

New Resources in African Studies
University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign

The Outreach Program of the Center for African Studies is designed to increase public knowledge about Africa and also to enhance the broader community's understanding of African peoples and cultures. Our programming serves K-12 schools, community colleges, the media, community groups, the business community, and the general public. The Center for African Studies website www.afrst.uiuc.edu includes detailed information for each African country, newsletters, African studies indexes and bibliographic databases, language resources, Africana videos, current events, and links to many relevant websites.

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New Africa Resource Kits for Elementary Schools

Trying on a school uniform, using adrinkra stamps, or handling a calabash, an akuba fertility doll, or prayer beads can stir a child's imagination when a topic seems otherwise abstract or distant. Harbert Jones, an K-5th grade fine arts teacher, and Marcia Richards, a 5th grade classroom teacher, worked on three touch kits and curriculum units that would help bring African materials, history, and society to life in elementary school classrooms. Working with African studies and the Krannert Art Museum, they sorted through numerous artifacts and books this summer.

They compiled materials that would intrigue young learners and fit into the curriculum. They narrowed the resources down to units on "Fine Arts and Islam in West Africa," "Children's Lives in Ghana," and "Textiles in Africa." The units include a diverse collection of resources – books, games, toys, fabrics, outfits, proverbs, household objects, and paintings. The objects are also cross-referenced between texts, images, and curriculum projects. The kits will begin to circulate in 2008. Contact: Krannert Art Museum at (217) 333-8218

Children's Africana Book Awards 2007

The Outreach Council of the African Studies Association is pleased to announce the winners of the 2007 Children's Africana Book Awards. The council annually honors outstanding authors and illustrators of children's books about Africa published in the United States.

Best Book for Young Children 2007: *I Lost my Tooth in Africa*, by Penda Diakite and Baba Wague Diakite (illus.). Scholastic Press, 2007.

I lost my tooth in Africa is a vibrant, lively story about eight year old Amina, who takes a long journey from America to Africa, to visit her family in Mali. When Amina loses her tooth in Mali, places it under a gourd and tangles with the African tooth-fairy, she learns that growing up is also about responsibility.

Best Book for Older Readers 2007: *The Illustrator's Notebook*, by Mohieddin Ellabbad. Groundwood Books, 2006.

The famous Egyptian illustrator Mohieddin Ellabbad presents his "notebook" which shares how he grew up and took on his profession. He uses text, photographs, drawings, and Arabic script to communicate his aspirations as an artist. Most compelling are the questions he raises for readers,

for example, “Where do stories come from?” and “How does the way you feel affect the way you draw?” Younger readers will be delighted by how he combines images and shows the change in his country over time. In this wonderfully creative and unique book, Ellabbad offers Egyptian history, breaks stereotypes, shares his personal story, and inspires readers to reflect upon their own experiences

Honor Book for Young Children 2007: *My Father’s Shop*, by Satomi Ichikawa. Kane/Miller Book Publishers, 2006.

In Satomi Ichikawa’s delightful and colorful story, we follow the adventure of young Mustafa as he learns about his father’s trade as a rug seller in a southern Moroccan town and about communicating with others, in this case, tourists from around the world.