



Kweku Codrington

*“Honor and Respect:
Percussion of West Africa”*

Grades: K-8

Assembly Performance

Performance Length: 45 minutes

Audience Limit: 200

About the Artist

Originally from New York City, Kweku is a warm and gifted musician, teacher, and instrument maker. Kweku’s studies of music, dance, and song have taken him several times to West Africa.

Before the performance:

- Find West Africa on a world map.
- Ask students to name types of percussion instruments. Do any of your students know how to play a percussion instrument?

After the performance:

- Ask students how they can apply Kweku’s lessons of respect to their own lives.

About the Program

Kweku takes students on their own African journey as they learn to play several traditional African musical instruments. These instruments include the aggo bell, the shakrae, the djun-djun, and the djembe. During the residency, students explore themes of honor and respect for others as they learn about the relationship between music, family, and the duties of African children.

Performance Set-up Requirements:

A performance area of at least 12’ x 12’, approx. 10 chairs for student volunteers to use during the performance, and a simple PA system with microphone. Students may be seated on floor or in rows of chairs.

Classroom Management

Please note that Young Audiences' policy mandates that the classroom teacher is to be present during the entire program or residency. Should the teacher leave, the artist is instructed to leave also. The teacher is responsible for managing classroom behavior during the program or residency.

TEKS:

Social Studies: 3.4A; 4.7B; 5.7A, 3.14B; 4.20C; 5.23C, 6.18A-D; 7.27A-C; 8.27A-C, 6.18A-D; 7.27A-C; 8.27A-C. Science: 3.11A, B; 4.10A; 5.11A, 6.11A-C; B; 7.11A-C, 7.14A-C; 8.11A-C, 8.14A-C. Lang. Arts: 3.14A, B; 4.15A, C; 5.15A, C, 6.15A, C; 7.15A, C; 8.15A, C.

Word List

West African drumming: group drumming is practiced throughout West Africa for ceremonies, recreation, parties, and religious meetings

Agogo bell: double cowbells. These make sound by being hit with rhythmically with a stick

Djembe: a powerful "healing drum" that dates back to the Mali Empire in the 12th century. It has a great range of tones and volume. Carved from woods of a variety of types and weights, it is a single-ended goblet shaped drum that has a wide head usually made of goatskin and strung with rope.

Shakaree: gourd covered in a network of woven basketry to which beads have been attached

Resources:

http://encarta.msn.com/encyclopedia_761570799/Ghana.html

Multimedia



[26 items](#)

Dynamic Map



[Map of Ghana](#)

Classroom Connections

Social Studies/Geography:

Invite your students to look at a world map and find Africa, then find Ghana.

- Ask them to compare Ghana and East Texas in respect to: climate, landforms, and natural resources.
- Ask them to discuss how these differences could impact the music of the people.

Social Studies/Cultures:

Then listen to a sample of African drumming on the internet.

- Invite your students to discuss what the drumming means to citizens of Ghana.
- Ask your students to speculate what contribution this type of music has made to American music.

Science/Environment:

Invite your students to do research concerning Ghana's land and resources.

- Ask them to discuss what constructive or destructive forces helped form the variety of landforms in Ghana.
- Ask them to tell you which of these landforms are the most likely to sustain farming.

Writing:

Invite your students to describe environmental issues in Ghana: how do the landforms affect the suitability for sustaining crops? Look at Ghana's problems with deforestation, overgrazing, and drought. Speculate how Ghana could use their natural resources of gold and diamonds to heal the environment.

Thank you for allowing Young Audiences of Northeast Texas to share these artists and performances with your students. The students' written thank you notes may be sent to:

Young Audiences of Northeast Texas
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