

## Core Skills Analysis

### Geography

- Learned to identify and represent the continent of Africa spatially by creating a physical map using salt dough.
- Understood the layout and relative positioning of Africa's countries or major geographical features through tactile exploration.
- Engaged with Africa's diverse biomes, recognizing different climate and vegetation zones by color-coding these on the painted map.
- Developed skills in interpreting and translating geographic information from a conceptual or visual form into a three-dimensional model.

### Science (Environmental/Biomes)

- Gained knowledge of the different biomes present across Africa, such as deserts, savannas, rainforests, and grasslands.
- Learned to associate specific colors with particular biome types, enhancing memory through visual coding.
- Understood how biome distribution relates to environmental factors like climate and geography in Africa.
- Explored biodiversity concepts by acknowledging that each biome supports unique plant and animal life.

### Art

- Practiced fine motor skills in shaping and molding salt dough to create the map.
- Used color theory by selecting and applying paints to represent different biomes distinctly.
- Developed an appreciation for artistic representation of scientific and geographic data.
- Enhanced creative expression through combining art and educational content in a hands-on project.

### Tips

Encourage expanding this project by exploring the specific flora and fauna found in each African biome and creating corresponding small drawings or clay models. Introduce comparative studies by mapping biomes of another continent to understand global ecological patterns. Utilize digital tools or apps to create interactive biome maps, linking physical craft with technology. Incorporate storytelling by having the student research and narrate how people live within or adapt to the different biomes, integrating cultural and social studies into the experience.

### Book Recommendations

- [Africa: Amazing Continent](#) by Atinuke: An engaging book that introduces children to the countries, people, wildlife, and diverse environments of Africa.
- [Biomes of the World](#) by Bobbie Kalman: A clear and colorful book explaining different global biomes with an accessible description suited for young readers.
- [Maps and Mapping](#) by Joanna Brundle: This book introduces the basics of map making and geography, helping children understand how maps represent the world.

### Learning Standards

- CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RI.4.7: Interpret information presented visually (maps, charts) in texts.
- CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.W.4.2: Write informative texts to examine a topic and convey ideas clearly.
- NGSS 3-LS4-3: Construct an argument with evidence that in a particular habitat some

organisms can survive well, some survive less well, and some cannot survive.

- NCSS D2.Geo.4.3-5: Analyze how the environment is affected by human activities and how humans adapt to their environment.

### **Try This Next**

- Worksheet: Label African biomes on a blank map and include brief descriptions of each biome's climate and key animal species.
- Writing prompt: Imagine you are an animal living in one of Africa's biomes; write a short diary entry describing your habitat and daily life.