Savanna

Design Intent

Grassy, open and dotted with trees, this awe-inspiring landscape is alive with the textures and patterns of the animals who live there. Make camp amongst the mighty baobabs. Listen as drums and other instruments bring a human touch to the wild. Expansive views surround this oasis as you survey the horizon for majestic elephants, towering giraffes, or anything that might be considering you as a snack. Feel the warmth of the African sun as it beats down on you in the **Savanna**. Just remember to pack your sunscreen and lots of water. You'll be thirsty for learning on this adventure.

Technology Components

Safari Jeep Monitor-Collection of video clips

Mural Features

- Lion- Lions are native to Africa and India and are second in size only to the tiger. Lions are most active at night and live in a variety of habitats but prefer grassland, savanna, and open woodland. Lions are unique among cats in that they live in a group, or pride.
- Baobab Tree- Baobab trees, native to Africa, Madagascar, and Australia, are known for their large trunks and distinctive bare branches. They are deciduous trees, shedding their leaves seasonally and growing new leaves each year. These trees can grow to enormous sizes and live for thousands of years, providing food, medicine, and shelter for various animals and humans.
- Giraffe- Giraffe's are the tallest land animals, growing to heights of 18 feet or more. Despite their size, they are agile creatures, running up to 35 mph and have been known to jump as high as 6 feet. Typically found in savannas and woodlands, giraffes primarily feed on the leaves, fruits, and flowers of woody plants, especially acacia trees.
- Gazelle-Gazelles are small, graceful antelopes that live in Africa and Asia. They resemble deer and are in the same family as goats, cattle, and sheep. There are 19 species of gazelle and can be identified by their curved, ringed horns, tan or reddish-brown coats, and white rumps. Gazelles rely on their speed to escape from predators, reaching speeds up to 60 mph.

Mural Features

- Ostrich-Native to Africa, ostriches inhabit savanna and desert regions. As the largest and heaviest bird species, they live in groups and, as omnivores, eat whatever is available in their habitat throughout the year. Considering its size, the ostrich is a flightless bird and is built to run long distances at great speeds. Ostriches can sprint in short bursts up to 43 mph and maintain speeds up to 31 mph.
- African Bush Elephant- The African bush elephant is the largest land animal, known for its massive size, large ears, and curved tusks. Native to the savannas and forests of Africa, it plays a crucial role in its ecosystem by shaping landscapes and spreading seeds. These intelligent and social animals live in matriarchal herds and communicate through deep rumbles and vibrations.
- Wildebeest-The wildebeest is a member of the antelope family, recognized by its large, box-like head, muscular build, and curving horns. Native to the grasslands and savannas of Africa, it migrates in large herds in search of food and water. This large, annual migration helps sustain the ecosystem by feeding predators and maintaining grassland health.
- Gemsbok- The gemsbok is a large antelope native to the arid regions of southern Africa, known for its long, straight horns and distinctive black-and-white facial markings. Adapted to harsh desert environments, it can survive with minimal water by extracting moisture from its food. Its strength, speed, and sharp horns provide protection against predators.
- Hyena- The hyena is a highly adaptable carnivore found across Africa, known for its powerful build, strong jaws, and laughing calls. Living in clans, hyenas are skilled hunters and scavengers, capable of taking down large prey and consuming nearly every part of a carcass. They play a crucial role in maintaining ecosystem balance by controlling populations and cleaning up animal remains.
- Vulture-A vulture is a large bird of prey known for feeding on dead animals, playing an important role in the ecosystem by cleaning up waste. They have bald heads, which help them stay clean while eating, and strong beaks for tearing meat. Vultures can be found on every continent except Australia and Antarctica, living in open areas like savannas, deserts, and mountains.
- Rhinoceros-A Rhinoceros is a thick-skinned herbivore known for its massive body and horns on its snout. Found in Africa and Asia, there are five species of rhinoceros. A Rhinoceros can weigh over a ton, yet they can run surprisingly fast. Despite their tough appearance, they are often solitary and gentle unless provoked.

Themes to Explore

- Predator vs. Prey Relationships
- African Culture and Wildlife
- Comparing the African, South American, and Australian Savannas
- Safari
- Habitats
- Climate: Hot, Wet, and Dry
- Sounds of the Savanna

Mounted Animals and Artifacts

- Termite Mound- A termite mound is a towering structure built by termites using soil, saliva, and dung. These mounds regulate temperature and humidity, providing a stable environment for the colony inside. Often reaching impressive heights, they serve as vital ecosystems, benefiting various animals and enriching the surrounding soil.
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- Jeep-A jeep is a small, four-wheel drive vehicle that is designed for driving on rough terrain. The term originated as U.S. Army slang in the 1940's. The "Jeep" brand has gone through many owners and evolved to everyday and off-road use sport utility vehicles.

List of Hansa Animals

- Rhinoceros, Water Buffalo

To Find Out More

- Brittanica: Savanna
- National Geographic Kids