

Science Story Adventures



Ghanaian Culture

Learning outcomes

» Looks at the beliefs, customs, ceremonies, traditions, and social practices of varied cultures, drawing from folklore. (Grade 1)

From: California's History-Social Sciences Content Standards

Books we read

The Leopard's Drum by Jessica Souhami

The Spider Weaver by Margaret Musgrove and Julia Cairns

Kente Colors by Debbi Chocolate

Activities we did

» Introduced greeting in tribal language of Navrongo-Bolgatanga (N-B) region: "Zaare" (you are welcome) and the response "Naa" or "naaba" (thank you). Had everyone try out the greeting.

» We looked at handicrafts from Ghana, including a basket, leather bracelets, kente cloth and a smock from northern Ghana

» Ampe Clapping Game

<http://library.thinkquest.org/J0110166/>

Today's craft: Kente Cloth

You will need:

- » Black construction paper
- » Strips of colored construction paper about an inch wide - all colors
- » Scissors
- » Sticky tape



Directions:

- Take a sheet of black construction paper: that is your frame. Fold it in half.
- Cut zigzag lines from the middle fold to about an inch from the edge. Start these about an inch from the top and space them an inch apart until about an inch from the bottom. Don't worry if the lines are not even.
- Weave a strip of colored paper through the zigzags and secure at each end with sticky tape.
- Weave a second strip the opposite way through the zigzags and secure with tape. Continue until the frame is full.

Adapted from Around the World Art Activities by Judy Press

Want to find out more?

Here is a selection of further resources to explore in the Naturalist Center, in the public library or at home. Please ask if you can't find what you're looking for.

Books

Konte Chameleon, Fine, Fine, Fine! By Cristina Kessler. Nat. Ctr. Juv. PZ8.1 .K5 Ko 1997
A re-telling of a West African folktale, in which a chameleon learns why it can be useful to change colors.

One Hen: How One Small Loan Made a Big Difference by Katie Smith Milway
This is loosely based on an actual success story: how one Ghanaian boy starts with one hen and gradually works his way up to owning a major poultry farm.

Too Much Talk by Angela Shelf Medearis
Another folktale from Ghana that starts with a talking yam and gets crazier from there.

Welcome Dede! An African naming Ceremony by Ifeoma Onyefulu
Beautiful photographs accompany this story about the traditions and ceremony of naming a new member of a family in Ghana.

DVD

Families of Ghana (Families of the World Series)
Follows two Ghanaian children on a typical day, one from a rural village and one from Accra, the capital.

Websites

Cool Planet: Ghana

Check out this site on Ghana for history and facts on people, places and culture. The site is from Oxfam, an organization working to get rid of poverty.

<http://www.oxfam.org.uk/coolplanet/kidsweb/world/ghana/index.htm>

Virtual Journey of Ghana

Experience daily life and the culture and cuisine of Ghana.

<http://www.oxfam.org.uk/coolplanet/online/explore/journey/ghana/ghandex.htm>

Wrapped in Pride

Lots of information about kente cloth including how it is made and how to wear it. You can even design your own kente with a plug-in.