

Google Arts & Culture

Learn Anywhere: Kenya



In association with



LEXICON

Kenya's Communities, Musa Omusi

How to use this lesson plan

This plan takes you on an exciting journey with plenty of links through to amazing online content so no need to print. This lesson plan is suitable for anyone but we recommend it for ages 11 to 14. It's a lot of fun to go on this journey with parents, teachers or your friends, but it is designed so you can explore independently at your own pace. There are different types of questions to answer: can you discover, explore and invent? We think so.

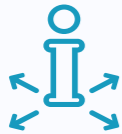
Check in with your parents or teacher if you need to, but you'll need a tablet, computer or smartphone. You can do this *Learn Anywhere* Lesson on almost any device as long as you can get online and use a web browser.

There are 2 Chapters:

Chapter 1 - Kenya Discovered 60 minutes

Chapter 2 - Extra Discovery 45 minutes

You'll see some helpful signs on the way:



Useful information to guide you through the lesson



Things you'll need to watch, read, learn and make things with during the lesson.



Digital activity time. Take quizzes and explore.



Estimated time to do a section of this lesson



Explore online content. Discover videos, stories, or go and look at and zoom around pictures.



Activity time. This is where you get to design, make or write something of your own.



Headphones to listen to videos and audio



Things you'll need

Things that will help you during this *Learn Anywhere* lesson.



Scrap Paper



Scissors



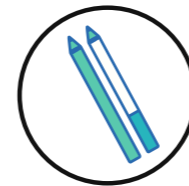
Brush and Paint



Notepad



Tablet or Computer



Pens and Pencils

Welcome to *Learn Anywhere: Kenya*

In this *Learn Anywhere* lesson, you are going to learn all about the country, communities, languages and culture of Kenya. Discover for yourself Kenyan superheroes and find out which one you would be. Hunt for facts and details about Kenya. Get ready to investigate...

What will you do?

1. Go on an adventure to discover the natural beauty and the cultures of Kenya.
2. Discover how the different cultures of Kenya are expressed through different objects and traditions, music and language.
3. Find out how Kenyan myths and legends have been transformed into superheroes.
4. Design your own superhero using digital apps, or paper and pencils/pens.
5. Learn some of the Swahili language.
6. Imagine a trip to Kenya and write about it.



Watch [watching the sunset at Lake Nakuru](#)

What will you learn?

1. What is the country of Kenya?
2. Facts about Kenyan natural landscapes and native animal species.
3. What communities and cultures make up modern-day Kenya?
4. What does it mean to be a Kenyan?
5. What shared culture do the Kenyan communities have?
6. Why is it important to think about shared culture and identity?

After studying this lesson, you will be able to:

1. Describe and identify the different features of Kenyan culture.
2. Understand the differences between the languages of Kenya.
3. Design a superhero and write about an imagined trip to Kenya.

Vocabulary: activist, Africa, community, country, culture, drums, enterprising, fossil, global, homo habilis, hardworking, human, identity, imagination, journey, Kanga, Kenya, landscape, legend, Masai Mara, masks, music, myth, nationality, powers, professor, rhino, superhero, Swahili, talent, tradition, Tsavo, vibrant, wildebeest, writer, zebra.

There's one more thing to know before you go on your lesson. Google Arts & Culture pictures are big. So big that you can zoom in. Explore. Sometimes right down to the individual bead.

So you just need to click on a link, then on the Magnifying Glass symbol and zoom in with the Zoom Slider. Drag the white box around and you can explore the picture. You'll find out for yourself. Here's an example of a Google Arts & Culture picture and the zoom slider.

The image is a composite illustrating the zooming process on Google Arts & Culture. It features three main components:

- Top Left:** A screenshot of the Google Arts & Culture interface showing a painting. A magnifying glass icon is highlighted in the bottom right corner. A dashed line connects this icon to the zoom slider.
- Top Right:** A vertical zoom slider interface. It shows a small white box on a dark background representing the painting. Below the box is a slider with minus and plus signs. A hand icon is shown interacting with the slider. A text box next to it reads: "2. Use the slider to zoom in. The white box can be dragged to different parts of the picture."
- Bottom Center:** A large, detailed view of the painting "The Harvesters" by Pieter Bruegel the Elder. A dashed line connects the zoomed-in area from the slider to this detailed view. A text box next to it reads: "3. Explore art works in detail. Find hidden stories."
- Bottom Left:** A text box with the instruction: "1. Click on the magnifying glass".



GibsPhotography, A Kanga, with Kenya in red, National Museums of Kenya

Chapter 1



What's this chapter about?
Kenya Discovered



What will I do?
Explore the history of Kenya
Discover Kenyan landscapes
Learn about Kenyan culture
Discover which Kenyan superhero you'd be
Create your own superhero



How long will this chapter take?
60 minutes



Kenya - from the cradle of mankind to superheroes.

Kenya, or more properly the Republic of Kenya, is a country in East Africa.

It's big - in the top 50 largest countries in the world and nearly 50 million people call it home.

And like most countries, these people come from many different cultures and different communities. In Kenya, there are 44 recognised communities, all different, but all Kenyan.

We'll be exploring that later on.

East Africa is often referred to as the cradle of mankind. We know from fossils found here that East Africa is one of the earliest regions where humans lived. We can see evidence of long distance trade and tool-making from these early human lives. And Kenya is home to many superheroes. We'll find out about them later and you get to pick which one you'd like to be...

Kenya is a country rich in different cultures, languages, and traditions. It is also very beautiful. Let's start by exploring the landscapes of Kenya.



Click [here](#) to Kenya's National Parks in 360 views. You can move around in each picture. Take notes, there's a quiz afterwards



Mini Quiz

This is part of your quest to be a Kenyan superhero.

Question 1: How many wildebeest does the Masai Mara have?

Question 2: How many Northern white rhinos are left in the whole world?

Question 3: What is the special thing about Tsavo East National Park?

Question 4: What species does the skull found in Sibiloi National Park belong to?

Question 5: How tall is Mount Kenya?

Bonus question - is Mount Kenya the tallest mountain in Africa?

Answers at the end - no peeking.

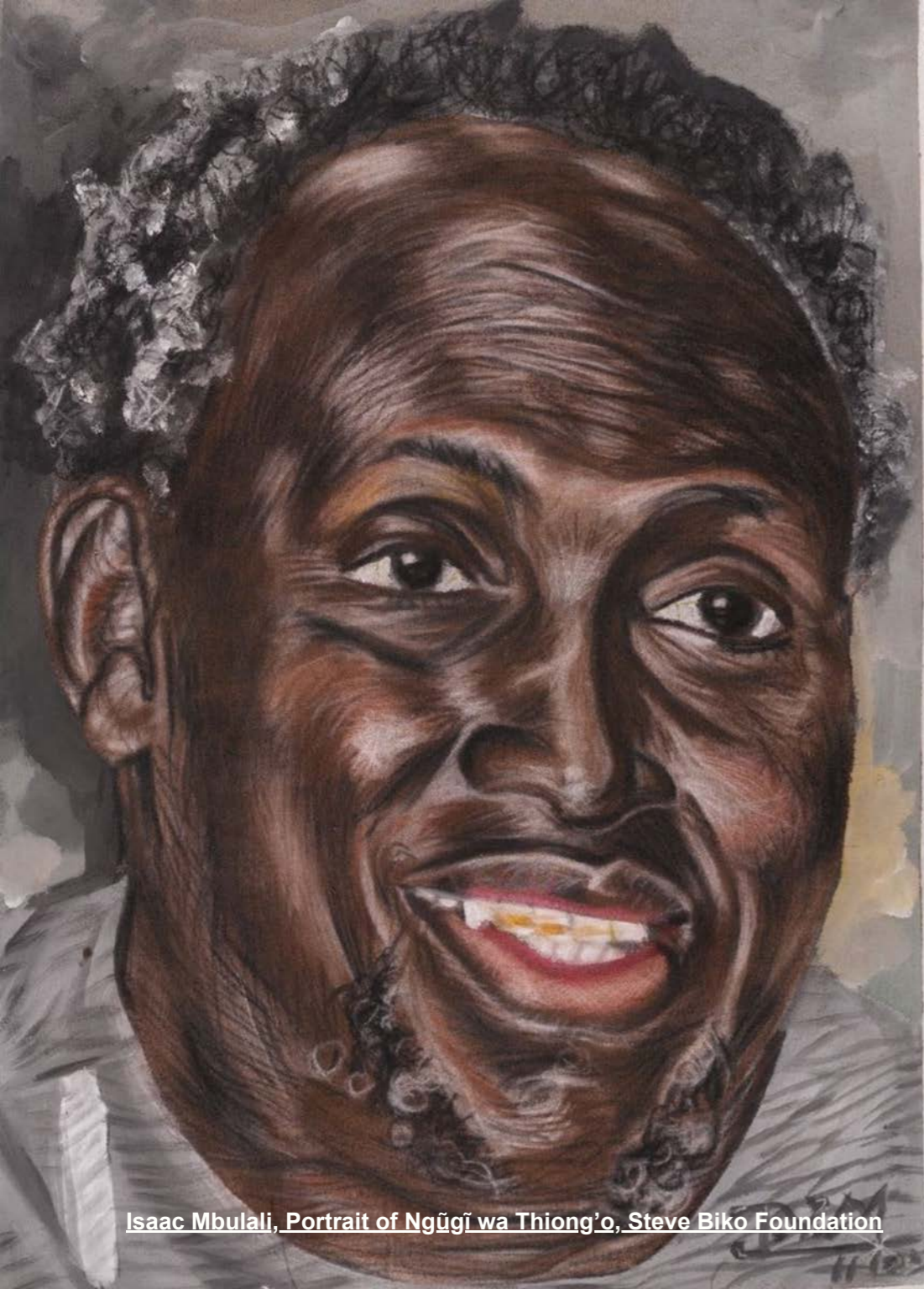


Click [here](#) to explore Kenya's beautiful UNESCO World Heritage Sites.



Now let's look closer at what it means to be "a Kenyan". Kenya has 44 recognised communities with different traditions. Click [here](#) to explore 10 objects which bring them together - from drums to masks to headdresses to aprons to beads.





Isaac Mbulali, Portrait of Ngũgĩ wa Thiong'o, Steve Biko Foundation

We've looked at how different cultures and communities make up the modern country of Kenya. And we'll explore later some of the many languages that are spoken in Kenya.

But what does it mean to be "a Kenyan"?

Ngũgĩ wa Thiong'o, born in January 1938, is a Kenyan writer, professor, and activist. He describes Kenyan people like this:

"Beautiful. Talented. Hardworking. Enterprising. The country is a vibrant space of the different cultural streams of African, Asian, and European origins. Its landscape and history have become part of the global imagination."

And his approach to his identity like this:

"I am Gĩkũyũ, meaning I share a certain history with all who call themselves Gĩkũyũ, but I am also Kenyan, meaning I share a geographic and historical space with all other Kenyans. I am African. I am black. I'm a citizen of the world."

As you can see, his identity has many layers.



Click [here](#) to explore more about Kenya identity and history.



What about you - what nationality are you? Can you describe your identity, following how Ngũgĩ wa Thiong'o did it?

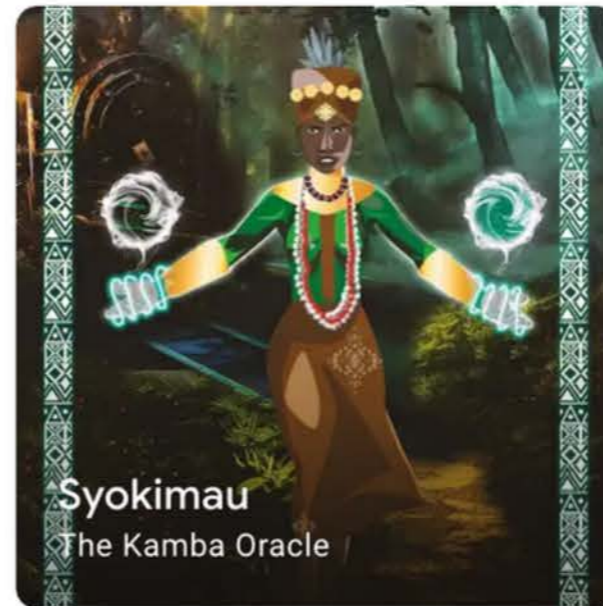
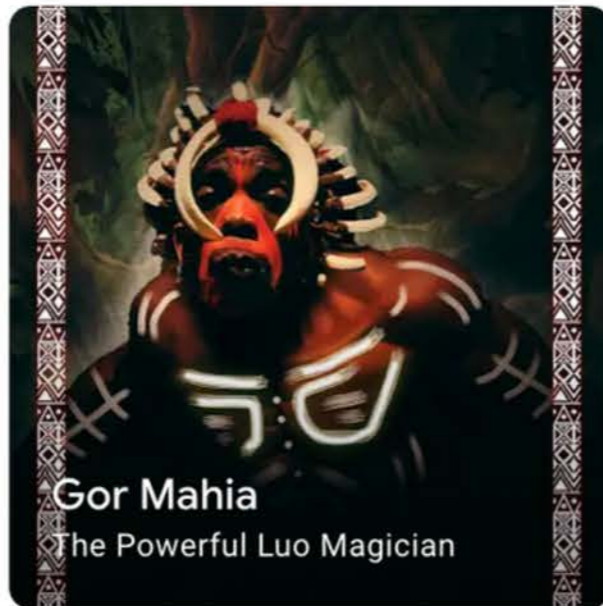
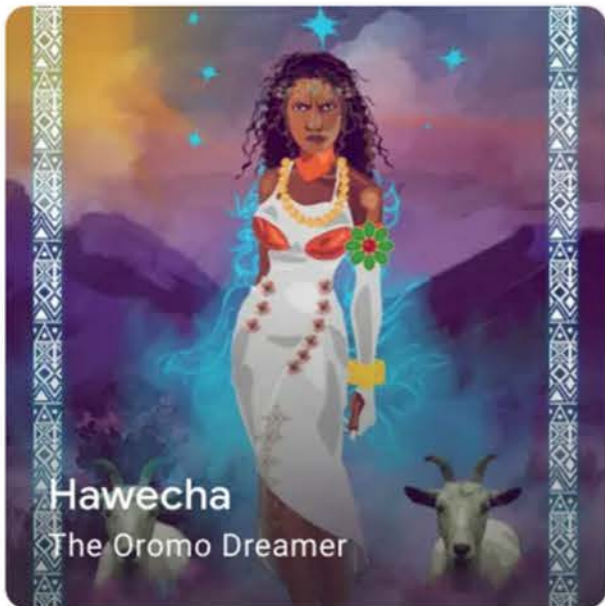
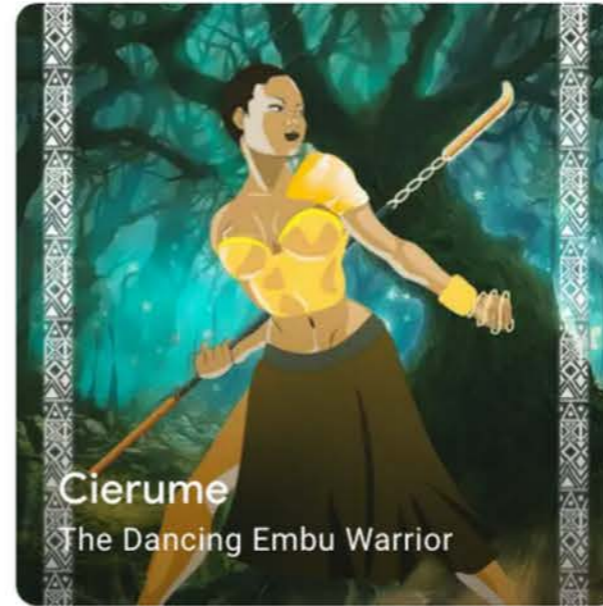
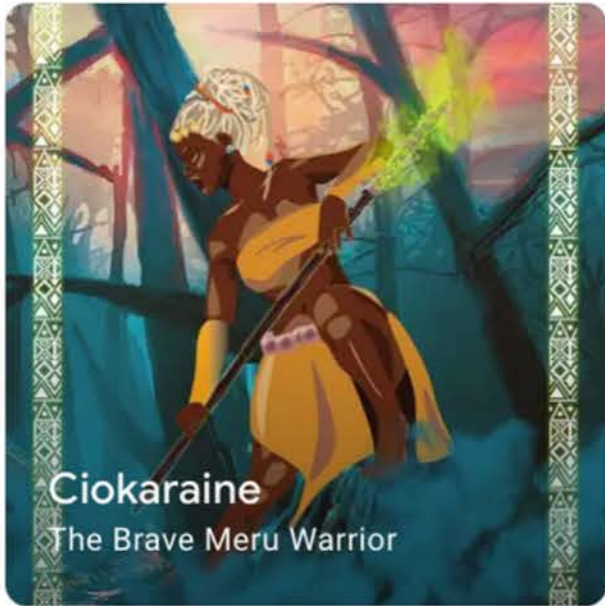


Superhero time. Myths and legends also bring people and communities together and Kenya has some amazing superheroes. Here we find about 21 "Shujaa" heroes. Shujaa is a Swahili word meaning "brave". And these heroes certainly are. Take your time to read their stories as you will be tested afterwards. Click [here](#).





Did you learn all about the 21 Shujaa superheroes? Now it's your turn. Click [here](#) to find out which superhero you would be.



Questions for Chapter 1

Let's finish this chapter with some questions. When you **Discover**, you are comprehending and remembering. When you **Explore**, you are really able to understand it and think it through. When you **Invent**, you are able to comprehend, understand, remember, analyse and do something cool with your new knowledge.

Discover:

What is the "siwa"?

Explore:

Why is it important to think about how our own identity is formed by our nationality, upbringing, community, education, etc?

Invent:

Create your own superhero - what powers would you have and what would you do with them? You can create a picture or write a short description.



[Petrified Forest, Sibiloi National Park, National Museums of Kenya](#)



Chapter 2



What's this chapter about?
Extra Discovery



What will I do?
Discover the art and music of Kenya
Explore the languages of Kenya
Learn some Swahili



How long will this chapter take?
45 minutes



Let's look at what's happening today in Kenyan culture. Muthoni Drummer Queen is an inspirational musician in Kenya, fusing many different styles to create powerful music exploring her experiences growing up in Nairobi. Her message is to "Dream big and go get it!" Click [here](#) to find out more.





Now we'll go on a musical journey through Kenya. Click [here](#) to watch the video. You'll hear the drums all the way through - the instrument at the heart of the many different communities and traditions of Kenya.





Language is an essential part of culture, community and tradition and many different languages are spoken in Kenya. Click [here](#) to learn more about some of these and then we'll learn some Swahili.





The Swahili language is widely spoken in Kenya and other countries in Africa. You can learn some inspirational sayings in Swahili to impress your friends and parents. Click [here](#) to learn some of these sayings.



SUBIRA INA MALIPO

Questions for Chapter 2

Time for some questions. Here's a reminder of how it works. When you **Discover**, you are comprehending and remembering. When you **Explore**, you are really able to understand it and think it through. When you **Invent**, you are able to comprehend, understand, remember, analyse and do something cool with your new knowledge.

Discover:

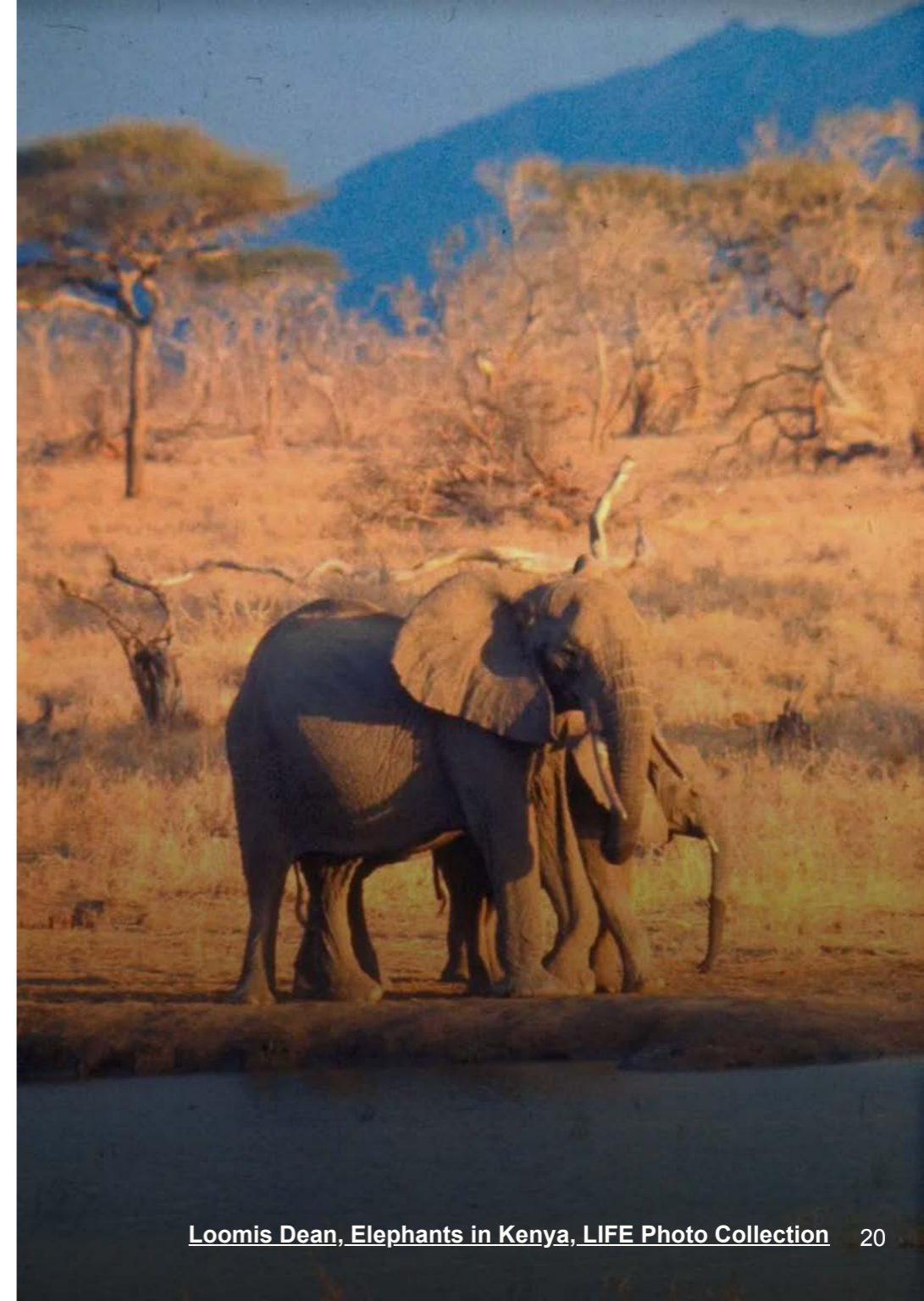
Which musical styles does the Drummer Queen fuse?

Explore:

Think about your favourite Swahili saying - why did you choose that one?

Invent:

Imagine a trip to Kenya. Write 100-200 words about the experience and what you'd like to see.



Congratulations. You have proven yourself an inventive student of Kenya and its culture

Continue your journey [here](#)

“If I can help one person, and that person can help another person, then it becomes a change.”

-Kakenya Ntaiya
Kenya

Answers to all the questions

Chapter 1

Mini Quiz

Question 1: How many wildebeest does the Masai Mara have?

Answer: Over 1.5 million.

Question 2: How many Northern white rhinos are left in the whole world?

Answer: Two.

Question 3: What is the special thing about Tsavo East National Park?

Answer: It has the longest lava flow in the world.

Question 4: What species does the skull found in Sibiloi National Park belong to?

Answer: Homo habilis - extra mark for knowing that homo habilis is one of the ancestor species of modern day humans.

Question 5: How tall is Mount Kenya?

Answer: 5,199 metres.

Bonus question - is Mount Kenya the tallest mountain in Africa?

Answer: No, that is Mount Kilimanjaro in Tanzania.

Activity:

Question: What about you - what nationality are you? Can you describe your identity, following how Ngũgĩ wa Thiong'o did it?

Answers may vary but should adopt the layered approach outlined in the lesson plan.

Answers to all the questions

Chapter 1

Discover: What is the "siwa"?

Answer: A side-blown horn used for ceremonial purposes by the Swahili.

Explore: Why is it important to think about how our own identity is formed by our nationality, upbringing, community, education, etc?

Answers may vary but should include reference to a shared sense of history and culture and how we fit into that.

Invent: Create your own superhero - what powers would you have and what would you do with them? You can create a picture or write a short description.

Answers can include any description of what powers and why.

Chapter 2

Discover: Which music styles does the Drummer Queen fuse?

Answer: any of African drums, hip hop, reggae, dancehall, neo-soul, blues.

Explore: Think about your favourite Swahili saying - why did you choose that one?

Answers may vary but should describe some sort of personal response.

Invent: Imagine a trip to Kenya. Write 100-200 words about the experience and what you'd like to see.

Answer may vary but should be descriptive and highlight some of the cultures learned about in the lesson plan.