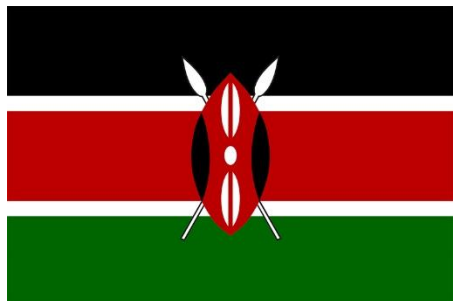


## Maasai Jewellery – Kenya



### Pictures of Maasai Jewellery



### What is Maasai Jewellery?

The Maasai people live in northern, central, and southern Kenya, and northern Tanzania. Their jewellery is distinctive and often features bright colours. Each colour is symbolic (see next page) and the combination of colours gives complex meaning.

### Required Materials

- Paper plates (12)
- Coloured paints or colouring pencils (4 sets)
- Glue sticks (12).

### Preparation and how to do it

Before the session, look up some examples of Maasai jewellery. Pre-cut the paper plates around the rim so that a disc with a slot missing is formed (see pictures above).

Start with an introduction to the Maasai and show some examples of what their jewellery and clothes look like. What sort of colours do they use? How do they use patterns? Explain what the colours in the jewellery mean.

Distribute materials and paint, or colour in, the paper plates.

At the end show your jewellery and talk about the colours in your jewellery and their meaning.



## Colour Symbolism in Maasai Jewellery

- Red - stands for bravery, unity, and blood. Red is the color of cow's blood. Often a cow is slaughtered when the Maasai meet and therefore unity is associated with red.
- White - represents peace, purity, and health. The association with health comes from white cow's milk which the tribe drinks to stay healthy.
- Blue - represents energy and the sky. Rain falls from the blue sky which provides water for the cattle.
- Orange - Symbolizes hospitality. The association with cattle is that visitors are served cow's milk from orange gourds.
- Yellow - like orange yellow also symbolizes hospitality. The animal skins on visitors' beds are yellow.
- Green - symbolizes health and land. Cattle graze on the green grass of the land.
- Black - represents the people and the struggles they must endure.

Source: <https://interesting-africa-facts.com/African-Jewelry/Maasai-Bead-Jewelry.shtml>