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**

A re-telling of a West African folktale, in which a chameleon learns why it can be useful to change colors.

*One Hen: How On 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.

*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.

Material prepared by staff of the Naturalist Center at the California Academy of Sciences