

3D Map With Country Features

Tools, materials, technology options:	Experience level required
3D Printer	Beginner
3D modeling software (Tinkercad)	Beginner

Grade Level (of this example): 7-8

Content Standards (of this example): Social studies

Summary of Project:

Students created 3D printed puzzle pieces of southern African nations which reflected European colonization, adding models which represented resources sought after by the colonizers, and debossing flags into the underside. Students found models of countries and resources on 3D model sites like Thingiverse and used Tinkercad to add objects to the top of each nation. They then imported vector images of flags to cut out of the bottom of each piece. Once printed, the various puzzle pieces come together and can be used to learn about each nation's history.





Suggested resources:

- thingiverse.com: find 3D models to download, edit and print
- tinkercad.com: for editing and designing 3D printable objects.
- [File how to design the models on tinkercad](#)
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Possible Content Explorations:

Social Studies / ELA

- Model a character/historical figure or symbol/cultural item - have students explain why each model looks as it does. *Extension:* Design each slice to be embossed or decorated with important information about the model.



- Create custom puzzles for other nations, cities, etc
- Use regular jigsaw shapes to make 3D puzzles for other content that does not have an element with interlocking shapes - the sky's the limit on how this can be applied to any topic!