

# African Art

Today we will be:  
**Exploring African  
water jars.**

**Where does  
our water come  
from?**



**We get our water from collected rain water, underground wells and lakes. It is pumped to our homes in pipes and comes out of our taps.**

**Is this the same in Africa? Where do African people get their water?**

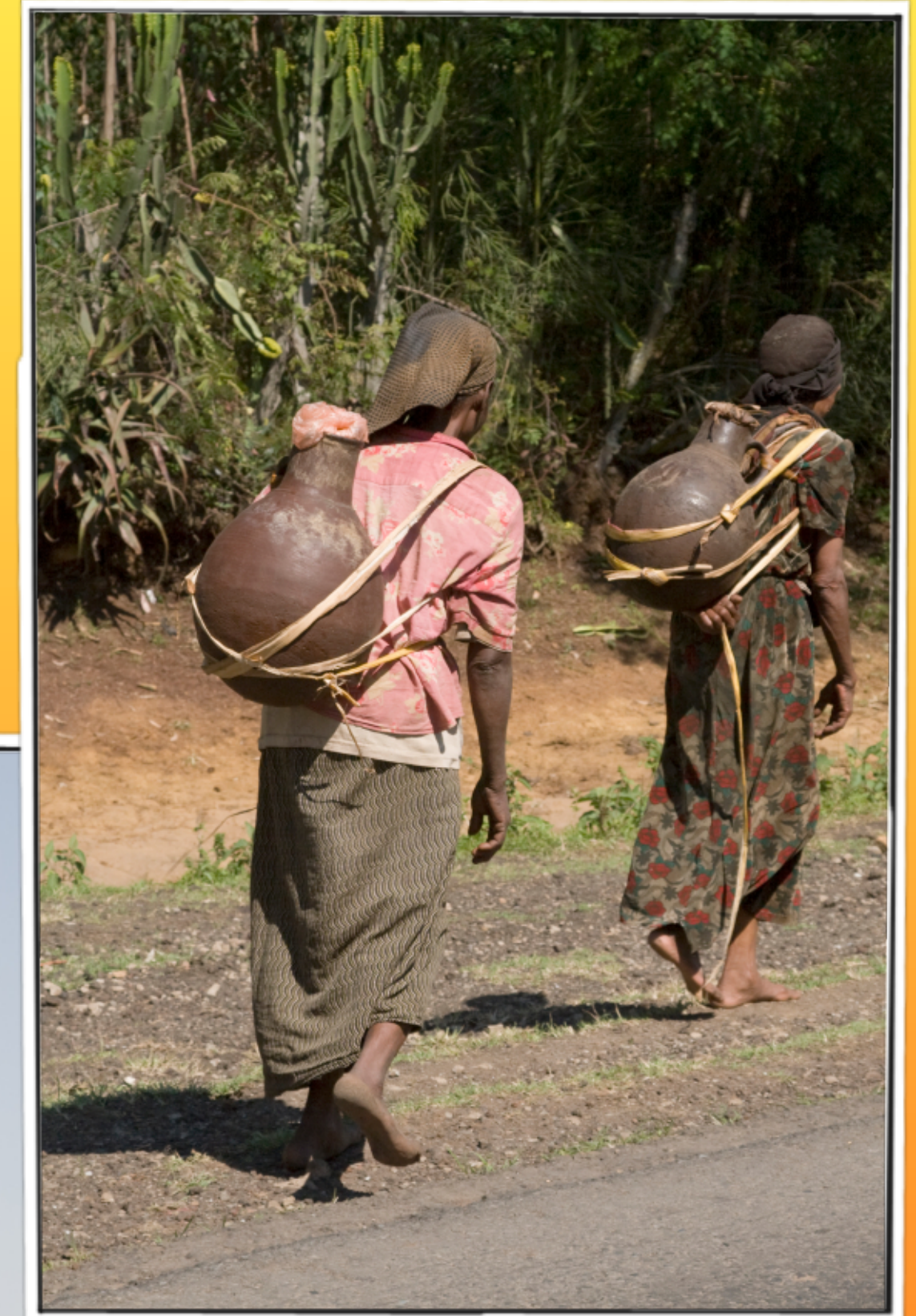


Not all African people have access to clean water. Water doesn't always run from a tap in Africa.

Some African women have to walk for many hours to find water wells. Once they have found the water they have to collect it in jars and walk back to their homes. Water is very, very heavy and it is hard to carry a water jar for long distances.

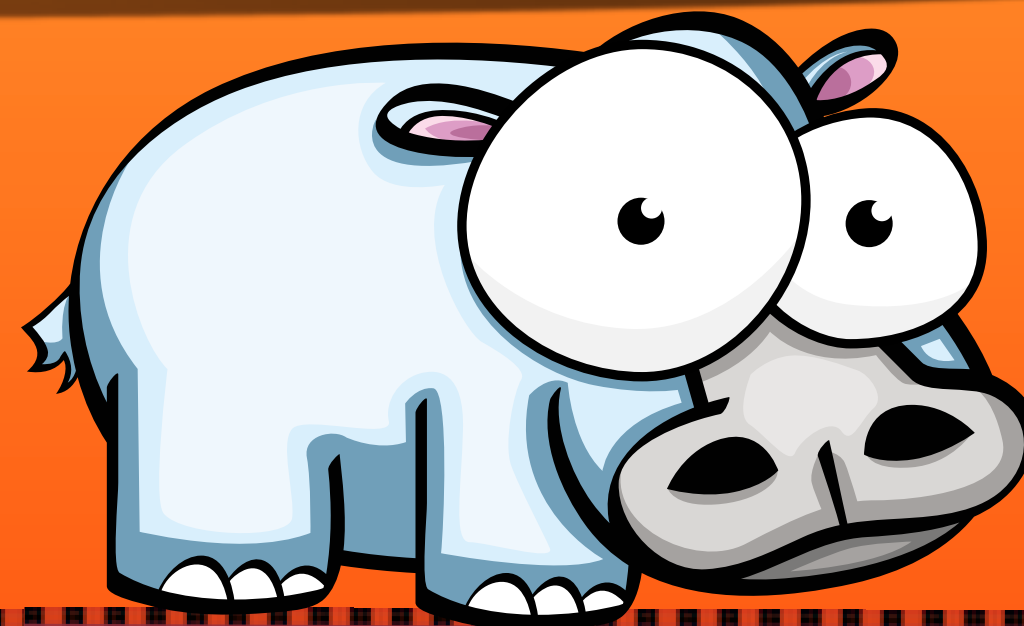


Wow! These women look tired.



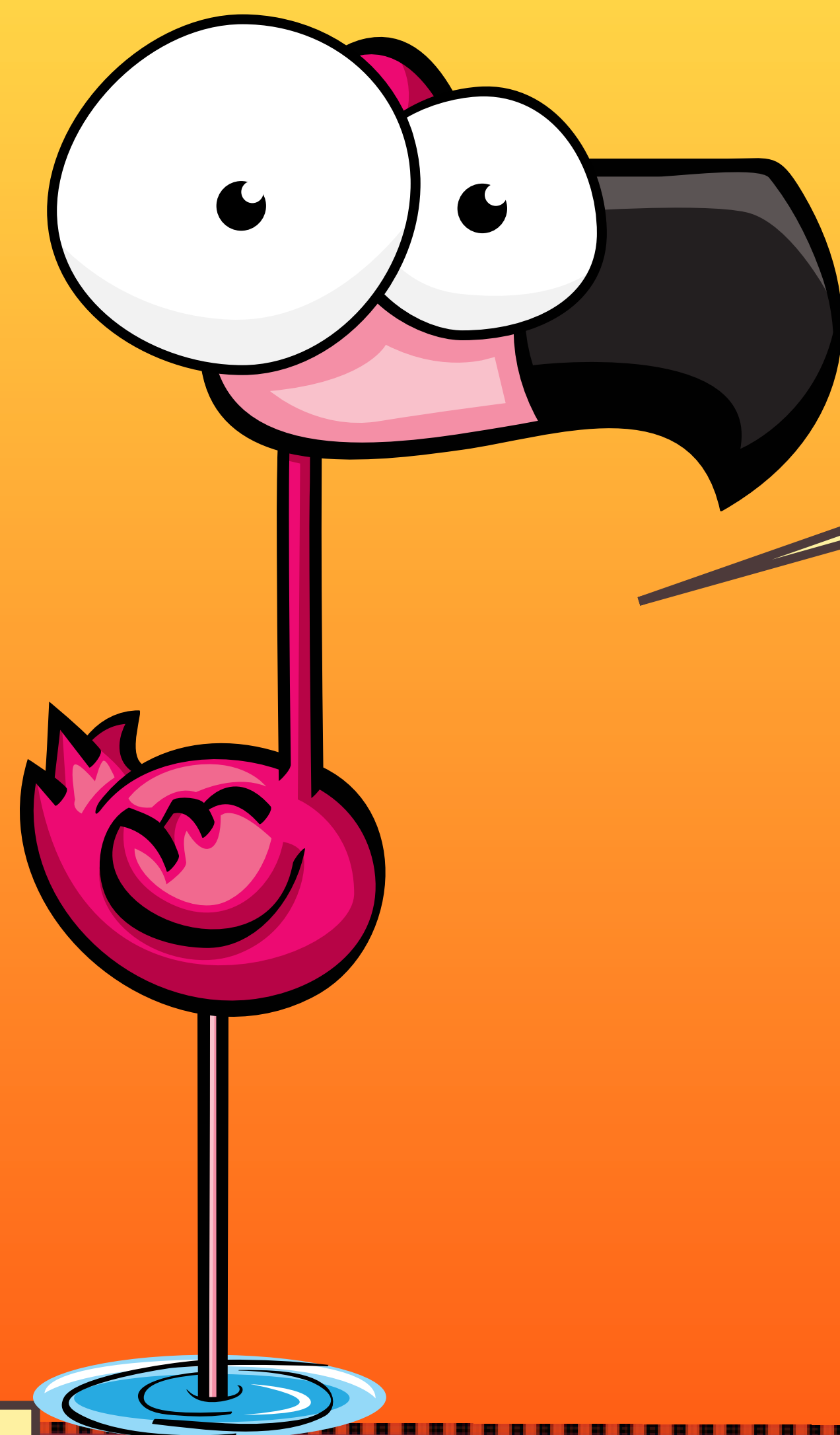


**The women  
carry the large  
water jars on  
their heads and  
sometimes attach  
them to their  
backs.**



**How are the  
water jars  
made?  
What materials  
do they use?**





**The water jars  
are traditionally made with  
clay. Now African people find plastic  
containers to use for collecting  
water.**



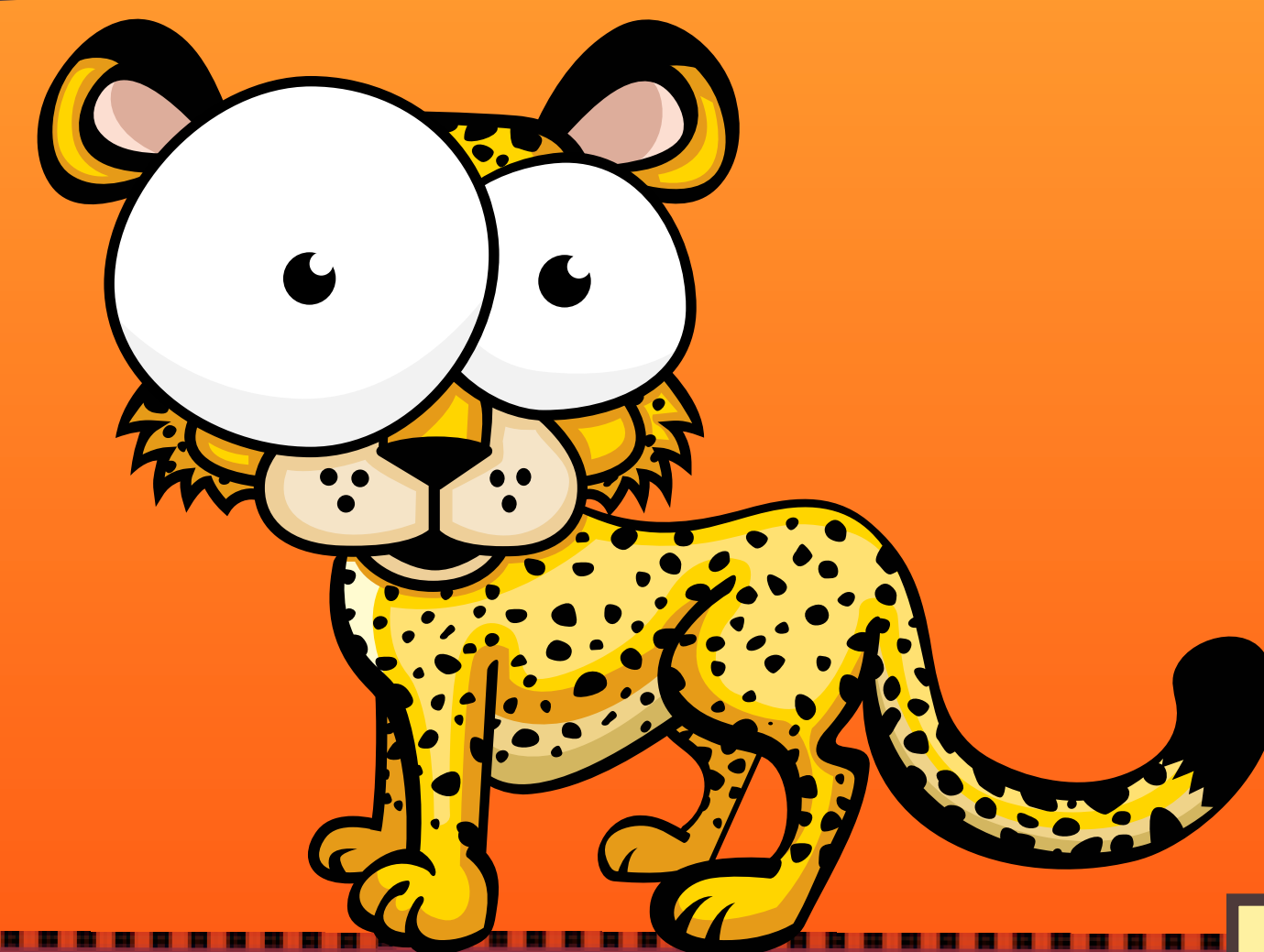


**Some artists have  
made African jars and  
decorated them with African  
patterns and colours.**

**Lets have a look  
at some.**

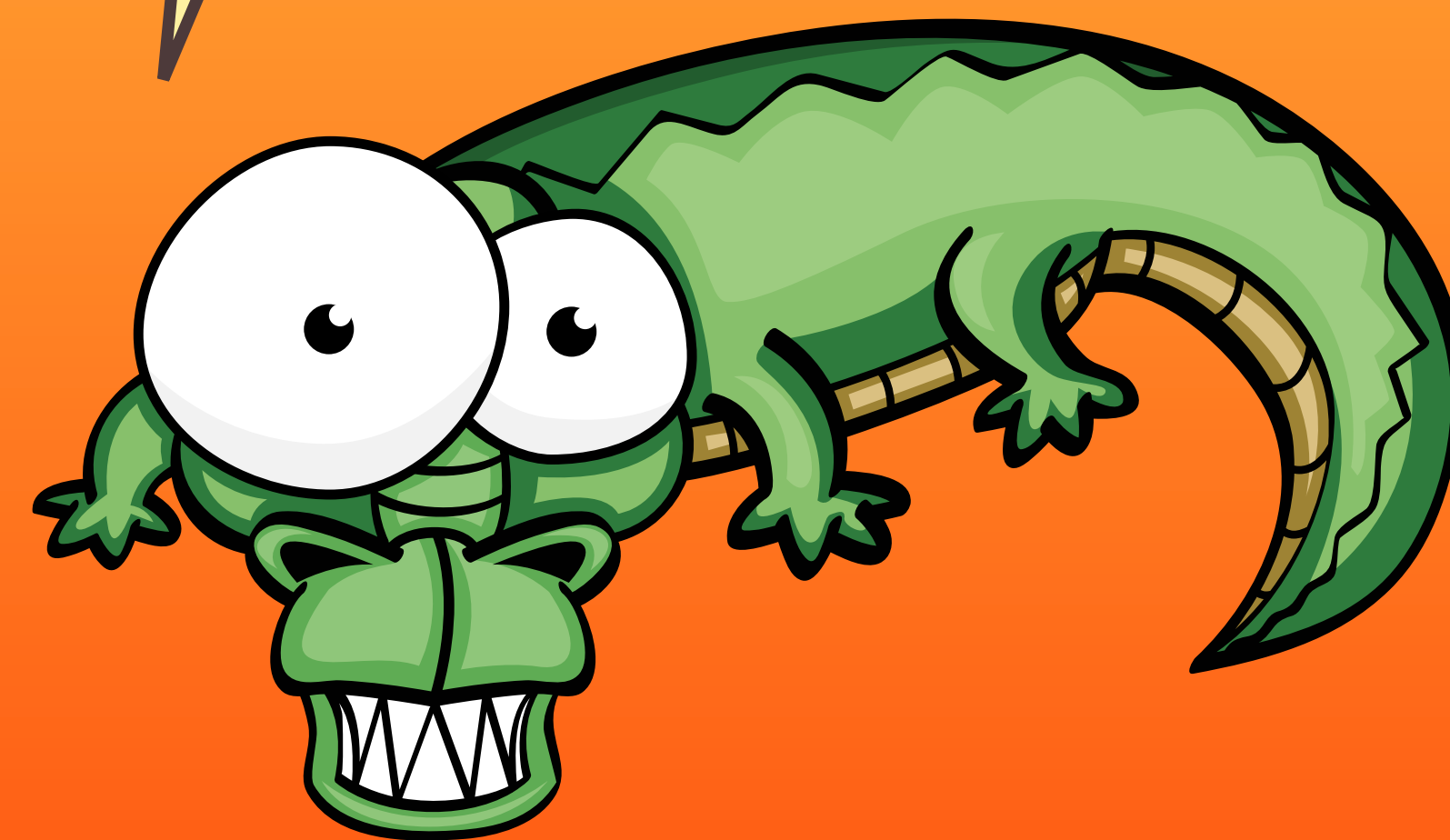


**Look at this  
water jar.  
What colours are used?  
What patterns are used?  
What shape is it?**





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You can make your own version of an African water jar using a plastic bottle, string/wool and glue. These steps show you how to make it.



Gather some wool, water bottles, glue and paint brushes.



Clean the bottle then brush glue around the top of the bottle.



Attach the end of the wool to the top of the bottle. Wrap the wool around the bottle.



Continue wrapping the wool until it reaches the bottom of the bottle.



Now, choose some paint and paint in African inspired colours.



Start painting an African design onto your bottle.



Remember to paint **ACROSS** the bottle so the paint covers the wool.

# Plenary



Talk to a  
partner about your  
finished water jar.  
How could you improve your  
jar?  
What would you change?  
Would it hold water?  
Would it be easy to carry  
it on your head?