

Open a Door to Zanzibar

Purpose: Give children the opportunity to apply what they have learned about the historic doors of Zanzibar, by carving their own doors from Styrofoam trays.

Kindergarten Standards:

Power NYSCCLS ELA Standards (ICSD) - Responding to Literature:

11. Create and/or present a poem, dramatization, artwork, or personal response to a particular author or theme studied in class, with support as needed.

Materials:

- Large sheets of cardstock
- Medium/small Styrofoam trays (one per child)
- Sharp utility knife
- Toothpicks/wooden craft sticks/large plastic sewing needles/etc.
- Markers
- Pencils
- Photo Card of Wooden Door
- Tissues
- *Wooden Door slide show (optional)

Set Up:

- You will probably need to start collecting trays for this project a week or more in advance.
- Using a pencil, make a vertical line from the top to the bottom of the flat part of each tray. The trays will serve as the doors for the project, and the lines will help the children in making their designs.

Guided Instruction:

TEACHER: (Hold up the Wooden Door photo card.) *We enjoyed learning about the beautifully carved doors in Zanzibar. They had so many different colors, designs and details. Today, we are going to pretend that we live on the island. If you owned a building in Stone Town, Zanzibar, how would you carve your front door? I'm going to show you a fun way to do some easy carving.*

- Hold up the tray vertically and explain that they are going to carve their trays like the people in Zanzibar carve their doors. Show where the line has been made down the middle, and explain that their doors will be cut along that line, so they can open and close.
- Take a toothpick (or whatever carving tool you are using), and demonstrate how to very gently carve a design into the Styrofoam. Emphasize that if you push too hard you will make a hole in your door, or have a ragged line.

- Point to the carved door on the photo card, and remind the children of the types of shapes and designs you might see in Zanzibar. Make note of the fact that the designs are usually symmetrical, so whatever you carve on one side of the door, you should also carve on the other side. **You may wish to refer to the slide show of carved doors on the webpage for design inspiration.*
- When they have finished their carving, give the children a piece of cardstock. Have them turn the cardstock vertically, and place their doors at the bottom of the sheet. Explain that many of the buildings in Stone Town, Zanzibar are tall and skinny. The cardstock is going to represent their building.
- Take a pencil, and demonstrate how to carefully hold the tray at the bottom of the cardstock and trace around the edges.
- Remove the tray, and show how the outline of it can still be seen on the cardstock.
- Tell the children that they get to decide what people will see when they open their carved doors and look inside the building. (Their building could be a fish market, a fruit vendor, a jewelry store, a tailor shop, a school, a hotel, a restaurant, a house, etc.) The children are to draw and color a picture of the scene they choose inside the lines of the rectangle.
- Next, they should decorate the remainder of the cardstock like the outside of their building. They can draw windows, balconies, bricks, creeping vines, flower boxes, etc. Explain to them that they don't need to draw a roof, because most of the buildings have a flat roof that can't be seen from the street.
- Finally, have the children choose a marker color for their doors (darker colors work best). Instruct them to color the front and back of their trays.
- The marker will not fully absorb into the Styrofoam, so they need to wipe the front and back of their tray with a tissue to smear the color into their design. This should help make their carving more noticeable.
- Set the tray on top of the cardstock, and put aside to let the marker dry. (Be sure the children have their names written on the back of their cardstock sheets.)

Teacher Follow Up:

- Using the utility knife, you need to cut the doors open on each tray. You will be cutting five lines – three vertical and two horizontal. Start by holding the tray vertically and gently scoring the inside perimeter (four lines). (Follow the natural line of the tray where the edge starts to curl up.) Then, cut the fifth line vertically down the center of the tray (where you initially drew the line with the pencil). Be careful not to press too hard, or the cut Styrofoam edges will be rough. It is best to score the trays on both sides and then gently push them apart. Once you have cut out the doors of the trays, you should be left with a Styrofoam tray frame, and two freestanding rectangles.
- Turn the tray over, so the lip is resting on the table.
- Take four small pieces of masking tape (about 1 ½") and reconnect the two rectangles to the vertical sides of the frame. The tape will act as hinges, and the rectangles will be doors. **Do not** tape the doors together. You want

them to open and close freely. The tape will show, but you can have the children color it if desired.

- Put a line of white school glue along the edges of the pre-drawn rectangle at the bottom of the tray. Adhere the lip of the tray to the front of the cardstock, and set it aside to dry. **You may also have the kids help you with this task.*
- Now you should be able to open your carved doors and look inside your building.
- Display your buildings together on a board and create your own miniature Stone Town for your classroom to enjoy!