

## KS1 Africa Themed Brain Builder Suggestions

1. **Make beads.** Use 2 cups flour, 1 cup salt and a small amount of water to make a dough. Knead the dough. Have the children make circles and square shapes. Stick a small toothpick into the clay to make the hole. Bake in oven at 225 degrees for 1 hour. Once cool, let the children use markers to decorate them. Then let the children string them into a necklace. You could make a bracelet using elastic thread.

2. **Make a mask.** Masks have been made for thousands of years from all kinds of materials and for many different uses. Some are religious, or represent nature and tribal ancestors. Dancers wear masks in ceremonies to bring rain or chase away evil or sickness. Using a paper plate fold in 1/2. Cut out eyes, nose and mouth. These can be painted. You can hole punch all around edges and add yarn or raffia.

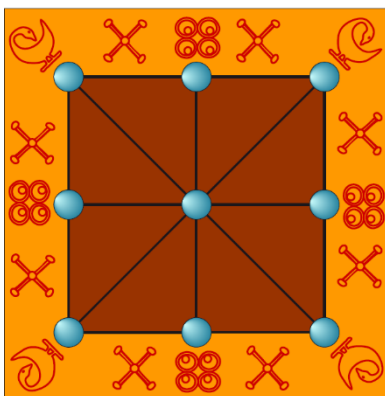
3. **Make a shield.** Shields were made in a great variety of sizes and shapes. Some only a few inches long were carried in dance rituals and were merely symbols of their original use. Shapes varied from tribe to tribe. Using a paper plate staple a strip of strong paper to the back and staple on each side of the plate. The child will insert a hand into the back of the plate and the paper will keep the shield in place. Let the children decorate the plate. Colour and glue on cut up wallpaper pieces, sequins, yarn, etc. Let the kids dance around with the shields.

4. **Make a flag.** Each African country has its own flag of meaningful colours: green symbolizes growing things, yellow symbolizes the sun, red the blood of the people, blue the sea, white peace, and black the people of Africa or African freedom. Have the children make their own flags, be sure to ask them what the colours that they have used signify to them!

5. **Play Achi** - a traditional game from Ghana. Make your own board using paper and pens, and find counters from around the house. Then try it out with a member of your family!

Achi is a two-player game. Each player needs four game pieces in a colour that contrasts with the other player's game pieces, for example two different types of dried beans, or two different types of coins. The object of the game is to be the first player to align three pieces in a row.

- Players take turns putting playing pieces on any line intersection.
- The game moves into its second stage after all pieces have been played and no one has three in a row. Players now take turns moving one of their pieces along a line to an empty spot. No jumping.
- The first player to get three in a row wins. The row can be horizontal, vertical, or diagonal.



6. **African Kente Weaving.** Can you find out what Kente weaving is and then make your own, decorating and using strips of paper?

7. **Make up your own African dance and video it.** You could swing from tree to tree (or maybe something a little less daring!) like a monkey or lie on the ground and swim like a crocodile.

8. **Make an African drum** by painting a terracotta plant pot then attach a sheet of paper to the top using an elastic band. Have fun playing!

9. **Make a colourful African repeated pattern.** You could use a potato or sponge to cut out a shape which you could use to print a repeated pattern. What shape will you use and why?

10. **Make your own African instrument.** You could make an African drum (djembe or bongos) or a rainmaker. Use what you have at home - an old tin, wrapping paper tube, kitchen roll tube. Use your instrument to make some music. Think about the rhythms you can create.