

Lesson Description Using the book The Drums Speak as a basis for study, students will learn about Ghanaian tribal culture, identify some of the products that are essential to Ghana's economic well-being, and become aware of the difficulty of maintaining a traditional culture and economy in the face of modernization. The issues identified in this lesson may be directly related to the "brain drain" issues that affect Kentucky's economy today.

Content Standard All cultures, no matter how dissimilar they seem, share some characteristics and problems.

Economic Concepts The economic importance of educating young citizens and keeping them in the culture as important contributors to economic success and cultural stability.

Related areas Geography, language

Objectives Students will be able to:

1. Analyze the structure of Ghanaian tribal culture.
Understand the importance of the contribution of every individual in maintaining the stability of the tribe
2. Identify some important Ghanaian resources
Understand the need to both educate and retain young adults as a stabilizing social and economic force in the culture.

Time Required 2-3 class periods.

Materials Required The Drums Speak
kinte cloths
stoles
pp.28-29 of Ghana binder, and the chart explaining how to determine the day (of the week) when one was born
p 37 of Ghana binder
Map of Ghana and of Africa (cultural binder)
Fabric for creation of student stoles and kinte cloths
Resources which discuss Kentucky's brain drain.

Procedure

1. Using maps and other resources from the binder, teacher provides geographic background for lesson.
2. Class is divided into groups of 4-6, students are given handout #1, and are instructed to make notes in each of the categories as they listen to the story.
3. Teacher reads aloud The Drums Speak, as students listen and complete their handouts.
4. When story is finished, students within each group compare and consolidate their notes.
5. One member of each group reports his/her group's findings to the class as the teacher notes their observations on the overhead or chalkboard.
6. As a class, students and teacher discuss the economic and cultural issues addressed in the story. (see last page for a summary of categories).

End of Class Period #1

Day two

1. Using the handout as a guide, students will –again in groups- compare the characteristics of their own culture to those Ghanaian characteristics identified yesterday.
2. A member of each group will report to the class at large, and repeat yesterday's brainstorming activity.
3. Teacher will present information about "brain drain" in Kentucky and lead a discussion as students tie this information to the same issue as it is addressed in the story The Drums Speak.
4. Students, in their groups, will brainstorm ideas for keeping the educated young people in the state.

Closure

— Discuss the following to emphasize the major points of this lesson:

1. What general characteristics does our culture share with Ghanaian Culture as described in The Drums Speak?
2. What are some differences?

3. Are there similarities which may be described as “universal?”
4. Why is it important to educate members of any culture?
5. Why is it important that the educated citizens return to their host culture after being educated?
6. What are some of the strategies that might be used to compete with other markets for educated workers?

Follow-up Activities

1. Teacher shows kinte cloths and stoles to students and discusses their uses and cultural relevance.
2. Each student is given a piece of fabric roughly the size of a stole and chooses the way in which he or she wants to wear it.
3. Each student is given a piece of fabric the size of a kinte cloth. After group discussion, each student decorates his/her fabric in a way which demonstrates the role he/she played in group activities during the lesson presentation. Each group may want to elect elders.
4. Using pages from the Ghana binder, students will determine what their names would be, and will learn basic greetings in the language.

Handout #1.

The story The Drums Talk contains a lot of interesting information about Ghanaian Culture. As you listen, make notes about what you learn in the categories below:

1. Tribal structure
2. Products
3. Religion
4. Education
5. Relationship to nature
6. The role of elders
7. The role of children
8. Conflict between city and rural society

Handout #2