Africa: Masks and Beading Traditions

Post-visit Activity: Assessment Quick Write

Name: ________________________________  Date: ______________

Directions: Use the word bank below to complete the Quick Write exercise.

continent  masks  beads

Glass  culture traits  physical features

ceremonies  bones  carved

culture  ecotourism  wood

clay  tribes  ivory

location  jewelry  natural
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**Post-visit Activity: Assessment Quick Write Key**

Information included in the student Quick Write should include some of the following:

Africa is the second largest **continent** in the world. Because of its vast size, it has many remarkable **physical features**. The Nile River, the Serengeti National Park, Mount Kilimanjaro, the Great Rift Valley, the Sahara Desert and a huge rainforest are all located in Africa.

In addition to many physical features, Africa is also home to many people. In fact, scientists have found evidence that the first humans lived in Africa. Early Africans lived in family groups, known as **tribes**. Each tribe developed distinct cultural traits including language, religion, celebrations, and artistic expression. The **location** of the tribe determined their **culture**. For example, tribes living near the rainforests developed differently than those living on the huge grasslands.

Eventually, countries formed across the continent. Today, there are about 54 countries on the continent of Africa. Although each country of Africa has a unique history and culture, two **cultural traits** that many African tribes have in common are the use of **masks** and **beads**. The art of making beautiful beads using **natural** items such as **clay**, stones, **ivory** and **bone** was an ancient practice in Africa. The beads were used as **jewelry** and ceremonial decoration. Today beads are made from materials such as **glass**, but continue to be an important part of the culture in many areas.

The use of masks has also been an important part of the culture of many African tribes. Usually **carved** from **wood**, masks were used in **ceremonies** to represent people or animals. Today, masks are carved and sold as a way for local women to make money. This **ecotourism** helps some people in Africa have a better life.
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Post-visit Activity: Map Assessment

Name: _____________________________ Date: ________________

Directions: Locate the physical features listed below. Label them on the map and create a color-coded map key highlighting each area.

Color-code these locations on the map:
1. Nile River
2. Sahara Desert
3. Congo River
4. Ethiopian Highlands
5. Great Rift Valley
6. Lake Victoria
7. Mt. Kilimanjaro
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Post-visit Activity: Map Assessment Key