

## Lesson Ideas

### Younger Students

Student instructions: Imagine that you are a member of one of the very first human civilizations. You are beginning to discover that things around you make interesting noises and others seem to like the sounds you can make. Explore the area around your home. Try to find very simple objects in nature that can make sounds. Combine objects to vary the sounds. Present your 'ancient' instrument to the class and teach the others how to play it. Try to imagine how it could improve over time and report your ideas to the class.

Divide the class into four groups. Tell the groups they will be doing an activity similar to the 'Telephone' game. Ask groups to develop a short song or instrumental piece with dance moves that is inspired by a form of African music. They should hide their song or dance practices from the other groups. Instruct two groups to join together; one group teaches the other its song or dance. The second group tries to repeat back the same performance. The original group can point out what was missing and then help them get it right. Groups then switch roles. If there is time, allow each group to join up with another group or see if anyone can perform a song they were not officially taught.

### Older Students

Show the ending of the movie *2012* to the class. You could also show them this brief documentary on colonialism in Africa:

[http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=OJe1W\\_HIWmA](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=OJe1W_HIWmA)

Have the students break up into groups and answer these questions:

- What do you think an African civilization would be like after giant foreign ships with hundreds of world leaders and people of privilege landed and settled on their land?
- How does this relate to the way other continents have been colonized?
- What are some of the problems indigenous people would experience when these settlers came ashore?
- How do you think African music was affected as a result of colonization?
- How do you think life is different in present-day Africa compared to colonial times?
- Do you think some traditional music that was affected during the colonial period made a comeback? Perform some research to find out.
- If there is a sequel to the movie *2012*, what do you think will happen in the next one?

Assign each student (or pair of students) a different African nation. Tell them that they are each representing this country in the World Cup. Ask students to research the specific music style of their African country, including traditional and modern songs, instruments and dances. Have them make up a short cheer, chant or song for their World Cup team, based on the music style they researched, and perform it for the class.

### Listening Activity

Assign one African musician or group to each student or allow them to make their own selection. (The links below provide a listing of African musicians). Tell students to listen to songs of their musician/group on the Internet, at the library or at music shops. Ask them to pick a favorite song and to find out the meaning of the song and the instruments that are being played. (Help students find an English translation for their songs). Students can each play an excerpt of their song for the class and allow their classmates to guess what the words mean or what instruments are being played.

[http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List\\_of\\_African\\_musicians](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_African_musicians)

<http://www.africanmusiciansprofiles.com/index.html>

### Listening List

King Sunny Ade: *Ja Funmi (Fight for Me)*

Miriam Makeba: *Khawuleza*

Echo: *Golo Golo* (Afro-pop song of the year, 2010)

Franco Luambo Makiadi: *Bazonzele Mama Ana* (from *FRANCophonic. Vol. 1*)

Youssou N'Dour: *Egypt* (Grammy winning album)

African Tribal Orchestra: *African Sunset*

Salif Keita: *Africa*

Ladysmith Black Mambazo: *Mbube Wimoweh*

Queen Mashie: *Gona Rinorapa*

*You can find free links to find this listening list on Youtube, plus itunes download links for resources in the listening list in the resources area for this unit.*

### Resource List

A database of African music websites, periodicals, festivals, news groups and online stores  
<http://africanmusic.org/links.html>

A *Discovery Education* lesson plan on traveling to Africa  
<http://school.discoveryeducation.com/lessonplans/programs/africapeopleandplaces/>

A brief description of the styles and history of music in each African country  
[http://www.bbc.co.uk/1xtra/africa/az\\_africanmusic.shtml](http://www.bbc.co.uk/1xtra/africa/az_africanmusic.shtml)

Youssou N'Dour's website, the most well-known African musician in the world  
<http://www.youssou.com/>

Listen, learn... immerse yourself in Afro-pop music  
<http://www.afropop.org/>

A brief description on popular African music from the 1950s to the 2000s  
<http://www.scaruffi.com/history/african.html>

Genres of African popular music  
[http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/African\\_popular\\_music](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/African_popular_music)

A Wikipedia article on Prehistoric music  
[http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Prehistoric\\_music](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Prehistoric_music)

### YouTube Links

Hear and see a school group in Zimbabwe sing as they are accompanied by drums  
<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bmZSrFyPuLQ>

King Sunny Ade: *Ja Funmi*  
<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JBxreBgrJSA>

Miriam Makeba: *Khawuleza*  
<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=V74f9eli9c0>

Echo featuring Tinny: *Golo Golo*  
<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jvQFLY-nKHA>

K'naan: *In the Beginning* (Rapper K'naan grew up in Mogadishu, Somalia and moved to North America when he was 13)  
<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=H8FV4JWDg18>

Excerpts of songs on Franco Luambo Makiadi's album *Francophonie Volume 1*  
<http://www.funmusic.com/album/Franco-Francophonie-Vol-1-1953-1980-23-Download>

11302334.html

**Franco Luambo Makiadi: *Makambo ezali minene***

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6Ux8jYov88o>

**Youssou N'Dour: *Baay Niasse*, from the *Egypt* album**

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mLUiQDcbylc>

**Youssou N'Dour: *C'est L'Amour (It's Love)***

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HvZWWUbXRp0>

**African Tribal Orchestra: *African Sunset***

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=j08ci9v9xx8>

**Salif Keita: *Africa***

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LXYgCf24z5M>

**Manu Dibango: *Soul Makossa***

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=PmWTLdj6SQ>

**Ladysmith Black Mambazo: *Mbube Wimoweh***

[http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=sJF87m4\\_k88](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=sJF87m4_k88)

**Fela Kuti: *Teacher Don't Teach Me No Nonsense***

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=h4AA6EuZe-k>

**Queen Mashie: *Gona Rinorapa***

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=lmZBUv1tGI>