

Africa Day

Written by Chi Mary Kalu

Illustrated by Jelena Jordanovic-Lewis

Published by Little Steps Publishing

SYNOPSIS

A little boy and his mum discover many colourful, fun and exciting things when they attend the Africa Day Festival.

AUTHOR BACKGROUND INFORMATION

Chi is a mother of two boys and loves spending time with her family. She is an avid reader and her best memories were formed as a child when she explored classic storybooks and diverse African literature as a pupil. A family lawyer based in Brisbane, Chi is also a steady volunteer in her local community and has helped to facilitate various events that engaged children in cultural activities. She has a passion for stories that introduce readers to a variety of people, places and perspectives; aiming to enhance their vocabulary and discover the beauty in diversity. Starting with her boys, Chi believes that raising readers is crucial for a firm foundation in literacy, instils healthy curiosity and promotes self-motivation.

ILLUSTRATOR BACKGROUND INFORMATION

Jelena is an illustrator born in Old Yugoslavia but grew up in Germany. Her passion for understanding the dynamics of nature led her to study physics, and work as a researcher. She recently returned to her first love of drawing and painting, fuelled by her introduction to art when she was young by a classical Serbian artist. Jelena lives with her brave, adventurous baby girl and her lovely husband in the UK, but she tends to move where the winds of life take her.

EDUCATIONAL APPLICABILITY

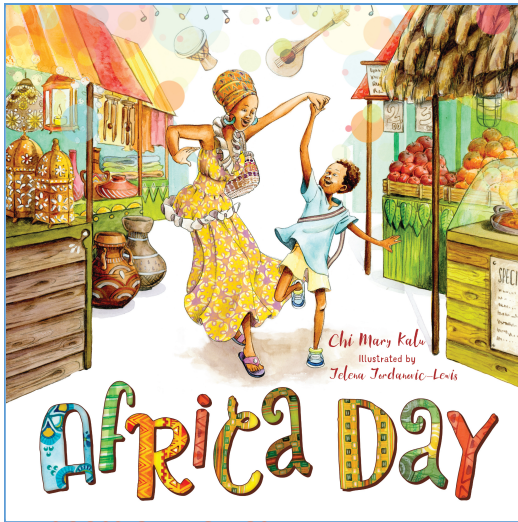
Africa Day is the perfect starting point to prompt children to explore different cultures as the book encourages children's curiosity, ignites conversation and promotes literacy. It gives children a glimpse into African culture, as well as introduces them to key literary features such as onomatopoeia and alliteration.



There is a stall full of baskets, bags and stools,
woven with canes and rattan.

We see lots of clothes with colourful prints.

www.littlesteps.com.au
www.littlestepspublishing.co.uk



Africa Day

Written by Chi Mary Kalu

Illustrated by Jelena Jordanovic-Lewis

Published by Little Steps Publishing

Before and during reading:

1. Show the children the front cover and ask them if they can read the title and what they think the story might be about.
2. Talk to the children about Africa Day, which is celebrated in Africa as well as around the world on the 25th of May.
3. Explain that ankara is a 100% cotton fabric with vibrant patterns. A dashiki is a brightly coloured shirt or tunic, originally from West Africa. Kente is also brightly coloured cloth, but it consists of separate strips of fabric that have been sewn together and it is made in Ghana.
4. Do you recognise the musical sounds in the background or the instrument making the 'tudu tada' sounds?
5. The African drum is a musical instrument made from wood and leather or cow hides and skin. It usually comes in sets, and with a stick used to tap the top of the drums, producing music in different pitches. In West Africa, one of such drums is called the Talking Drum. It is played in different tones that people understand, and used by villagers for communication and at special events. Have you tried playing an African drum?
6. Igbo is the principle native language of the Igbo people, an ethnic group of southeastern Nigeria. The language is spoken by approximately 44 million speakers. Do you speak a language other than English?
7. Have you tried jollof rice or moi moi? Is it exciting to try different meals on holiday or recipes from other countries?

After reading:

1. What did you think of the story? Did you like it? What was your favourite part?
2. Have you ever been to an Africa Day celebration? If so, what was it like? If not, would you like to go now that you have seen all the fun, lively things that you can do and see at the festival?
3. Have you been to any other cultural festivals or events? If so, what were they like?



Africa Day Word Search



Find these words:

Igbo

Ankara

Dashiki

Jollof Rice

Moi Moi

Kente

Arabica Coffee

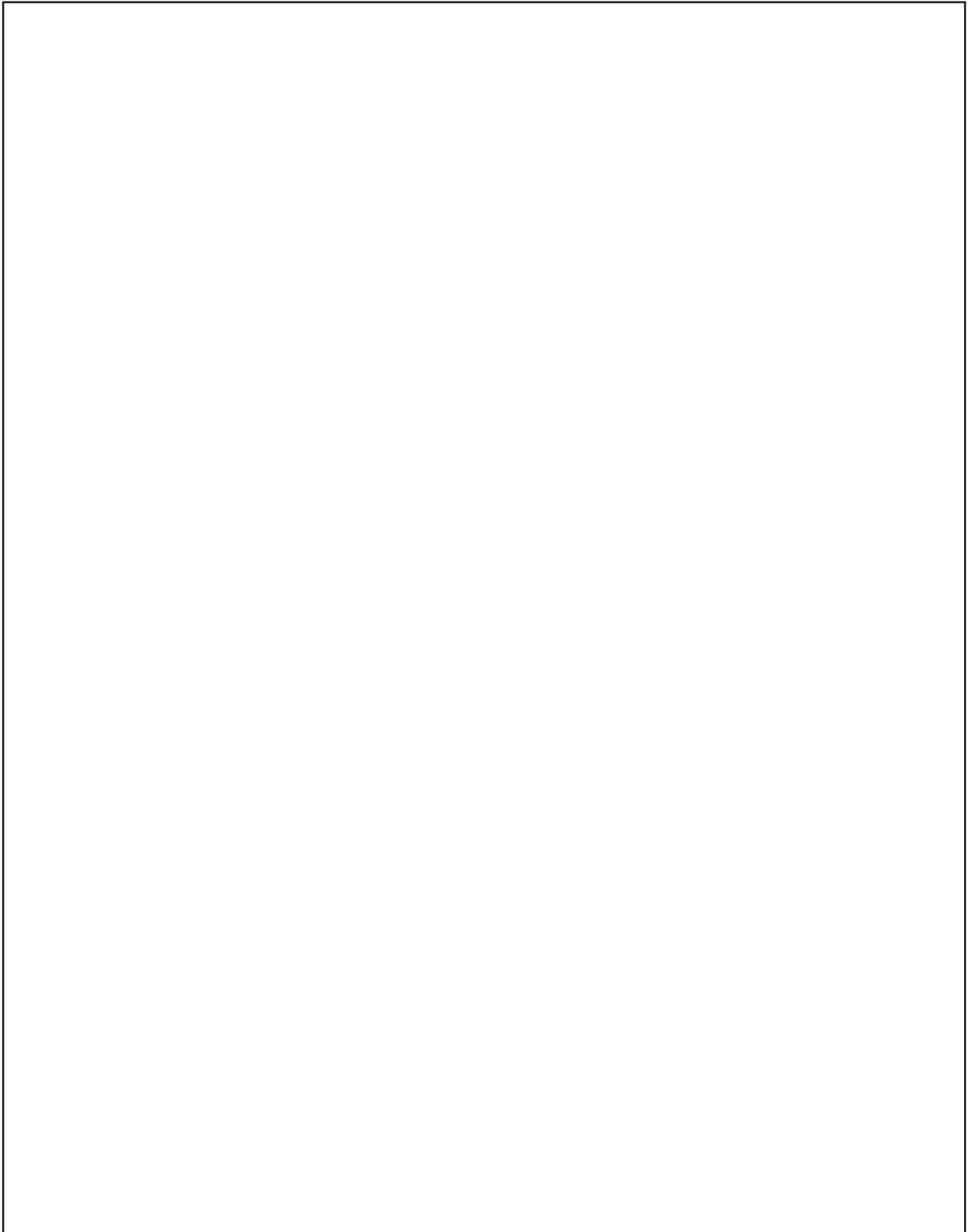
Africa Day Word Search Solution



Look at the different stalls in *Africa Day* again. If you were going to have a stall at a cultural festival, what would you be selling? Would it be jewelry or cloths or food? Draw your own stall in the space below.

Name:

Class:



Adinkra Printing

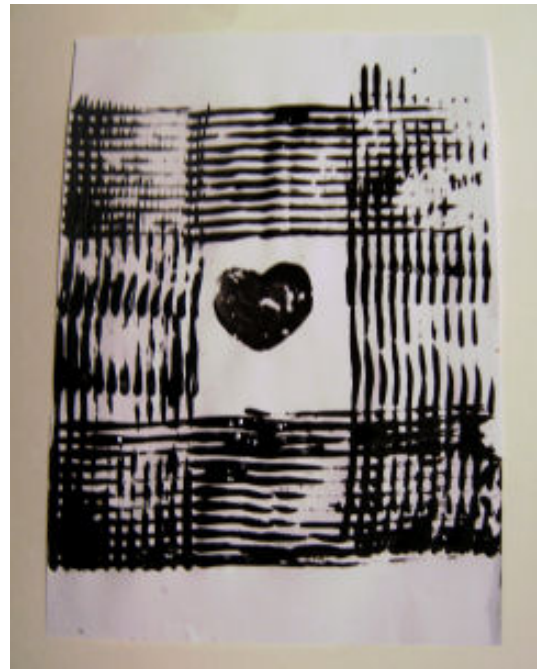
Adinkra is a type of cloth worn in western Africa. It is a printed grid pattern made up of combed grid lines and a small shape printed in the squares. Why not try creating your own Adinkra prints on paper?

What you will need:

Black paint
Paper
A potato
A wide-toothed comb

Instructions:

1. To make the grid, dip the comb deep in the paint so that most of the length of its teeth are covered.
2. Drag the comb along the sides of the paper, adding more paint when needed, until you have completed the grid pattern.
3. Cut the potato in half and cut a design into one side. A heart shape is easier but if you're feeling adventurous you can try for a star.
4. Dip your potato printer in the paint and stamp the design in the centre of your grid.
5. Now just wait for the paint to dry and you're done!



Credit to Activity Village
[https://
www.activityvillage.co.uk/
adinkra-printing](https://www.activityvillage.co.uk/adinkra-printing)