

Special Interest Fair 2008

Resource Guide

So, you want to create a project for the fair but you're having trouble thinking of an idea. Don't worry—here are some Web sites that can help: **(Kids, be sure to have your parent's permission before going online!)**

- ∞ http://www.dmoz.org/Kids_and_Teens/School_Time/Social_Studies/
- ∞ <http://landmark-project.com/ncsh/index.php>
- ∞ http://www.softschools.com/social_studies/

Or, consider this:

- ∞ Do you like **Cheetahs** or **Elephants**, **Giraffes** or **Chimpanzees**?
- ∞ How about **Soccer great Freddy Adu**?
- ∞ Does **Anansi the Spider** make you laugh?
- ∞ Do you dream of seeing **the great Sahara desert** or the **Pyramids of Egypt**?
- ∞ Did you dress as **Cleopatra** last Halloween, or as a **Mummy**?

How about doing a project related to Africa? Here's a list of books and Web sites you might want to check out, along with **some important information for parents**. You can find these books in the Burns Park School Library and you can access the Web links at www.burnsparkpto.org Have fun and help people learn more about the continent of Africa!

This year the multicultural focus for Burns Park School is Africa. Whether your child is interested in sports, animals, cooking or travel, likes to learn about art, music, geography or people who changed our world—there are great topics relating to Africa.

Burns Park Library: A wide selection of books is available: a detailed bibliography will be available in the library and through the Burns Park School PTO website: www.burnsparkpto.org

The list is organized by the following topics:

Picture books, Alphabet books, Counting books, Fiction, Folktales, Biographies, Poetry, Music, Art, Cooking, Animals, Geography, People and Cultures, Individual African Countries.

Biographies include: Soccer player Freddy Adu, Alexander the Great, Cleopatra, Marcus Garvey, Jane Goodall, Nelson Mandela, NBA star Hakeem Olajuwon, Albert Schweitzer, and Phyllis Weatley.

Individual Country/Region Books include: Democratic Republic of the Congo, Egypt, Ethiopia, Kenya, Nigeria, the Saharan Desert, Somalia, South Africa, Tanzania, Uganda, Zimbabwe.

Web resources: Burns Park School's own library computers include a great database called Culturegrams where kids can research Africa country by country. You can also access Culturegrams from home at www.burnsparkpto.org Just follow the Culturegrams link from the Special Interest Fair information, then click on Research tools. Scroll down until you get to Culturegrams.

Parent advisory: Most of these sites are for kids except where noted. However creators of sites have differing approaches to such topics as everyday life for children in Africa, which may include experiences with food or water shortages, as well as serious health or social issues such as AIDS, poverty or war. These sites don't focus on these issues and have been reviewed prior to recommending them. **However, please review the sites yourself before or with your child to ensure that the approach is compatible with your own views.**

<http://pbskids.org/africa/>

A Web lesson based on the AFRICA series on PBS. Includes crafts, photo journals and music.

<http://www.pbs.org/wonders/Kids/kids.htm>

This part of a PBS kids' site tells you how to print your own adinkra cloth.

<http://www.nmfaa.si.edu/exhibits/playful/introindex.html>

National Museum of African Art. A lesson plan designed around African masks, with a project.

<http://www.kidscantravel.com/familytravelguides/africa/index.html>

While a little advanced for young children, this site can be used to plan a trip to one of four African countries: Mozambique, Morocco, Kenya and South Africa and how to get around. Lots of helpful links, quick facts. NOTE: This is a commercial site.

<http://www.enchantedlearning.com/school/Africa/Africamap.shtml>

The section of this site on geography includes printable map outlines for African countries.

<http://www.asij.ac.jp/elementary/links/currlink/africa.htm>

This site is a portal site for other sites with social studies resources on Africa for elementary age children. Some sites it leads to are good for kids, while others will need parents to help.

<http://www.ibike.org/library/africakids.htm>

This is a somewhat poorly organized site but is one of a very few sites which has some links on cooking, daily life and schooling toys/recreation.

Several people have asked about sites on the environment and issues such as reforestation, water and land use. The sites below are designed for adults but have photographs and stories, which could be interesting or useful for children. Included is the Web site of the Green Belt Movement. This reforestation movement has become quite well known since Wangari Maathai won the Nobel Peace Prize in 2004 for reforestation efforts in Kenya. The Greenbelt site includes good photos and a biography of Maathai. Sites selected are about the positive efforts of people, sometimes with international partners, to affect the environments in which they live.

<http://www.globaleducation.edna.edu.au/archives/primary/casestud/tanzania/1/kwimba.html>

A children's Web lesson about reforestation in Tanzania, with teacher's notes and activities.

<http://www.greenbeltmovement.org/>

The Green Belt Movement, site of the foundation started by Maathai.

<http://www.dmpafrica.net/lvdbvisitWCA.htm>

Pictures illustrate what conservation efforts look like in areas where the "desert margins are expanding," and the efforts to stop this expansion through conservation activities.

<http://www.plant-trees.org/projects/senegal.htm>

This site goes through the deforestation specifics in Senegal (which trees are dying and being replaced).