

The Lion King Activities

Books There are many delightful children's books about Africa. As an intergenerational activity, invite children to a read aloud event. Residents can read in a large group to the children or buddy read with partners. Some suggested books are *Mama Panya's Pancakes*, *Beatrice's Goat*, *Planting the Trees of Kenya: The Story of Wangari Maathai*, *My Rows and Piles of Coins*, *We All Went on Safari*, *Anansi the Spider*, and *Masai and I*



Africa Map Many of your residents might not be familiar with the countries of Africa. Purchase or create a large map of Africa to display in a common area. Be sure to include pictures and information about each country.



Hamlet *The Lion King* story is based on Shakespeare's *Hamlet*. Reread *Hamlet* with your residents and discuss the similarities and differences. What other musicals have been based on the works of Shakespeare?

Africa Film Fest Invite your residents and guests to learn more about African history, culture and heritage. By screening films set in Africa, some highlight the history, some the people, and others the history. Here are a few suggestions: *The Last King of Scotland*, *The First Grader*, *Gorillas in the Mist*, *Blood Diamond*, *Out of Africa*, *Invictus*, *The Gods Must Be Crazy*, *Amistad*.





Puzzles Keep the African theme throughout your community by choosing jigsaw puzzles featuring African wildlife and scenery.

Zoo Visit If possible, make plans to visit a local zoo or animal sanctuary. Bring cameras for your residents to take pictures. Collect the images and create a slideshow to share with family members and other residents.



Drum Circle Drum circles are used in a variety of settings and applications, including team building, recreational music making, wellness, celebrations, spirituality, personal growth, etc. Ask local musicians to bring instruments to form a [Drum Circle](#) with your residents and staff. You can also use your own handmade drums and percussion instruments.



Puppets Puppetry plays an important role in the musical production of The Lion King. Learn more about the [Art of Puppetry](#). Different types of puppets include, marionettes, paper bag puppets, shadow puppets, and finger puppets. Choose from a variety of puppets crafts for your residents to express their creativity.

Traditional African clothing To really get into the spirit of The Lion King, have your residents wear traditional African clothing. If you have creative residents or staff, make [dashikis](#) or find colorful fabric and tie [African style head wraps](#).





African Art

Create an African art gallery in your community. Display original or reproductions of African Art. Your local library and museum could be resources for finding art. You might also consider having your residents create their own artwork.

Swahili Celebrate African culture by learning the [Origin of Swahili](#). Choose a few positive or inspirational Swahili phrases to share with your residents, or have fun translating words and phrases from [English to Swahili](#).

Mankala

Host a Mankala tournament for residents and their guests. Mankala is an easy to learn, fun to play, African strategy game. Inexpensive Mankala sets can be purchased or your residents can make their own sets using craft stones and egg cartons.

