

P1

Mudcloth is called “Bogolanfini” in the Bambara language. “Bogo” means earth or mud; “lan” means with; “fini” means cloth. Mudcloth is called “Bogolanfini”. It’s fun to say!

P2

Mudcloth comes from the continent of Africa, seen here on the globe.

P3

Mudcloth is made in the country of Mali, shown here in red. The Mali flag is green, yellow, and red. (Green represents fertility of the land; Gold represents the country’s mineral wealth; Red represents blood shed in gaining independence from France.)

The name Mali was originally derived from the Mandinka or Bambara word mali, meaning “hippopotamus”, and it eventually came to mean “the place where the king lives”. Therefore, the word Mali suggests strength. There are approximately 18 million people in Mali.

P4

The patterned cloth is used to make clothing, upholstery, pillows, floor mats, and wall coverings.

(can ask the children to name the types of objects they see made with mudcloth)

P5

This example of mudcloth is part of the African collection at the Michael C. Carlos Museum at Emory University. It is not always on display. When it is not on exhibit in the galleries, it is kept safely in storage at the Museum.

P6

These are some other objects from Mali that are in the Museum and often on display.

L-R = Dogon Mask, Hunter’s jacket, and Kono Society helmet mask (worn much like a cap).

P7

Mudcloth is decorated with patterns and shapes.

(Ask children to name some of the shapes they see.)

P8

Here you can see a mudcloth artist creating designs with mud-paint and a sponge brush.

P9

Here are mudcloths drying in the sun, like laundry.