

LESSON PLAN A

LESSON GUIDELINE - PRE-WORK

Lesson Title: Naming Lessons of Sankofa

Name of Activity: What is your Ghanaian Name?

Duration: 30 Minutes

Learning Objective: Students will conduct research using internet to learn the different methods of how Ghanaians are named.

Materials:

- Naming Worksheet (Provided)
- Sheet of Paper
- Access to Internet

Lesson Background (For Teacher)

In West Africa, newborns are given special names depending on the day they are born. Diverse ethnicities have variants and meanings as a symbol of cultural integrity and ancestral affiliation. Here's your need-to-know guide.

The naming system of the Akan people is as distinct as that which elders in Togo (the Ewe people), the Ga people, Benin (the Fon people), and the African diaspora pass on to toddlers. Other forms of traditional naming include middle names, which can refer to order of birth as part of the caste of siblings, twin status, or could be an inherited maiden name.

Aside the fact that day names are a simple means for commonality, they are easy conversation starters and icebreakers.

The tradition goes back to the Akan tribe: to name their children by the day of their birth. However, Ghanaian names have an even deeper meaning. We take you into this culture and show you as well your Ghanaian name!

The Ghanaian culture cannot be considered a uniform one. Rather, it consists of hundreds of different ethnic influences and tribes who speak their own dialects and their own languages, having different cultural backgrounds. However, the different Ghanaian ethnic groups largely share one common belief: the naming of their children.

The system

The Akan people use the Kwa language group's system of timekeeping, which is based on a six-day week ('nnanson'), with the seventh day inclusive. In Ashanti homes, Sunday-born males and females are named Kwasi or Kwesi and Akosua respectively (meaning 'associated with the universe'); Monday-born are Kwadwo or Kojo, Adjoa or Adwoa (meaning 'associated with peace'); Tuesday-born are Kwabena or Kobi, Abena (meaning 'associated with the ocean'); Wednesday-born Kwaku or Kweku, Akua (meaning 'associated with spider/Ananse'); Thursday-born Yaw, Yaa (meaning 'associated with the earth'); Friday-born Kofi, Afia or Afua (meaning 'associated with fertility'); and Saturday-born Kwame, Ama (meaning 'associated with God').

What's your African name?

First, find out the day of the week you were born here and then find your name in the list below:

For Females

Monday: Adjoa
Tuesday: Abena
Wednesday: Akua
Thursday: Yaa
Friday: Afua
Saturday: Ama
Sunday: Akosua

For Males

Monday: Kojo
Tuesday: Kwabena
Wednesday: Kwaku
Thursday: Yaw
Friday: Kofi
Saturday: Kwame
Sunday: Kwesi

The students who participated in the naming ceremony were given both a name for the day of the week in which they were born, as well as a tribal name.

For example: I was born on a Wednesday, so my name became Akua Akorfa (Akorfa meaning comfort). Now, we can't give you a tribal name—for that you'll need to visit the Torgorme village with Semester at Sea—but we are curious to know...what's your Ghanaian name?

Snapshot:

Instruction 1: Ask the Students using the internet in the classroom or phone to find out the DAY of the week they were more on. They will need to know the Month, Day, and Year. For example: November 13, 2008. So look at the calendar of that year they were born to determine the day. (Critical Thinking is required) For this example it will be Thursday.

Instruction 2: Showing the worksheet, ask the student to write down their Ghanaian name based on the DAY they were born.

Resource: Use this link or have student search online

(<https://www.famlii.com/tools/what-day-of-the-week-were-you-born-calculator>)

Using this worksheet and the DAY of the week

(for example 07/25/2012) is Wednesday. If your boy your name will be Kwaku and a girl will be Akua. This will be your Ghanaian name.

Encourage the students to use their Ghanaian name for one week.

	FEMALE NAME	MALE NAME	ASSOCIATION
SUNDAY	AKOSUA	KWASI	AGILITY
MONDAY	ADJOA	KWADWO	PEACE
TUESDAY	ABENA	KWABENA	FRIENDLINESS
WEDNESDAY	AKUA	KWAKU	MISCHIEVIOUS
THURSDAY	YAA	YAW	BRAVERY
FRIDAY	AFUA	KOFI	WANDERER
SATURDAY	AMA	KWAME	CREATIVITY