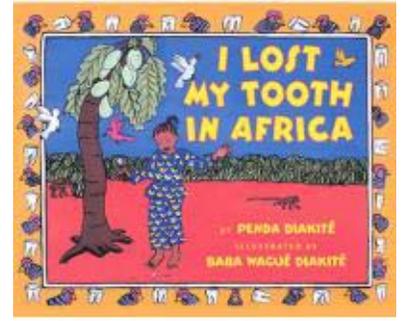
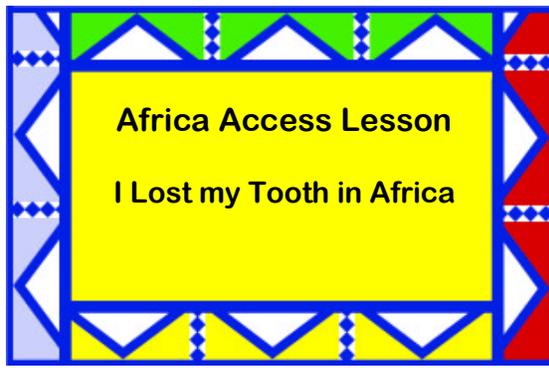


Ages: 5 - 9



Objectives:

Students will:

- Learn how people in different countries celebrate the loss of a child's tooth.
- Learn about aspects of life in Mali, West Africa.
- Play the 'Where's Amina's Chicken' game.

Resources Needed

- *I Lost my tooth in Africa* by Penda Diakité & illustrated by Baba Wagué Diakité
- Map of Africa that shows Mali, West Africa

Art Materials Needed to Make Chicken

- Scissors
- Guinea Feathers
- Pom Poms
- Glue Dots
- Wiggle Eyes
- Black Magic marker

Art Materials Needed to Make Calabash Gourd

- Non-firing Air Drying Clay (gray or red) about 1 and ½ cups per student
- 5 or 6 inch rubber ball cut in half
- Vaseline
- Plastic knife
- Dark brown acrylic paint
- Tan acrylic paint
- 1 ½ inch sponge brush
- Rolling pin
- 2 sheets of Baker's parchment paper or wax paper 12inches by 12 inches
- News paper
- Paper towels and dry bristle brush

Activating Prior Knowledge

- What happens when you lose a tooth? (Discuss the custom of putting a tooth under your pillow and receiving money.)
- What is a gourd? (Show a gourd and discuss how it is used).
- What do you know about chickens?

Story Steps

1. Read *I Lost my Tooth in Africa*
2. Use the map to locate the country of Mali, West Africa
3. Discuss the Malian custom of giving a child a chicken for a lost tooth.
4. Ask children what else they learned about life in Bamako, Mali from the book. (food, games, greetings, family, etc.)
5. Demonstrate and play the 'Where's Amina's Chicken' game. (played like the shell game)

Art steps for grades 3 and up: Older children can make and play the game with children in lower grades.



Select two pom poms of different sizes



Using glue dots, glue the two pom poms together, using smaller one for the head



Add a glue dot to feathers.



Glue feathers on to the pom



Cut felt to make a beak



Glue on the beak.



Put glue dot on eyes.



Glue on the eyes.



To stabilize chicken, put a glue dot onto a plastic top. Glue the chicken on to the top.

Making a Calabash Gourd

Materials: Non-firing Air Drying Clay (gray or red) about 1 and ½ cups per student
5 or 6 inch rubber ball cut in half
Vaseline
Plastic knife
Dark brown acrylic paint
Tan acrylic paint
1 ½ inch sponge brush
Rolling pin
2 sheets of bakers parchment paper or wax paper 12 inches by 12 inches
News paper
Paper towels and dry bristle brush
Student labels

Step 1 Remove 1 ½ cups of clay from bag. Close bag, remember this is air drying clay. **DO NOT** leave the bag open. Grease the inside of one of the rubber ball halves with Vaseline. Clean your hands with paper towels.

Step 2 Form a circle out of clay about 4 inches across and ¾'s of an inch thick. Place on parchment. Cover the clay with the second piece of parchment.

Step 3 Roll the clay between the sheets of parchment in all directions until you have a circle about 8 inches across

Step 4 Remove the clay from the parchment and gently bring the edges of the clay to the center, making a pouch.

Step 5 Place the clay in one of the rubber ball halves.

Step 6 Fold excess clay inside of the bowl and press the clay firmly into the rubber ball. The walls of the bowl should be even and about 3/8ths of an inch thick. Thicker is OK. Thinner walls might break through during carving. Avoid thin rims.

Label the work now by placing each student's name in the bottom of the bowl. You can xerox the class lists (different colored paper for different teachers) and snip it apart providing a label for each student. A little smear of clay will keep the tag in place. This is much easier than trying to read student handwriting scratched into the clay and provides a reference of students who are absent or have forgotten to identify their work.

General information about air-drying clay;

The length of time needed for to the bowl to harden in the mold will depend on the original dampness of the clay when you remove it from the bag and the brand that you buy. I recommend non-firing greystone by Sculpture House because it is the most consistent and it smells better than other brands. If you won't see your students until the following week, bag the mold until the day before class. If you allow the work to air dry over night they should be perfect the next day. It's best to make your example a week ahead in order to determine the drying speed of your batch of clay.

Step 7 Do not remove the clay from the rubber mold until the interior of the bowl has hardened enough to hold the shape of the bowl easily. The exterior of the bowl will dry more slowly because it is protected from the air by the rubber ball. The interior should be cool and dry and the exterior cool, slightly damp and leather hard.

Step 8 Gently release the bowl by rolling the edge of the mold toward the outside with your thumbs, all the way around. Gently push upward from the bottom to release the bowl from the rubber mold. If the clay seems too damp and weak to hold the shape of the mold return the clay to mold.

Step 9 Pack the bowl with newspaper and place the bowl upside down on the table. Begin incising your design on your calabash.

Step 10 When your design is completed brush away any loose clay with a dry bristle brush. Cover the calabash with dark brown (burnt umber) using a damp sponge brush. (I painted mine while the clay was still slightly damp with no ill effect.) Wiggle the brush to push the paint into the incised marks. Gently blot off any excess paint. Acrylic paint dries quickly. Wash the sponge brush and squeeze it dry in a paper towel. Do not load the brush with paint. You want a dry brush to cover the bowl with tan paint. If the brush has too much paint you will fill the incised design so use the flat side of the sponge brush and a light touch. When the outside is dry, remove the newspaper and the student label. Paint the inside tan. Be prepared to replace student labels.

Step 11 Allow the bowl to dry for 3 to 4 days before packing it in newspaper. Place student labels on the outside of the newspaper.