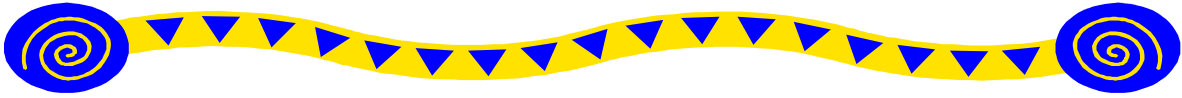


Literature for East Africa

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Language

Cunnane, Kelly. (2006). *For you are a Kenyan child*. NY: Atheneum Books for Young Readers.

“Hodi?” “Karibu.” Follow a young Kenyan child as he completes chores and visits friends in the community. This book includes easy-to-remember Kiswahili and is perfect for introducing young children to another language. The author’s notes provide background information on the life of a Kenyan child.

Activities:

- ~ Compare and contrast life as a Kenyan child and life as an American child.

Feelings, Muriel. (1974). *Jambo means hello: Swahili alphabet book*. NY: Dial Books for Young Readers.

The reader is introduced to Swahili vocabulary and facts about African culture through the simple text and beautiful illustrations of this unique alphabet book.

Activities:

- ~ Create alphabet books, individually or as a class, on students’ city or state; a current content area topic; or an area of personal interest.
- ~ Guide students in mini-research projects to discover more about topics presented in the book. Examples are:
 - The *zaze* is a musical instrument found in Kenya/East Africa. What other instruments are popular and are the same instruments found in the United States?
 - *Ngoma* means drum and dance. Listen to some African music and try drumming and dancing.
 - *Shule* means school. Compare and contrast the schools and students in Kenya/East Africa with the schools and students in the United States.
 - Learn more about *tembo* (elephants) and/or other animals prevalent in Africa.

Feelings, Muriel. (1971). *Moja means one: Swahili counting book*. NY: Dial Books for Young Readers.

The reader is introduced to Swahili vocabulary and facts about African culture through the simple text and beautiful illustrations of this unique counting book.

Activities:

- ~ Create counting books, individually or as a class, on students' city or state; current content topic; or an area of personal interest.
- ~ Provide students with an opportunity to share their original books with younger students.

Fontes, Justine and Ron. (2003). *Kenya (A to Z)*. Mexico: Scholastic Inc.

This book is a great introduction to Kenya with beautiful photographs and interesting facts from animals to zungu, which means remarkable in Kiswahili. There's even a recipe for Maharagwe (red beans).

Activities:

- ~ Conduct additional research in an area that students find interesting.
- ~ Complete a 3-2-1 organizer on the book (3 things that are really interesting, 2 things to learn more about, and the single most important fact).

Haskins, Jim. (1998) *Count your way through Africa*. Illus. by Barbara Knutson. Minneapolis: Carolrhoda Books.

Kiswahili words for the numbers one to ten are introduced along with information on the history and culture of Africa.

Activities:

- ~ Practice counting in Kiswahili.
- ~ Compare and contrast information about Africa and North America.

Wilson-Max, Ken. (2002) *Furaha means happy: A book of Swahili words*. NY: Hyperion Books for Children.

Two Kenyan children share a story about how they spend their day. The simple text and illustrations will appeal to young children. Some words are translated into Swahili and a pronunciation guide is provided, as well as a map of Africa.

Activities:

- ~ Practice saying words in Swahili.
- ~ Compare the lives of the Kenyan children with the lives of the students.