EXPLORE
The Sonoran Desert in southern Arizona is where the Ahupalauaol participatory exhibition begins. While the exhibit looks like a rock, it is actually a participatory game that is made from a "PC," or plain frame, of a square canvas. Symbols are placed on it in an important activity that happens each year from February 8 to March 8, when a new group of children are taught about the special appeal of the desert during this annual festival of the desert.

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The main purpose of a desert is to produce enough water for the plants and animals that live there. If you go outside today and look around, you will see how important this is to the desert. If you do not notice this, you will not know how important it is to the desert.

LOOK CLOSELY
What materials are used to make this rock? How do you think they will be used to create this rock?

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The Mexican cloud forest is a beautiful, diverse ecosystem that is home to many unique species of plants and animals. This cloud forest is located in the state of Chiapas, Mexico.

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Notice the strings. When they are pulled, what do you think will happen?

EXPLORE
The Saguaro cactus wood, paint. 10/4878

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This is a mechanical mask; the strings allow the dancer to move different parts, creating a dance. This mask may represent a halibut-like sea creature from Kwakwaka'wakw culture. They are worn for ceremonial dances and individual artistry is highly valued. The dynamic expressions often have deep meanings in the natural environment such as food and weather. A design is created with a mask that makes it close and reflect the sun.

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This mask is decorated in its hands by a mask maker.

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