that they have chosen to make their chair for</p>	<p>Students should discuss what they remembered about the Chief's Chairs. They should also have finalized an idea of which leader inspires their chair.</p>
<p>5 Minutes</p>	<p>Show a demonstration on how to add mixed media item to create their chair out of the ripped/scrap/ and colorful papers and decorative items</p>	
<p>Remainder of class</p>	<p>Facilitate classroom work time</p>	<p>Students should use the remainder of class to work on and finish their chairs.</p>

References:

Many different cultures in Africa have different ways of adorning their Chief's chairs. As seen in the examples linked below, cultures like the Ngombe, Chokwe, and Luba peoples of the Democratic Republic of the Congo adorn their chairs with materials such as wood, glass beads, plant fiber, leather, brass and iron tacks. Other cultures like the Akan peoples of Ghana and Côte d'Ivoire use only copper alloy to decorate their Chief's chairs. In some cultures like the Yoruba culture of Nigeria, the chairs are beautifully beaded all over as well as accompanied by foot stools and beaded outfits for the Chief. However some cultures, for example the Lobi peoples of Burkina Faso, use only wood to create their more beautiful and yet simplistic Chief's chairs.

- http://www.brooklynmuseum.org/opencollection/objects/2899/Chiefs_Chair
- <http://www.metmuseum.org/toah/works-of-art/1978.412.619>
- [http://africa.si.edu/collections/view/objects/asitem/items\\$0040:17305](http://africa.si.edu/collections/view/objects/asitem/items$0040:17305)
- <http://siris-archives.si.edu/ipac20/ipac.jsp?&profile=all&source=~!siarchives&uri=full=3100001~!66804~!0#focus>
- <http://siris-archives.si.edu/ipac20/ipac.jsp?&profile=all&source=~!siarchives&uri=full=3100001~!261390~!0#focus>
- [http://africa.si.edu/collections/view/objects/asitem/items\\$0040:854](http://africa.si.edu/collections/view/objects/asitem/items$0040:854)
- [http://africa.si.edu/collections/view/objects/asitem/items\\$0040:849](http://africa.si.edu/collections/view/objects/asitem/items$0040:849)
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- <http://www.lebaronsprimitives.com/Yourba%20Beaded%20Chair.htm>
- <http://outofthisworld.co.za/products/beaded-yoruba-chair.html>
- <http://outofthisworld.co.za/products/beaded-yoruba-chair-2.html>
- <http://www.africandaydreams.com/1/post/2012/3/interiors-daydream-nigeria4.html>
- http://www.fromthetribe.com/product.php?main_page=product_info&products_id=44
- http://www.fromthetribe.com/product.php?main_page=product_info&products_id=45