



Roots of Rhythm is a one-of-a-kind experience that elevates cultural awareness about music from around the globe through energetic performances and engaging audience participation activities. The Roots of Rhythm presentation includes interdisciplinary subjects such as world history, geography, and of course, music, that coincide with the National Standards for Arts Education.

Our program explores music of the African Diaspora; "music that originated in or is related to Africa".

This packet focuses on **Ghana** and includes geographical, historical, and cultural information as well as activities and resources to aid in preparing your students for our visit!

If you have any questions, please contact the UTM Percussion Studio.

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AKWAABA!

WELCOME TO GHANA



TABLE OF CONTENTS

Overview.....	3
Instrument Names and Pictures.....	5
Coloring Map of Region.....	7
Flag Coloring and Info.....	8
Glossary.....	9
Word Search.....	10
Crossword Puzzle.....	11
Video with Questions.....	12
Answer Key.....	13



ABOUT GHANA

The Republic of Ghana is a small country located in West Africa that is home to the Dagara, Akan, Ashanti, Ewe, and Ga people, among others. Formerly a colony of Great Britain, Ghana was the first country in the continent of Africa to declare independence on March 6, 1957. English is the national language, but many distinct languages and dialects are spoken among the country's 24 million inhabitants.

Ghana gained the nickname Gold Coast because of its massive gold deposits. In the 15th century, Europeans began to arrive, taking control of the gold trade and starting to enslave the native Africans for both work in the gold mines as well as forced labor in the New World. Fortresses, such as the Elmina Castle on the Cape Coast of Ghana, still remain as historical sites today. Thousands of Africans slaves were held there before being shipped to the Americas.

Music and dance are integral parts of Ghanaian culture. The two most distinct categories of music include ethnic music and high-life. Ethnic music comes from different regions and can be either sacred (church music) or secular (recreational music). It is often performed for storytelling, celebrations, festivals, ceremonies, and funerals. High-life is a fusion of both traditional African elements as well as imported influences like brass instruments and guitar. Common instruments found in Ghana are hand-made and include drums played with hands, drums played with sticks, rattles, bells, and xylophones.



ABOUT BEWAA

Bewaa (pronounced BEY-wah), meaning “you come,” is a traditional style of secular music from the Dagara people located north of the convergence Ghana, Burkina Faso, and Côte d'Ivoire. This style of music is played at social events where community members come together. Such events include the following: installment of the chief, harvest festivals, marriage ceremonies, and naming ceremonies. Bewaa is also commonly played at pito bars where friends and family gather together to share in the local brew (pito), song, and dance.

Bewaa music is now played on the *gyil*, a wooden instrument with rosewood keys and resonators made from gourds. The frame is made from hardwood, and the whole thing is secured with strips of goat or antelope hide. However, Bewaa was not always played on the *gyil*; it was originally only played on the *kpan kpul* (thought to be the predecessor of the *gyil* because of its similar construction). The *kpan kpul* has the same note layout as the *gyil* but has no frame or resonators. Instead, the bars are placed onto two straw rails over a shallow trench

to act as resonators. Although this does not produce as much sound as the gyl, it is much easier to transport. Now that the gyl is used for Bewaa, the kpan kpul is now primarily a children's instrument.

Bewaa has two different performance styles based on the geographical region-- Nandom and Jirapa. Nandom is the "older" style and Jirapa is the "newer" style. Both styles have the same instrumentation and musical characteristics, but have different interactions with dancers, as well as different overall structure.

ABOUT KPANLOGO

Kpanlogo (Pronounced pon-LOGO) is a rhythm and dance which began in the 1960's. The style was first played by the Ga people in Accra. It is partially influenced by older Ga drumming traditions such as gome, oge, and kolomashie, but also influenced by American Rock due to the increasing globalization throughout the world at the time. Kpanlogo provided an opportunity for the younger Ga people to distinguish themselves from their elders.

The music consists of 3 Kpanlogo drum parts: The Male and Female supporting drum parts and the Master drum part. The supporting drum parts stay consistently the same throughout the entire performance which provides a foundation for the Master drum part to add on to, like a canvas for a painter! The Master drum is the most important part, as they control how the dancers dance. The rhythms that the Master drummer plays command the dancers to move on to the next set of dance moves. The Master drum parts also heavily interact with the dance moves, in a way that allows you to not just HEAR the rhythms but also SEE them in the dancers' motions. Other instruments are the gankogui (gan-KO-gwee) and the axatse (ah-HOT-say). The gankogui is a bell that plays the same rhythm all throughout the performance, similar to the supporting Kpanlogo drum parts. It sounds similar to a cowbell. The axatse is a dried out gourd that has beads all around it. Its purpose is also to play the same rhythm throughout the performance. You swing the gourd down to play it on your leg, then up to play it on your hand that is not holding the axatse.

LABEL THE INSTRUMENTS OF BEWAA

Choose From:

Gyil- rosewood keys, hardwood frame, gourd resonators

Kuor- drum made from a dry, hollow calabash gourd and monitor lizard skin

Kpan Kpul (pit xylophone)- thought to be the predecessor of the gyil, originally the only instrument to play bewaa, no resonators, bars are placed on two straw rails and positioned over a shallow trench



1. _____



2. _____



3. _____

LABEL THE INSTRUMENTS OF KPANLOGO

Choose from:

Kpanlogo Drum- Large wooden drum. Played with hands to get many different sounds.

Axatse- Dried out gourd with lots of knitted beads around it. Played by shaking up and down to hit on your hand and leg.

Gankogui- Set of 2 bells played with a stick. Sounds like cowbells!



1. _____



2. _____

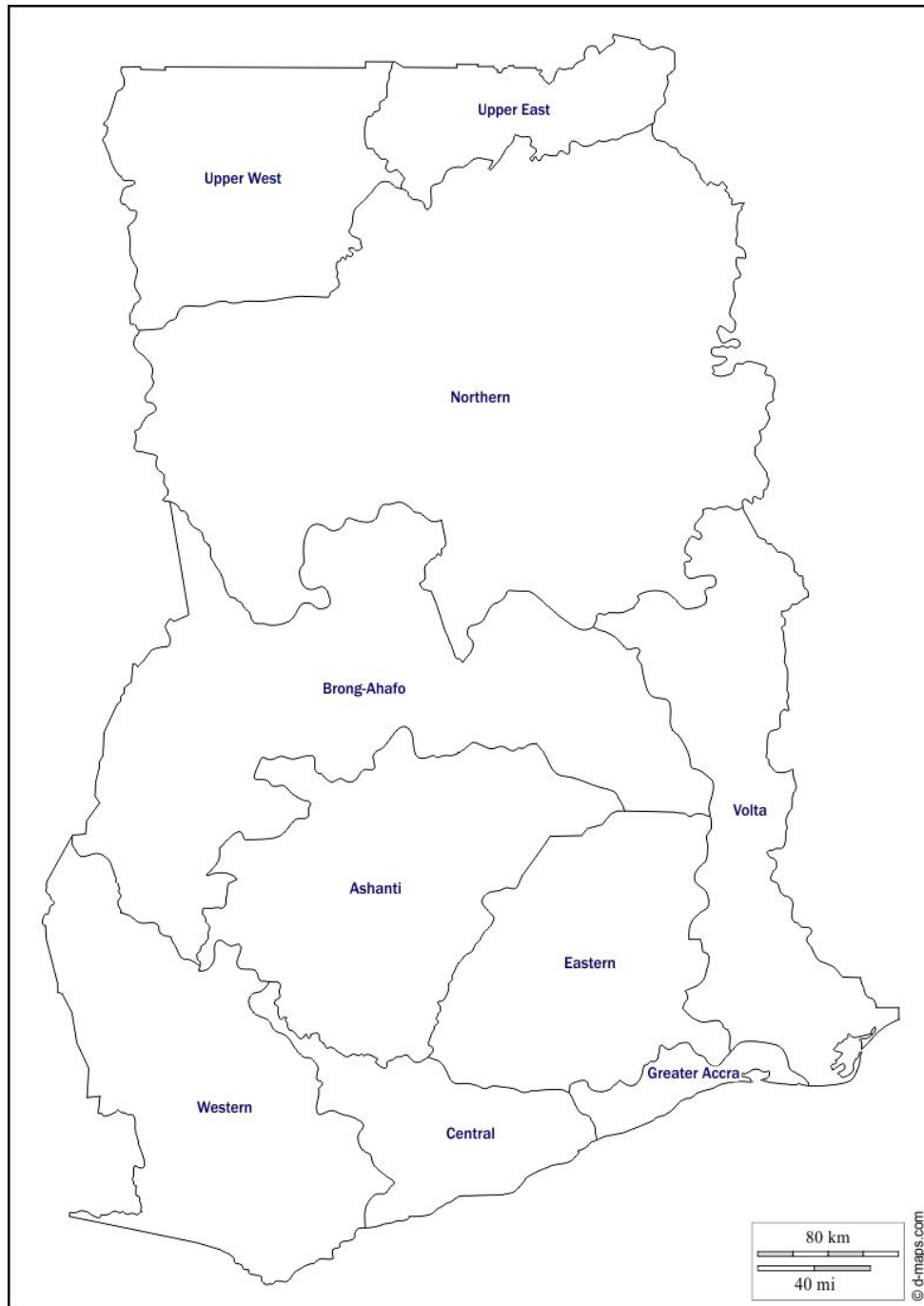


3. _____

COLORING MAP OF GHANA

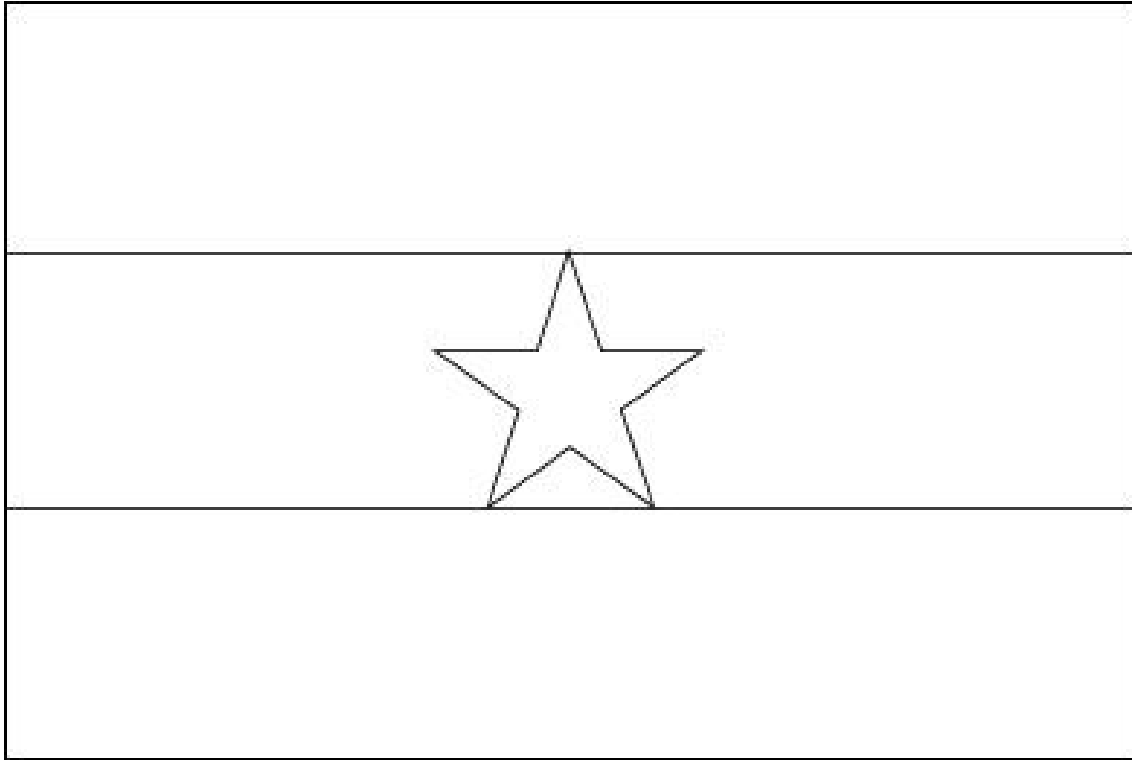
Ghana has ten different regions.

1. Color the Upper West BLUE.
2. Color the Upper East RED.
3. Color the Northern YELLOW.
4. Color the Brong-Ahafo GREEN.
5. Color the Western PURPLE.
6. Color the Ashanti BROWN.
7. Color the Eastern GRAY.
8. Color the Volta BLACK.
9. Color the Central ORANGE.
10. Color the Greater Accra PINK.



GHANA COLORING FLAG

Color the flag to match the picture below.



Ghana

GHANA GLOSSARY!

Bewaa- “you come,” style of music played at social events where community members come together, also commonly played at pito bars where friends and family gather together to share in the local brew (pito), song, and dance

Gyil- wooden instrument with rosewood keys and resonators made from gourds. The frame is made from hardwood, and the whole thing is secured with strips of goat or antelope hide

Kpan Kpul (pit xylophone)- thought to be the predecessor of the gyil, originally the only instrument to play bewaa, no resonators, bars are placed on two straw rails and positioned over a shallow trench

Kuor- drum made from a dry, hollow calabash gourd and monitor lizard skin

Dagara- ethnic group located north of the convergence of Ghana, Burkina Faso and Côte d'Ivoire

Nandom- “old” style

Jirapa- “new” style

Sacred- religious (church music)

Secular- non-religious (recreational music)

Kpanlogo- Style of drumming and dancing from the Ga people in Ghana. Inspired by older Ga traditions and American musical traditions.

WORD SEARCH!

L X C K Y G M G H Z P C E I W
R U U P T U O O O O P S L X W
I O P L L O D B E W A A G I I
R J J K N H N I G T A E Y A H
O B R V N W A T A P R Y I Y L
G U U G I A N A A O T T L H J
R H H W G J P R G X N N A I H
M S A W C C I K B L Z S M S X
E P V N B J M X R R J J C C H
Z K D R A U J H H U D W Z Q T
S T Y N P Q O Z V P E W U V L
R E X U W B B C A Q K D U T W
P G C Y E K K B X B Y Z X A H
L G G K E Z L W C S Z H U B Z
G C S P F F K M V V M V K O J

BEWAA

GHANA

GYIL

JIRAPA

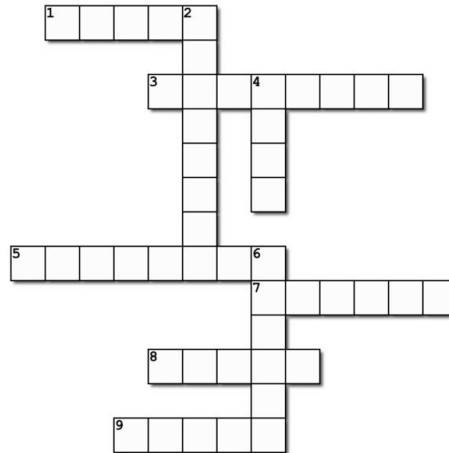
KPANKPUL

KUOR

NANDOM

BEWAA CROSSWORD PUZZLE!

Complete the crossword puzzle below



Created using the Crossword Maker on TheTeachersCorner.net

Across

1. The color of the star on the Ghanaian Flag
3. Bell used in Kpanlogo music
5. The material used to make gyil bars
7. Shaker played in Kpanlogo music.
8. A style of traditional African music played at gatherings with gyils, kour, and dancing
9. A country in West Africa

Down

2. A style of music by the Ga people in Greater Accra, played with drums, bells, shakers, and dancing
4. Drum made from calabash and lizard skin
6. Ethnic group in northern Ghana

WORD BANK

Ghana
Kour
Bewaa
Rosewood
Dagara
Black
Kpanlogo
Gankogui
Axatse

VIDEO AND QUESTIONS!

Watch the following video: *Born to Play Gyl*

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=O_1JdoK885A

After or while watching, please answer the questions listed below!

1. What is the instrument this man is playing?
 - a. Guitar
 - b. Gyl
 - c. Cornett
 - d. Erhu
2. What is the man's name?
 - a. Gerard Rome
 - b. John Tirey
 - c. Abraham Washington
 - d. Bernard Woma
3. What is the man the director of?
 - a. A Steam Engine
 - b. A Marching Band
 - c. The Dagara Music Center
 - d. The African National Congress
4. What country is he from?
 - a. Ghana
 - b. Nigeria
 - c. USA
 - d. Morocco
5. Does this man sing in the video?
 - a. Yes
 - b. No

Watch the following video: *Kpanlogo Dance*

<https://youtu.be/qfmlc6Tp870>

Before Watching: The style being performed in the video is Kpanlogo. Listen to the Kpanlogo drums and the gankogui bell. Notice how the drumming and dancing work together. Look at how excited they are to share their music and dance!

Discussion After Watching: Do you think that the way that they are dressed allows them to express themselves? Could you hear the connection between the drumming and dancing? Is this similar to music and dancing that we have here in America? How does this make you feel?

ANSWER KEY

Answer key to video questions:

1. B
2. D
3. C
4. A
5. A

Answer key to the crossword puzzle:

1. Black
2. Kpanlogo
3. Gankogui
4. Kour
5. Rosewood
6. Dagara
7. Axatse
8. Bewaa
9. Ghana