

Life in a Farming Village: West Africa

Teacher Guide

Grade Levels: 1 – 3

Program overview

Students will learn about life in a west African village from farming to going to market to celebrating a visit from a chief.

Objectives/Student Learning Outcomes

After participating in this program, students will be able to:

- Locate Africa on a globe
- Recognize that Africa contains many different kinds of environments and that these different environments shape the cultures of Africa.
- Discuss how people in West Africa use some of the natural resources for food and other necessities.
- Discuss the basics of traditional farming, marketing, and justice in West Africa.

P.A.S.S.

GRADE 1

Social Studies – 3.1, 4.1, 4.2, 5.1

GRADE 2

Social Studies – 2.4, 4.1, 4.2, 5.3

GRADE 3

Social Studies – 3.2, 3.4, 4.1, 4.3, 5.3

Background

Two of the important traditional cultures of West Africa are the Ashanti and Ewe. These groups have farmed, mined gold, and lived in large villages governed by chiefs for hundreds of years. In the class students will learn a little bit about traditional daily life among the Ashanti and Ewe by using artifacts for food preparation, dressing for a market day and “meeting” the chief. Following this very general introduction, the children will divide up into small groups to experience methods of food preparation, cloth work, and music.

Additional Resources

For Early Elementary

A Story, a Story, by Gail E. Haley
This contains Ananase and other spider stories

For Teachers

These magazines are for upper elementary children, but are also good resources for teachers.

Faces: The Magazine about People
"Mali"

Vol. 13, No. 6, 1997
Cobblestone Press

Faces: The Magazine about People
"The Asante World"

Jan 1985
Cobblestone Press

Calliope: World History for Kids
"The Yoruba of West Africa"

Vol. 8, number 6, Feb 1998
Cobblestone Press

Vocabulary

Africa: a continent. Africa contains many environments, from deserts to rain forests.

West Africa: the western coast of Africa, including the countries of Ghana, Ivory Coast, Niger, Benin and Togo.

Chief: an important leader of a village or local group. A chieftonship may be elected or inherited, or a combination of the two.

Gold: valuable metal that is easy to work into jewelry or sculptures.

Market: a place to buy food, clothing and other items. Usually held in the open air.

Millet: a grain. An important food in Africa

Stool: a small chair without a back or arms.