

Volume II

The Journey Continues!

VISUAL ARTS PROJECTS & ACTIVITIES

Europe

- **Explore with the Vikings:** Create a simple outline map of the world. Have the students trace their own route of the Vikings, starting in Scandinavia and ending wherever they choose. Students can then color the map and decorate it with navigational icons and other drawings. Students should create a legend to accompany their symbols.
- **Celebrate Oktoberfest:** Create a festival in the classroom. Have the boys wear lederhosen and the girls wear dirndls. Using streamers or other paper, have the students decorate their own suspenders for their German costumes. Using construction paper, crayons, beads, etc., have each student design their favorite Oktoberfest food (e.g., pretzel, fish on a stick, sausage). Decorate a bulletin board with foods from Oktoberfest.
- **Take a Train Ride:** Divide the class into six groups, with each being responsible for one stop on the Trans-Siberian Express (Moscow, Ekaterinburg, Novosibirsk, Irkutsk, Ulan-Ude, Valdivostok). Have each group research their assigned city and decorate a poster board with images and places of interest. Decorate the classroom wall with the Trans-Siberian Express, connecting the poster boards with train tracks.

Asia

- **Chinese Calligraphy:** Find an Internet site that has Chinese characters and their translations. Select several basic characters and copy them onto paper in a vertical display. Have each student trace the characters onto tissue paper (a substitute for rice paper). Next to each character have the student color a picture of the translation (i.e., dog, cat, bird, etc).
- **Fireworks:** Fireworks originated in China. Have the students create their own fireworks art by beginning with a dark blue piece of construction paper. Using glue, students can create the outlines of the fireworks. Then by sprinkling different colors of sparkles onto the glue, their fireworks displays can come alive.
- **Taj Mahal:** Draw a simple outline template of the Taj Mahal. Have students make a mosaic of this world-famous building using cut-up construction paper, various dried beans, beads, or other materials.

Africa

- **On Safari:** Using construction paper, have students draw and color their favorite animal in the Serengeti.
- **Mining for Gems:** Have each student bring a small rock to class. Put all the rocks in a bowl filled with dirt. Have each student “mine” for a stone, and then clean it, “polish it”, and paint it. Carry out this exercise as part of a discussion on minerals and gems.

AUSTRALIA

- **Aboriginal Art:** Have the students create their own Aboriginal art in the form of cave drawings or boomerang decorations. If desired, use the boomerang and aboriginal art templates found on the WeeBeeTunes Web site.
- **Magnificent Marsupials:** Have each student draw his/her favorite marsupial and construct and decorate it out of construction paper, crayons, etc.

ANTARCTICA

- **Animals of Antarctica:** Have each student select his/her favorite animal from Antarctica. Create a bulletin board of an ice landscape with the sea. Decorate the landscape with the students’ animals of Antarctica.
- **Make a Home:** Have each student “make a home” in Antarctica. Have them draw and color what their home would look like if they moved to Antarctica.
- **Penguin Parade:** Get a book on penguins or look up penguins in the encyclopedia. Get pictures of the different types of penguins (Adelie, Rockhopper, Emperor, Chinstrap, Gentoo, etc). Have each student choose his/her favorite penguin. Using black, white, and yellow construction paper, felt, or other materials have each student create and name their own penguin.

SOUTH AMERICA

- **Tango:** Have students learn simple steps from the tango. Pick a day where they dress up in costume and have a dance contest. Vote on the best couple.
- **Machu Picchu:** Have students make the hidden city in the sky out of clay. They can decorate their creation with twigs and leaves to represent the forests of the Andes Mountains. Students could also make individual clay artifacts (bowls, statues, etc.) that would be found during the discovery of Machu Picchu.

NORTH AMERICA

- **Calacas:** Make calacas or skeleton figures out of papier-mache. Once they have dried, have the students paint them black and white with colorful clothing and other decorations.
- **Ice Sculptures:** Have the students draw their own ice sculpture. Fill in the sculpture with glue and cover it with sand to finish these ice creations.
- **Ofrenda:** Have the class create a Mexican ofrenda in the classroom. Have each student add something different to the display. Items could include marigolds (made of tissue paper and pipe cleaners), drawings of fictitious relatives (or loved ones or celebrities that have passed on), fruits and other foods, candles, etc.