

STUDENT STUDY GUIDE

AFRICAN AMERICAN CELEBRATION

DANCE • MUSIC • FOLKLORE

Explore the rhythms, stories and movement that shape pop culture.



GET READY TO MOVE!

This exciting live performance brings together high-energy traditional African dance and music with African American styles such as Hip Hop, Swing and the Charleston. Discover how African culture shaped the sounds, rhythms and moves of American pop culture - with audience participation too!

1

LISTEN

for rhythm and instruments

2

WATCH

for movement and meaning

3

JOIN IN

with energy and respect

DISCOVER THE ROOTS

Rhythm Travels Through Time

From community traditions to today's pop culture

AFRICAN CULTURAL ROOTS

- Dance connects storytelling, community and celebration.
- The djembe, kora and shekere create distinctive sounds and rhythms.
- Folktales pass lessons, honor ancestors and explain the natural world.

DID YOU KNOW? Call-and-response from West Africa lives on in gospel and Hip Hop.

TRADITION → INFLUENCE

Polyrhythmic drumming



Jazz, Funk, Hip Hop beats

Storytelling through dance



Breakdancing, Step Dance

Oral folklore



Spoken Word Poetry, Rap

Community celebrations



Block parties, parades

THINK & TALK

- 1 What rhythm or sound stood out to you?
- 2 Which movement did you recognize?
- 3 Why is it important to honor cultural traditions?

BUILD YOUR KNOWLEDGE

Words, Beats & Connections

Vocabulary and matching activity

VOCABULARY SPOTLIGHT

FOLKLORE

Stories, music and customs passed through generations.

RHYTHM

A pattern of sounds and beats in music or movement.

CALL-AND-RESPONSE

A leader shares a phrase and the group answers.

DIASPORA

The spread of African people and cultures around the world.

HERITAGE

Traditions, values and customs passed to the next generation.

MATCH THE CULTURE

Draw a line from each tradition to its influence in American pop culture.

Djembe Drum

Call-and-Response Singing

Traditional Folktales

Circle Dances

Body Percussion & Clapping

A. Breakdancing

B. Hip Hop Beats

C. Gospel & Rap Music

D. Spoken Word Poetry

E. Step Dancing

Reflect & Respond

Think about what you saw, heard and felt

1 What is one new thing you learned from the show?

2 Describe one dance move or rhythm you especially liked.

3 What instrument did you see or hear? Describe its sound.

4 How has African culture helped shape music and dance today?

CREATIVE CHALLENGE Add a small sketch or rhythm pattern beside one response!

Story & Rhythm Drama

Turn a folktale into a classroom performance

CLASS ACTIVITY

MATERIALS A short African folktale, percussion instruments or clapping hands.

- 1 Read a short African folktale as a class.
- 2 Assign roles: narrator, animals and natural elements.
- 3 Add rhythm: drum or clap on key phrases or emotional moments.
- 4 Perform for another class or record a classroom video.

VOCABULARY MINI-QUIZ

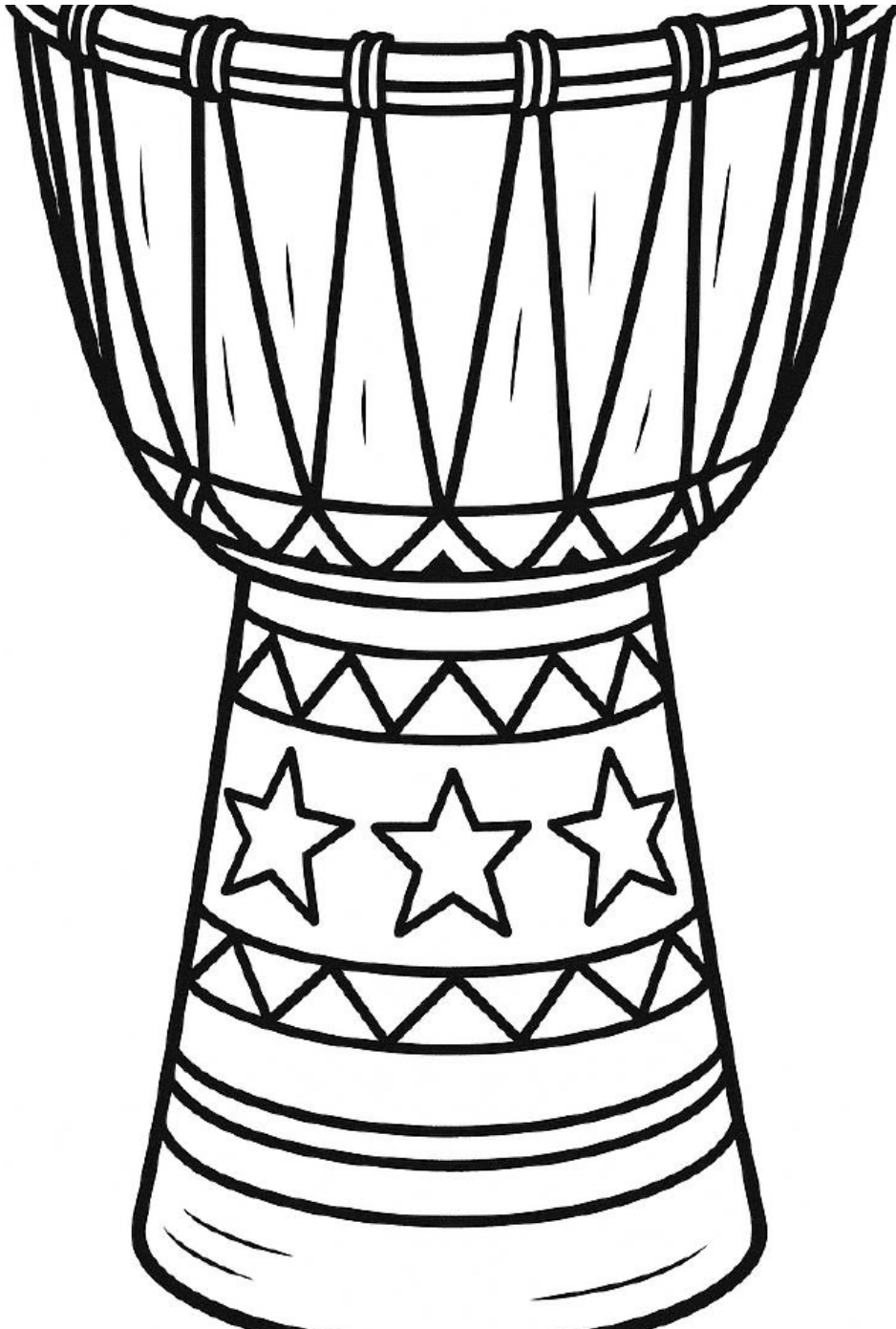
Fill in each blank with the best word from the word bank.

1. A _____ is a traditional story passed down through generations.
2. _____ is a pattern of sounds we hear or feel in music.
3. The _____ drum is an important West African instrument.
4. African dance often includes _____ and clapping.
5. _____ means the culture and history we inherit from ancestors.

WORD BANK: Folklore • Rhythm • Djembe • Body Percussion • Heritage

COLOR THE RHYTHM

Add bold colors and invent a repeating pattern for the drum.



ARTIST TIP: Try warm colors, cool colors, or a pattern of both!

CREATIVE CORNER

COLOR THE MOVEMENT

Use colors and patterns that show energy, joy and motion.



ARTIST TIP: Try warm colors, cool colors, or a pattern of both!

COLOR THE MUSIC

Imagine the sound: add colors that match the music's mood.



ARTIST TIP: Try warm colors, cool colors, or a pattern of both!