

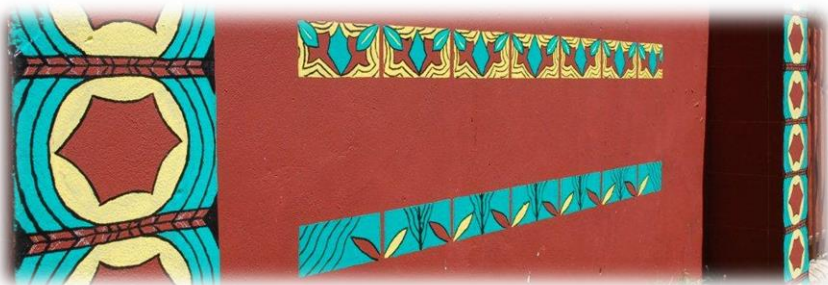
Topic 4: Craft & Enterprise



With **Action Lesotho's** help, the craftswomen and craftsmen of **Lesotho Mountain Crafts** are learning to create their own original designs for bags and other craftwork that will bring them a much better income.



These bags are made in Lesotho from **Seshoeshoe** fabric, a traditional design. Basotho people like bright colours and this fabric can also be red, green, yellow and lots more.



Some ideas for the design being created by this woman came from the painted walls of **rondavels**, traditional round houses in villages in Lesotho. The designs used on the houses are known as **litema** and are still used on some modern buildings e.g. this wall.

Activity 1: Decorate a box to keep things in using Seshoeshoe designs

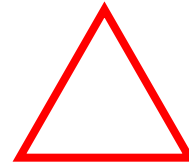
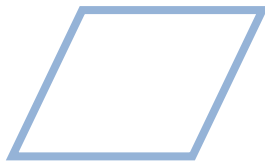
It could be for a colourful box to store your **toys** or **games** or **art materials** or to keep your **sports kit** in, or your **shoes**.



Find a suitable box at the supermarket, or one you were going to recycle at home, such as a shoe box, the box from a toaster or a computer.

Decorate some **A4 paper** for the outside with a bright pattern. Look again at the **Seshoeshoe** fabrics in the photos above. What shapes can you find in the **Seshoeshoe** designs?

Choose one or two shapes and create your own design from them. Here are some examples:



Here are some techniques to try:

1) With a **wax crayon** or a **white candle**, draw a row repeating one of the shapes; leave a space and draw another row of the same shape again, or choose a different one. Draw more rows of outlines to reach the bottom of the page.

Make a **wash of water-based paint** and use a **wide brush** to paint over the first line of wax shapes. Repeat this with another colour over the next row. Brush lines of coloured watercolour over the wax shapes to cover the page.



2) Make **string prints** of the Seshoeshoe shapes and print them in lines or random patterns on your paper. Draw thick or thin **lines** to connect the shapes or to swirl around them, and finish your pattern with tiny **dots** of strong colour in the spaces.

Finally, make **several of these sheets** using whichever method you like best, leave them to dry, and then **stick** them onto your container with adhesive around the edges. **Or**

Cut your pages into strips and squares to make a new pattern on the box.



Put your box to use and enjoy!

Activity 2: Drama – running a small business



Sometimes the people in **Lesotho Mountain Crafts** have good ideas but they cannot afford to buy the materials to make the products. It's hard to have to choose between food for this week and fabric to make the next bags or scarves.

In class, get into small groups of four or five. One of you is a stallholder, the others are customers. The stallholder is trying to make a living from a small business.

Choose a table or desk to be the market stall. Think of a good name for it and make a sign. Collect things from around the classroom to **stock your market stall**. Use pictures if you do not have enough actual things.

Your goods could be clothes, books, vegetables from your garden, things you have made or baked, toys and ornaments.

Other students come as **customers**. Some of them also have things to sell and try to make a deal with the stallholder. Have they got something you want? Tell your customers about what you have for sale, why you need the money. Will you only sell for cash, or will you barter?

Do you think a market is a good idea? What are the advantages of having a market?

How can you persuade people to choose your products?