



Lesson Plans Digital Booklet

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Introduction

Exploring Africa is a comprehensive curriculum designed to educate about Africa in a true, objective way. Each unit is designed with a theme in mind: *Why Study Africa?*, *Studying Africa through the Social Studies*, *Studying Africa through the Humanities*, *Regional Perspectives*, and *Country Case Studies*. Using these themes allows Exploring Africa to provide a well-rounded, interdisciplinary, and holistic approach to learning about Africa. Within each unit, there are modules constructed in a more specific thematic organization, which creates an even more accessible format for learning in a systematic way. Finally, within each module there are activities designed to help students comprehend the lessons they just learned. Each of these activities is aligned to the Common Core State Standards (CCSS). It is here in this Exploring Africa Lesson Plan Digital Booklet that we offer lesson plans designed for the physical classroom space, to be used and implemented in your own classroom, and adjusted in any way you see fit to meet your individual classroom's needs. It is highly recommended that these lesson plans for activities are supplemental to the lessons in the modules in Exploring Africa. These lesson plans are for the activities only, and not the lessons for which they are designed.

Unit Four

Regional Perspectives

Module Seventeen: West Africa

The purpose of Module Seventeen is to introduce students to the region of West Africa. As explained in the Introduction to Module Twenty: Southern Africa, regional groupings and divisions are constructed categories to help geographers and other scholars categorize the world. The boundaries that divide these regions are not firm and fixed. In fact, they often blur together, shift according to one's point of view, and change over time. The region of West Africa will be discussed here as a grouping of countries made by geographers based on some common geographical, cultural, economic, and political features. Yet it is a region that also contains much diversity within its boundaries and many connections to regions outside of West Africa. This module will begin by discussing these issues in general in Activity One: What is West Africa?

Next the module will continue by examining in more depth the diversity of geography, culture, society, politics, and economics in West Africa in Activity Two: Geography of West Africa and Activity Three: Culture, Society, and Production in West Africa. These activities will give students a sense of the lives and histories experienced by people of West Africa. It will end by tying what they have learned to current events in West Africa today in Activity Four: Current Events in West Africa, many of which they can read about in newspapers and on-line.

Module Seventeen

What is West Africa?

Geography of West Africa

Culture, Society, and Production in West Africa

Current Events in West Africa

What is West Africa?

Time Needed	Approximately 30 minutes
Prior Knowledge	None needed
Lesson Assessment	Formative: worksheet, quick learning check
Standards	<p>CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RI.8.2 <i>Determine a central idea of a text and analyze its development over the course of the text, including its relationship to supporting ideas; provide an objective summary of the text</i></p> <p>CCSS.ELA-Literacy.W.8.1 <i>Write arguments to support claims with clear reason and relevant evidence.</i></p>
Materials Needed	What is West Africa Reading guide ¹ , pencil, access to Exploring Africa website, paper

Objectives

Students will be able to...

- Have a clear understanding of the concept of region, and how this concept is articulated in West Africa
- Critically think about the limitations of the human tendency to divide the world into regions

Time	Learning Task	Methods or Procedures
5 min	Students receive reading guide, listen to instructions, and get on Exploring Africa	Teacher hands out reading guide and instructs students to get on Module Seventeen, Activity One of Exploring Africa.
15 min	Students read through the text of activity one, answering the questions on their reading guide as they go.	Individual student work; teacher monitors and assists as needed.
5 min	Quick check: students have five minutes to write down the names of as many West African countries as they remember, without looking up the answer.	Individual student work; teacher assigns the check and encourages students to remember as many countries as possible.
5 min	Quick Check Part 2: students now have another five minutes to go through their list of West African countries, and for each one try and write down something they know about that country.	Individual student work; teacher assigns the second part of the check, and encourages students to write something substantial about each country (i.e. don't write 'this country is a part of West Africa' as their fact)

¹ Handouts and Worksheets, pg. 13

Geography of West Africa

Time Needed	Approximately 25 minutes
Prior Knowledge	Completion of previous activities in this module
Lesson Assessment	Formative: reading guide
Standards	CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RH.6-8.7 <i>Integrate visual information (e.g., in charts, graphs, photographs, videos, or maps) with other information in print and digital texts.</i> D2.Geo.2.9-12 <i>Use maps, satellite images, photographs, and other representations to explain relationships between the locations of places and regions and their political, cultural, and economic dynamics.</i>
Materials Needed	Pencil, Geography of West Africa Reading Guide ² , access to Exploring Africa website

Objectives

Students will be able to...

- Use maps to determine information about a place/places
- Have a clear understanding of the environment and geography of the West Africa region

Time	Learning Task	Methods or Procedures
5 min	Students receive reading guide, listen to instructions, and get on Exploring Africa.	Teacher hands out reading guide and instructs students to get on Module Seventeen, Activity Two of Exploring Africa.
10 min	Students read through the text in Activity Two	Individual student work; teacher monitors and assists as needed.
10 min	Students use the maps from Activity Two to complete their reading guide.	Individual student work; teacher monitors and assists as needed.

² Handouts and worksheets, pg. 14

Culture, Society, and Production in West Africa

Time Needed	Approximately 45 minutes
Prior Knowledge	Completion of previous activities in this module
Lesson Assessment	Formative: reading guide, small group discussions
Standards	<p>CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RH.6-8.7 <i>Integrate visual information (e.g., in charts, graphs, photographs, videos, or maps) with other information in print and digital texts.</i></p> <p>CCSS.ELA-Literacy.W.8.1 <i>Write arguments to support claims with clear reasons and relevant evidence.</i></p> <p>CCSS.ELA-Literacy.SL.6.1 <i>Engage effectively in a range of collaborative discussions with diverse partners, building on others ideas and expressing their own clearly</i></p> <p>D2.Eco.1.6-8 <i>Explain how economic decisions affect the well-being of individuals, businesses, and society</i></p>
Materials Needed	Pencil, paper, access to Exploring Africa website, Culture, Society, and Production Reading Guide ³

Objectives

Students will be able to...

- Define culture, society, and production, and explain their part in shaping West Africa
- Fill out charts and answer questions based on knowledge gained from informational text
- Participate and share ideas in small group discussions

Time	Learning Task	Methods or Procedures
6 min	<p>One word at a time, the teacher will write the following words on the board: <i>culture, society, and production</i>. For each word students will have two minutes to write the following about the given word on a sheet of paper:</p> <p>a) <i>What words come to mind when you hear this word?</i></p> <p>b) <i>Come up with your own one sentence definition of the word.</i></p>	Teacher led activity; teacher writes words on board and gives students two minutes to write their answers.
4 min	Students listen to instructions, receive reading guide, and get on Exploring Africa	Teacher hands out Culture, Society, and Production Reading Guide and instructs students to get on Module Seventeen, Activity Three of

³ Handouts and worksheets, pg. 15

		Exploring Africa.
15 min	Students read through the text on Activity Three, filling out their reading guides as they go.	Individual student activity; teacher monitors and assists as needed.
10 min	Students complete the writing assignment on Cote d'Ivoire that is given at the end of their reading guide.	Individual student work; teacher monitors and assists as needed.
10 min	Small group discussion; students discuss with a few students nearby their answers to how they would investigate and improve the labor conditions as detailed in their paragraphs.	Small group work; teacher monitors and assists as needed

Current Events in West Africa

Time Needed	Approximately 40 minutes
Prior Knowledge	Completion of previous activities in this module
Lesson Assessment	Formative: reading guide, learning check
Standards	CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RH.6-8.7 <i>Integrate visual information (e.g., in charts, graphs, photographs, videos, or maps) with other information in print and digital texts.</i> CCSS.ELA-Literacy.W.8.8 <i>Gather relevant information from multiple print and digital sources; using search terms effectively; assess the credibility and accuracy of each source</i>
Materials Needed	Pencil, paper, Current Events in West Africa Reading Guide ⁴ , access to Exploring Africa website

Objectives

Students will be able to...

- Read news reports critically for biases or stereotypes
- Evaluate multiple sources when researching a topic
- Evaluate own learning progress
- Learn about current events in Africa through reading news sources

Time	Learning Task	Methods or Procedures
5 min	Students receive Current Events in West Africa Reading Guide, listen to instructions, and get on Exploring Africa	Teacher hands out reading guide and instructs students to get onto module seventeen, activity four of Exploring Africa
15 min	Students read through the text of the activity, filling out their reading guides as they go.	Individual student activity; teacher monitors and assists as needed.
5 min	Students complete the same check from the very first activity of this module Check Part 1: students have 5 minutes to write as many West African countries as they remember, without looking up the names.	Individual student work; teacher monitors and assists as needed
10 min	Check Part 2: students have ten minutes go through their list of West African countries, and for each one try and write down something they know about that	Individual student work; teacher monitors and assists as needed

⁴ Handouts and Worksheets, pg. 17

	country.	
5 min	Students compare their new list with the one from the beginning of the module. Students should write a few sentences: <i>Can you tell by comparing your lists if you learned anything throughout this module? What kind of information did you seem to retain?</i>	Individual student work; teacher monitors and assists as needed

Handouts and Worksheets

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What is West Africa Reading Guide

1. How many countries are parts of the region West Africa? How many of these countries are a part of ECOWAS? What is ECOWAS? Which countries are not members of ECOWAS?
2. What naturally divides the regions of North and West Africa?
3. _____ was the only West African country not colonized by a European country in 1945.
4. Why is it somewhat limiting to think of West Africa as a region? Do you think this also holds true for other regions in Africa? What about other regions around the globe?

Geography of West Africa Reading Guide

Directions: Use the maps that are given throughout this activity to answer the following questions

1. Name the three countries in West Africa that have desert vegetation in their north regions.
2. Which West African countries have tropical rainforests?
3. Which country in West Africa appears to have the highest population density?
4. What are the four countries that border Lake Chad?
5. Name all of the West African countries that the Niger River flows through.
6. What are the three zones of vegetation that Ghana has?
7. What is the name of the largest lake in Ghana?

Culture, Society, and Production Reading Guide

1. Define the following vocabulary terms:
 - a. Syncretism:

 - b. Diviner:

 - c. Shrine:

2. Answer the following questions based on the chart on principal trade partners of West Africa
 - a. List all the European countries that are trade partners with West African countries

 - b. List all of the African countries that are trade partners with West African countries

 - c. List all other countries that are trade partners with West African countries

 - d. According to the chart above, which West African countries export manufactured goods?

3. Fill in the chart below with information from the text on Côte d'Ivoire

Names of the countries where migrants came from	Names of cocoa and coffee corporations that employ many of the migrants
1.	1.
2.	2.
3.	3.
4.	4.
5.	5.

Writing assignment: Imagine that you just got a new job with the Nestle company and they have told you that you will be sent to Côte d'Ivoire for two years to work in their main office. Your job will be to investigate labor practices on the cocoa plantations throughout the country, and try to suggest ways to improve working conditions for the laborers in the fields. You see that this will be a difficult task, as workers on many of the plantations are very young, work long hours, and do not have clean and dry housing. Write a paragraph explaining your strategy for how you will investigate and then improve these conditions.

Current Events in West Africa Reading Guide

1. When looking at news sources, such as the online news sources listed for Africa, what are three strategies you could use to make sure you read the news reports critically?

1)

2)

3)

2. Based on what you have read about Liberia, fill in the timeline below

TIMELINE OF THE CONFLICT IN LIBERIA	
Early 1800's	_____
1980	_____
1988	_____
1989	_____
1992	_____
1996	_____
1997	_____
2003	_____

3. Take a look at the data from the UNICEF on Cape Verde Islands and answer the following questions
 - 1) How is the GNP per capita calculated?
 - 2) What percentage of the population over 15 years old is literate?
 - 3) Out of 1,000 live births in Cape Verde, how many of those babies will die before turning 5 years old?
4. Now look at the data given for Sub-Saharan Africa, Cape Verde, and the United States and answer the following questions

- 1) Is Cape Verde's GNP per capita more or less than the GNP per capita for Sub-Saharan Africa as a whole?
 - 2) Whose literacy rate is higher –Cape Verde's or the United States?
 - 3) What is the under 5 Mortality Rate for Sub-Saharan Africa as a whole?
5. Finally, look at the data given for literacy rates of men and women in Cape Verde and South Africa, and answer the following questions.
- 1) Out of a sample of 100 women over the age of 15 in Cape Verde, approximately how many of them will know how to read and write?
 - 2) Which country has a more equitable rate of adult literacy between men and women?
 - 3) The data above has given more specific information on the literate population of Cape Verde and South Africa than a mere percentage of the total population by breaking the population down into two categories –men and women. This has given you some indication that in Cape Verde, more men than women are literate. What other categories would be helpful for you to know and compare regarding the population of literate people in Cape Verde?
6. Summarize in several sentences what you have learned about Cape Verde from the data in the charts.

Answer Keys and Examples

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What is West Africa Reading Guide

How many countries are parts of the region West Africa? How many of these countries are a part of ECOWAS? What is ECOWAS? Which countries are not members of ECOWAS?

Answer: There are 16 countries that are considered part of West Africa. Only one of these countries is not a member of ECOWAS –Mauritania.

What naturally divides the regions of North and West Africa?

Answer: The Sahara Desert

_____ was the only West African country not colonized by a European country in 1945.

Answer: Liberia

Why is it somewhat limiting to think of West Africa as a region? Do you think this also holds true for other regions in Africa? What about other regions around the globe?

Answers will vary.

Geography of West Africa Reading Guide

Name the three countries in West Africa that have desert vegetation in their north regions.

Answer: Mauritania, Mali, and Niger

Which West African countries have tropical rainforests?

Answer: Gambia, Guinea-Bissau, Sierra Leone, Liberia, Côte d'Ivoire, Ghana, Togo, Nigeria, Benin

Which country in West Africa appears to have the highest population density?

Answer: Nigeria

What are the four countries that border Lake Chad?

Answer: Niger, Chad, Nigeria, Cameroon

Name all of the West African countries that the Niger River flows through.

Answer: Guinea, Mali, Niger, Nigeria

What are the three zones of vegetation that Ghana has?

Answer: Tropical rainforest, deciduous forest, savanna grassland

What is the name of the largest lake in Ghana?

Answer: Lake Volta

Culture, Society, and Production Reading Guide

Define the following vocabulary terms:

Syncretism:

Answer: the combination or fusion of different religions

Diviner:

Answer: Someone who seeks knowledge about the future or something else unknown, usually with the aid of supernatural powers

Shrine:

Answer: a place where homage is made to a saint or deity

Answer the following questions based on the chart on principal trade partners of West Africa

List all the European countries that are trade partners with West African countries

Answer: France, The Netherlands, Portugal, Spain, Germany, Russia, United Kingdom, Italy, and Belgium

List all of the African countries that are trade partners with West African countries

Answer: Côte d'Ivoire, Nigeria, Senegal, Algeria

List all other countries that are trade partners with West African countries

Answer: Thailand, China, Taiwan, Brazil, Japan, United States, South Korea

According to the chart above, which West African countries export manufactured goods?

Answer: None of the exports listed are manufactured goods. They are raw materials

Fill in the chart below with information from the text on Côte d'Ivoire

Names of the countries where migrants came from	Names of cocoa and coffee corporations that employ many of the migrants
1. Burkina Faso	1. Nestle
2. Mali	2. Hershey
3. Nigeria	3. Archer Midland Daniels

4. France	4. M&M/Mars
5. Lebanon	5.

Current Events in West Africa Reading Guide

When looking at news sources, such as the online news sources listed for Africa, what are three strategies you could use to make sure you read the news reports critically?

Answers will vary

Based on what you have read about Liberia, fill in the timeline below

Answer:

Early 1800's: Liberia was originally created as a country by freed Black slaves sent there from America.

1980: Coup d'état led by Samuel Doe

1988: US cut off aid to Liberia

1989: National Patriotic Front of Liberia (NPFL) crossed over the Liberian border from Côte d'Ivoire to overthrow Samuel Doe's government. The 7-year civil war begins.

1992: Charles Taylor and the NPFL controlled most of Liberia.

1996: Civil war ends

1997: Charles Taylor is elected president of Liberia.

2003: Charles Taylor is indicted for war crimes in Sierra Leone.

Take a look at the data from the UNICEF on Cape Verde Islands and answer the following questions

How is the GNP per capita calculated?

Answer: The gross national product divided by the mid-year population

What percentage of the population over 15 years old is literate?

Answer: 72%

Out of 1,000 live births in Cape Verde, how many of those babies will die before turning 5 years old?

73

Now look at the data given for Sub-Saharan Africa, Cape Verde, and the United States and answer the following questions

Is Cape Verde's GNP per capita more or less than the GNP per capita for Sub-Saharan Africa as a whole?

Answer: more

Whose literacy rate is higher –Cape Verde's or the United States?

Answer: United States

What is the under 5 Mortality Rate for Sub-Saharan Africa as a whole?

Answer: 170/1000 or 17%

Finally, look at the data given for literacy rates of men and women in Cape Verde and South Africa, and answer the following questions.

Out of a sample of 100 women over the age of 15 in Cape Verde, approximately how many of them will know how to read and write?

Answer: 64

Which country has a more equitable rate of adult literacy between men and women?

Answer: South Africa

The data above has given more specific information on the literate population of Cape Verde and South Africa than a mere percentage of the total population by breaking the population down into two categories –men and women. This has given you some indication that in Cape Verde, more men than women are literate. What other categories would be helpful for you to know and compare regarding the population of literate people in Cape Verde?

Answers will vary

Summarize in several sentences what you have learned about Cape Verde from the data in the charts.

Answers will vary