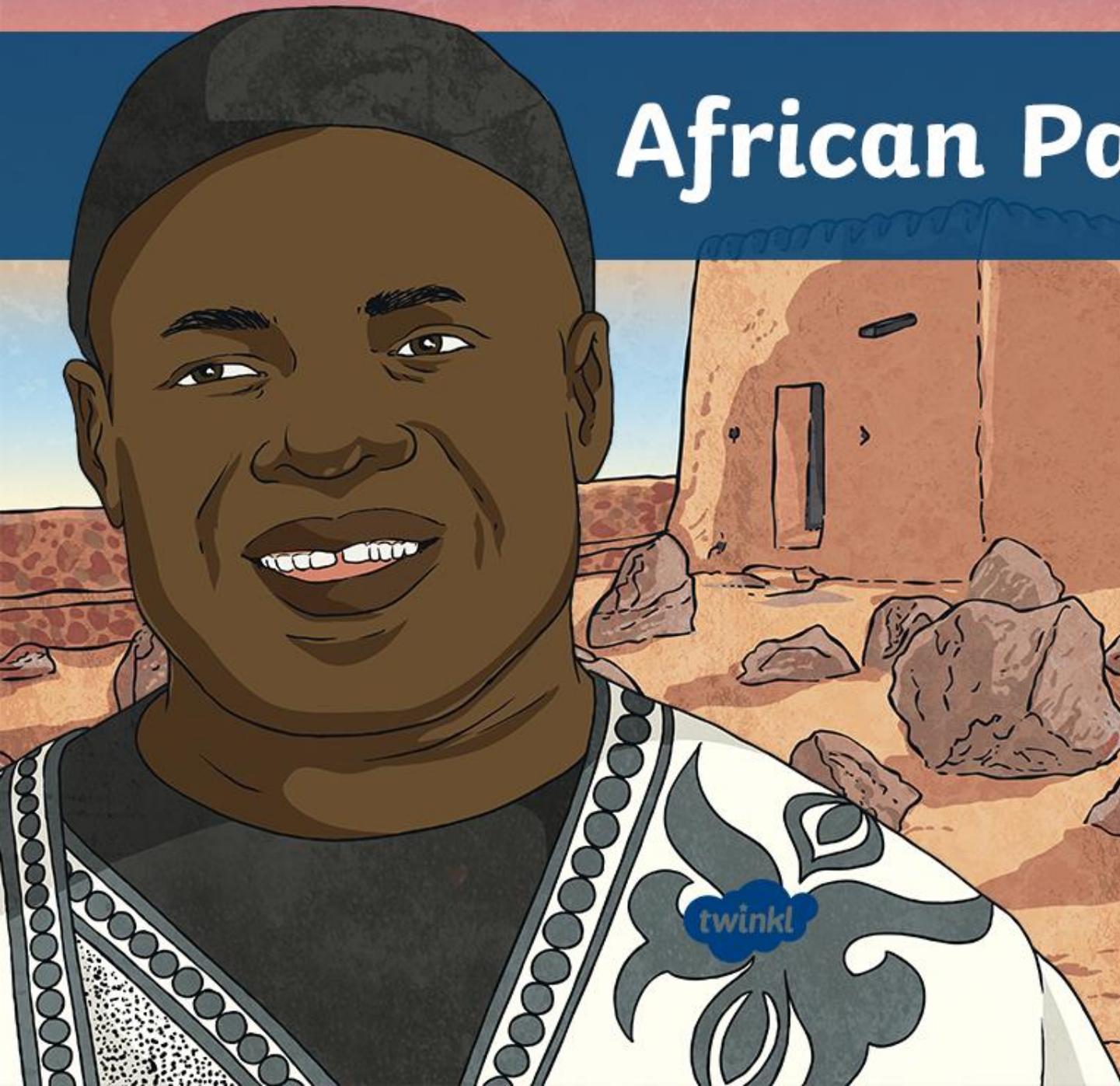


# African Patterns



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# Learning Objective

To be able to create an African pattern using weaving.

# About Africa

Africa is the second largest continent in the world. It is made of 54 countries and 9 territories. There are approximately 1.1 billion people living in Africa, which is equal to 15% of the world's population. It is estimated that there are 2000 different languages spoken in Africa.



Africa is home to rainforests, deserts, mountains, rivers and coastal plains.

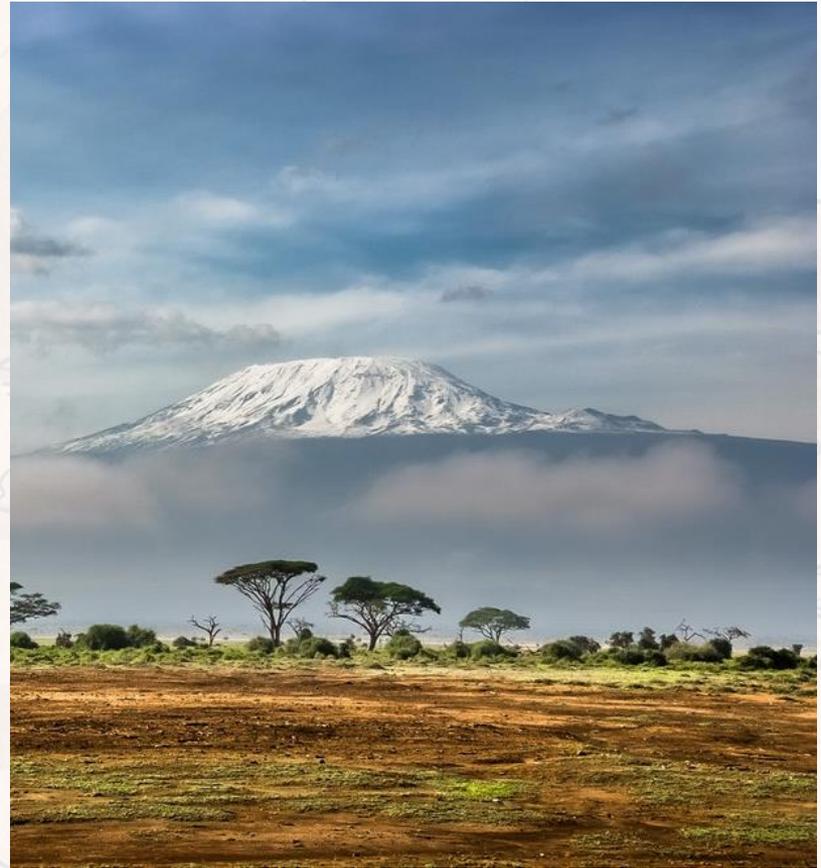
Animals, such as the African elephant, giraffe, cheetah and the white and black rhinoceros, live in Africa.

# African Art

Africa is well known for its individual art.

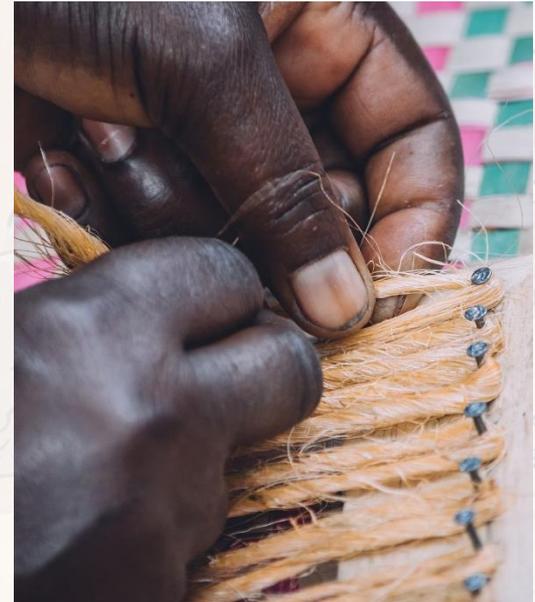
For hundreds of years, African art has been strongly influenced by the environment and natural surroundings.

The vast richness and variety in the environment are ideal for encouraging creativity.



# Handmade Patterns

African mats, rugs and baskets are made by hand using weaving and sewing techniques.

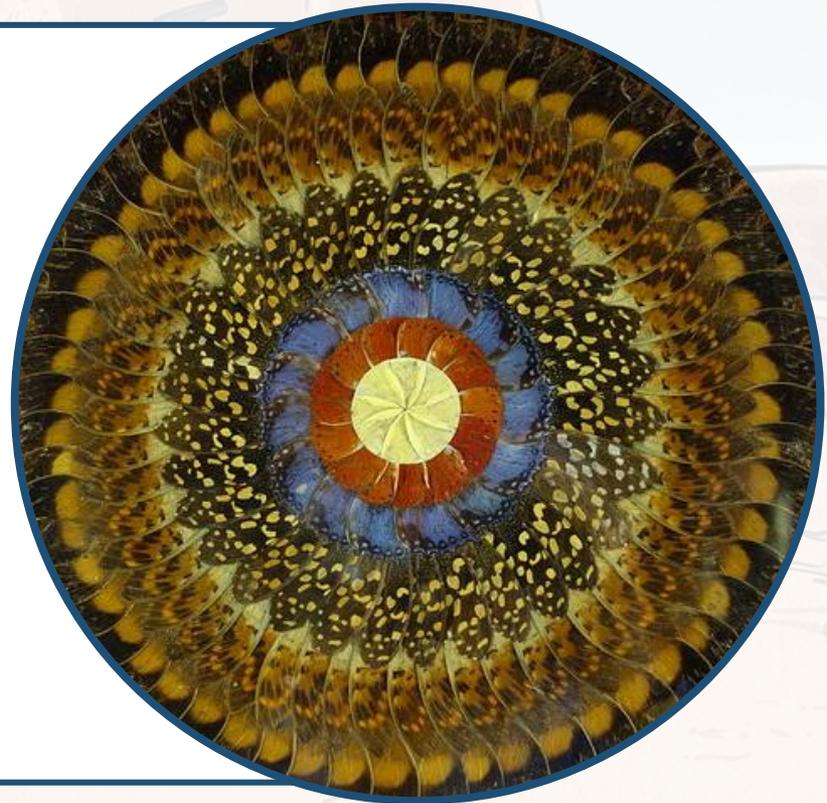


By Ssemaluluj, By Hamijuma, By Mandelasamuel27 - Own work, CC BY-SA 3.0.

# Types of Pattern

Patterns used in African art fall into two groups:

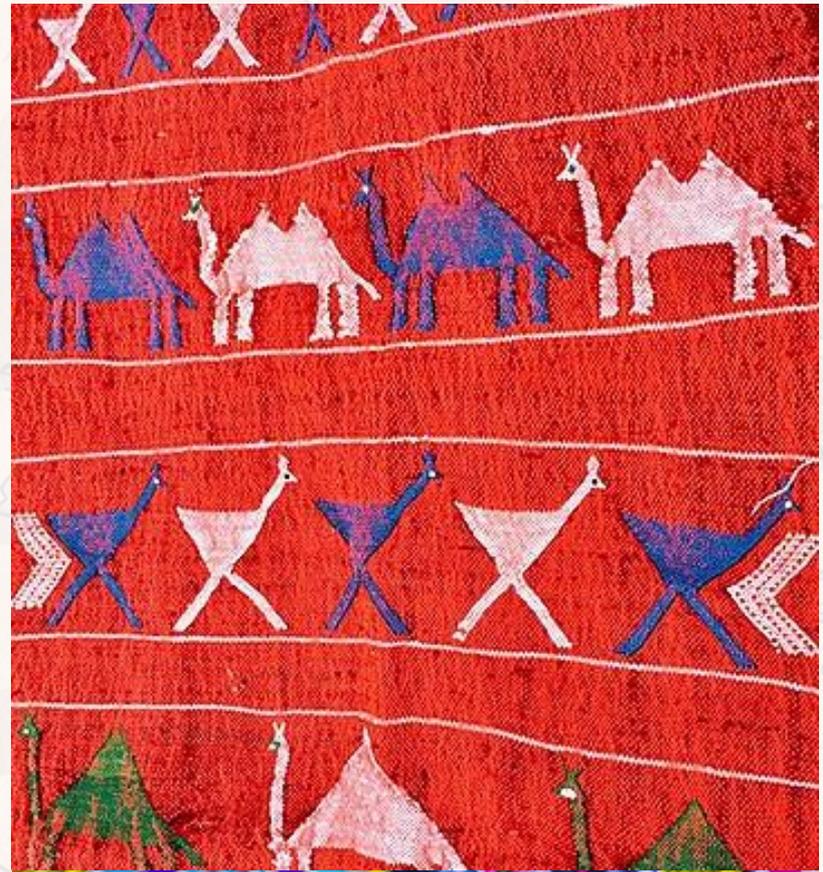
- Geometric – patterns that use zigzags, chequerboard, curved lines, spirals and circles.
- Symbolic – patterns that use images which have some symbolic meaning for the artist and the person using the art, whether it be on a piece of clothing or a building. These images can include crescents, stars, flowers, seeds, trees and pods.



# The Meaning of Patterns

The symbolic patterns represent the culture's beliefs and history. There is a lot of meaning in the way the patterns are arranged and they often represent the wisdom of a tribe. They also act as a record of the events and daily activities of that tribe.

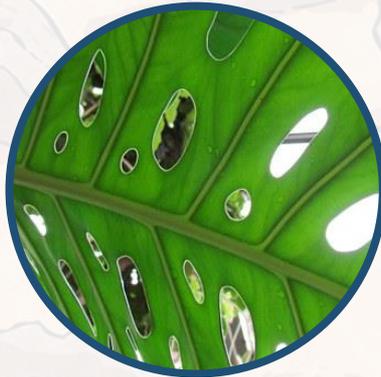
Common patterns include parallel zigzags which are used to remind the artist and the user that the path in life is never straightforward but instead, is often difficult to travel.



By Gharbal - Own work, CC BY-SA 4.0, .

# Inspiration All Day

It's easy to see where the inspiration for art comes from in Africa.



# Patterns Everywhere

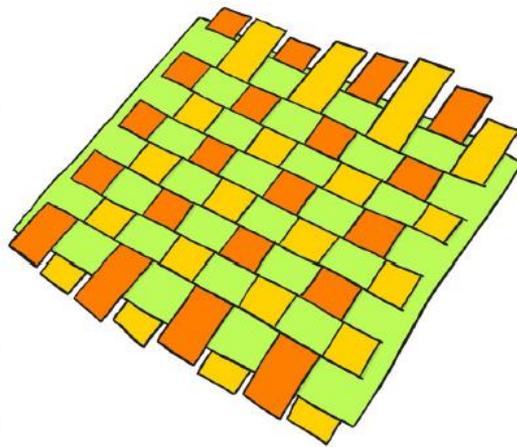
Repeating, colourful patterns are everywhere from baskets and rugs to jewellery and clothing.



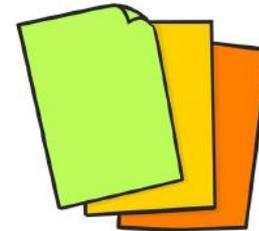
By Haagscheblu, By Joe Mabel - Own work, CC BY-SA 4.0,

# Task

**How to...**



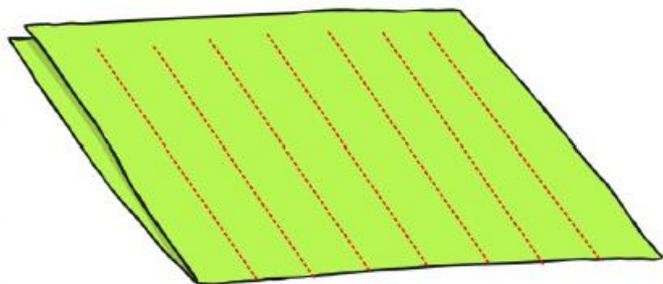
**Weave Paper**



**Materials and equipment:**

Scissors  
Glue stick  
Pencil  
Coloured paper  
Sticky tape

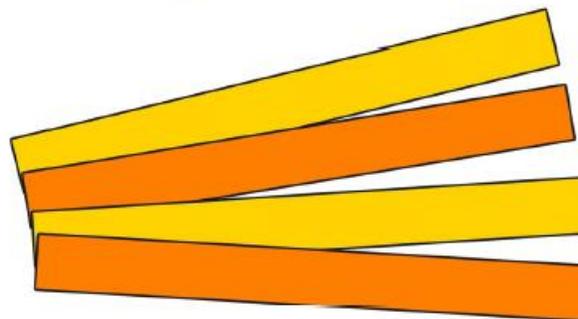
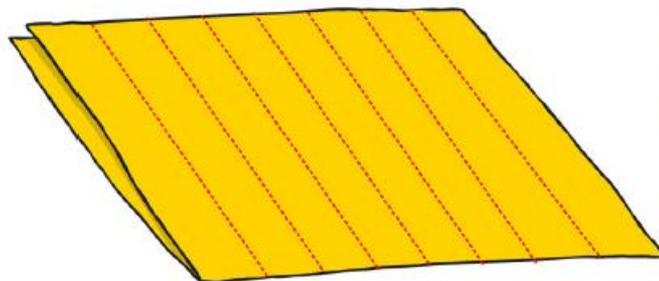
1



First, fold a piece of paper in half and cut slices into it.

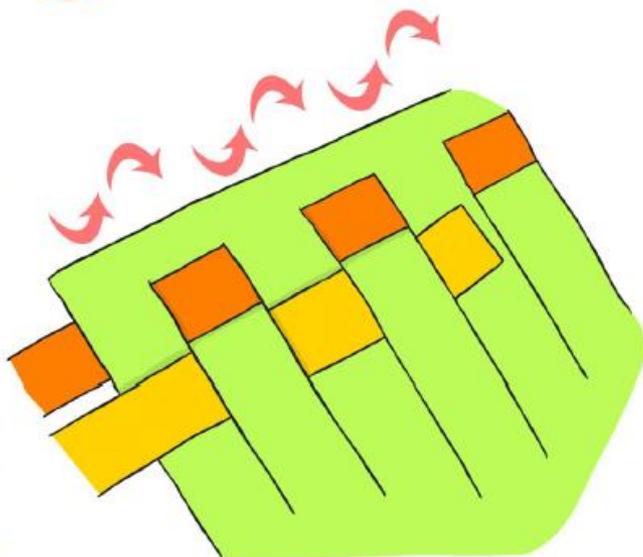
Be careful not to cut all the way through it and leave about an inch of the edge.

2



Next, cut complete strips of the same width from a second piece of paper. Use 2 colours of paper if you wish.

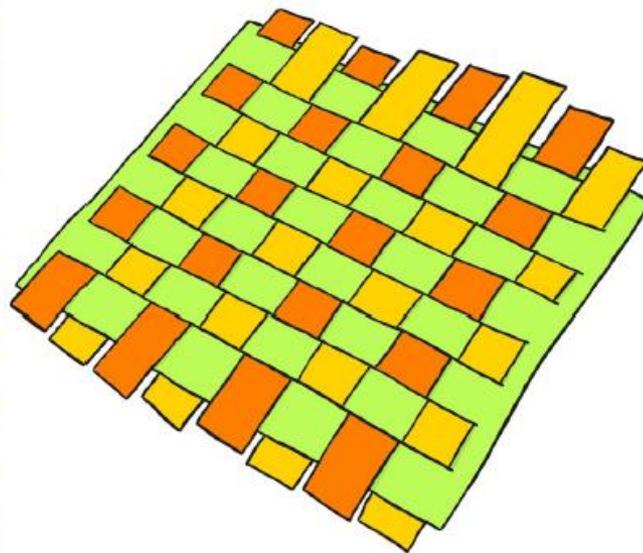
3



Now thread the strips into the piece of paper you have sliced, by weaving in and out.

Do this until your whole piece of paper has been weaved.

4



Glue or tape the edges so that the strips of paper don't slip out.

You can try using your woven paper to decorate cards or even diaries and notebooks!

**On your strips of paper decorate each one with different patterns.**

**Extension:**

**Have a go at creating patterns online.**

<https://www.purplemash.com/#app/pap/pattern/myafricanpatterns>

<https://www.purplemash.com/#app/pap/pattern/myafricanpattern>



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