



Learning about Ghana

Time: 45 minutes

Materials:

- World map
- Calendars from students' birth years (available at <http://www.timeanddate.com>)
- Sticky Notes
- Printed Journal Prompts Basket or Box for journal prompts
- Journaling Worksheets

Goals: To introduce the students to other countries and their locations on a map.

To learn about the culture and origin of the alphabet and names used in Ghana.

INSTRUCTION

Student Journaling

Before the lesson begins, copy and cut the prompts below into strips and place in a basket or box in front of class. Choose a student to pick a journal prompt. Once the paper is chosen for that day, post what is written on the board for the students to see. Distribute copies of the journal templates, which are provided in the Handout.

Journal Prompts:

- I helped my family when...
- I made a difference in my community when...
- I think I can make a difference in the world by...
- I would like to start a business by...

What do you know about Ghana?

- You will need a globe or map of the world for this lesson to identify several countries.
- Ask the class if they know where the United States is on the globe?
- Ask if someone can point out where we are now, in your given city/state.
- Ask the class if anyone knows where Ghana is located on the map.
- Have the student come up and point it out and mark it with a sticky note or piece of paper. Then explain to them this is where Kojo is from.



Learning about Ghana (continued)

- **Ask the following questions:**
 - What is the capital of Ghana? (*Accra, pronounced Ah-KRAH*)
 - How many miles is Ghana from where you live? (*7,673 miles from San Francisco, 8,014 miles from Boston*)
 - What kind of transportation would you need to take to get to Ghana? (*Airplane*)
 - How many different languages do they speak in Ghana? (*Almost 80!*)

What's in a Name?

This is an opportunity for students to learn about their names, names in other cultures/languages and new alphabets. Ask students the questions below about their names. If they don't know the answers, encourage them to go home and ask their parents. ***Note, be sensitive with this activity if there are students who are living in foster care or other situations where they might not be able to research this information.*

- Are you named after someone?
- Did your family just like your name?
- Is there anyone else in your family with the same name?
- How many names do you have? First? Middle? Last?
- Do you have any nicknames? Where did they come from?

Put the names of the 12 months on the chalkboard. Have students come up and write their names and birthdates under the months they were born. Then access the calendars from their birth years at www.timeanddate.com

If I Lived in Ghana. My Name Would Be...

Kojo is from the Akan ethnic group of Ghana. Among the Akan, babies get their first name based on the day of the week on which they were born. In addition to this first name, parents also give their children middle names. Have students identify what their Akan name would be, and then have students gather in different parts of the classroom according to their Akan names.

***An optional activity is to have students create nametags with their new names and to practice exchanging greetings, saying hello and good-bye to their classmates using their new names.*



Learning about Ghana (continued)

DAY OF THE WEEK	NAME FOR BOY	NAME FOR GIRL
Monday	Kojo	Adjoa
Tuesday	Kwabena	Abena
Wednesday	Kwaku	Akua
Thursday	Yaw	Yaa
Friday	Kofi	Afua
Saturday	Kwame	Amma
Sunday	Kwasi	Esi

***To determine the days of the week students were born, you can find calendars for their birth years on the following website: www.timeanddate.com*

Journaling

If time permits, have students take out their journaling sheets. Instruct them to copy the journal prompt from earlier onto the worksheet. Have them draw pictures to illustrate their responses to the journal prompt, and write descriptions to accompany their illustrations.



My One Hen Journal

Name: _____

Draw a picture above. Tell us about your picture below.
