

Post-Activity for Exploring the Highlands of New Guinea

Design Your Own Shield

3rd — 5th Grade

This is a fighting shield, *reipe*, from the Western Highlands Province of New Guinea. These shields were used in large battles that once took place between hundreds of warriors in the wide grasslands of Highlands valleys. Warriors carried boldly colored shields to protect the spearmen and, further back, the bowmen.

DESIGN YOUR OWN SHIELD BELOW:

As you think about your shield design, you might want to represent your favorite person, plant or animal or include something that represents you or your family.



ABSTRACTION

The designs on the *reipi* shield are abstract. Do you see a human form? The central circle represents a navel (belly button). The small circle at the top represents a man's forehead decoration.

You can create an abstraction on your shield using elements such as line, color, shapes, and geometric forms. The artist has used just two colors -black and red- to create all the geometric forms on the shield. How many different shapes can you find?



Look at this picture of a mountain swiftlet. Notice how the artist has used symmetrical shapes inside the circle on the shield to represent swiftlet bird wings.

A mountain swiftlet in flight above Porgera, New Guinea.