

HOME Story Time Discussion | December 2020

Lynden Sculpture Garden

HOME program: www.home-at-lynden.org

Recordings and downloads: www.lydensculpturegarden.org/calendar/home-story-time

Book, English & French: The Lord of the Dance: An African Retelling/Le Seigneur de la Danse by Véronique Tadjó

HOME Story Time Readers: Liliane McFarlane & Clay Prather

Art activity by Lynden art educator: Claudia Orjuela

Introduction

The book starts off with an African mask that danced with the moon, the stars, and the sun. The mask danced together with other African men and women who danced to sacred drums and rhythmic songs to celebrate and mourn. But over time, the town turned into a city made of concrete and steel, and many of these traditions have gotten lost in the modern world. Lord of the Dance invites people feeling lost or sad to remember their culture and traditions.

Enduring understandings:

1. Each of us learns a set of behaviors, beliefs, and customs from our families – and we share those with others in our communities.
2. Because of our differences, we are able to learn from each other. Differences make the world a special and interesting place.
3. When we learn about unfamiliar images or symbols of cultures and communities that are not our own, we learn new ways of seeing and living in the world.

Activity 1: Let's Share & Reflect Questions for further discussion.

1. Looking at the maps in the following page, let's find the place of origin of the Senufo mask tradition. First, can you find the African continent in the first map? Next, can you find the country Ivory Coast in the African continent? Hint: it is located in West Africa, near the sea, and the country's name might be written differently and in another language.
2. Why is the Lord of Dance wearing a mask? Does the mask have special powers? If you wore the mask, what special powers will you get?
3. Who makes the mask? What name can we use to call them? An artist, a sculptor? What materials are masks made out of? What patterns are used on the mask?

4. What is the favorite musical instrument of the Lord of the dance? When the book says “tom-tom-tom-tom-tom” what musical instrument is that sound coming from? What is your favorite musical instrument? Why is it your favorite?
5. Is dancing important for the Senufo people? Why is dancing important for the Senufo people? For what occasions do you dance? What kind of music do you like to dance to?
6. Someone’s culture has to do with the way they speak, dress, celebrate, play, and live. Let’s think aloud, name five things that make you special. These things can be related to the place you live in, your family members, the language you speak, your family’s celebrations, music you listen and dance to.

Where is the African continent? Refer to question 1.

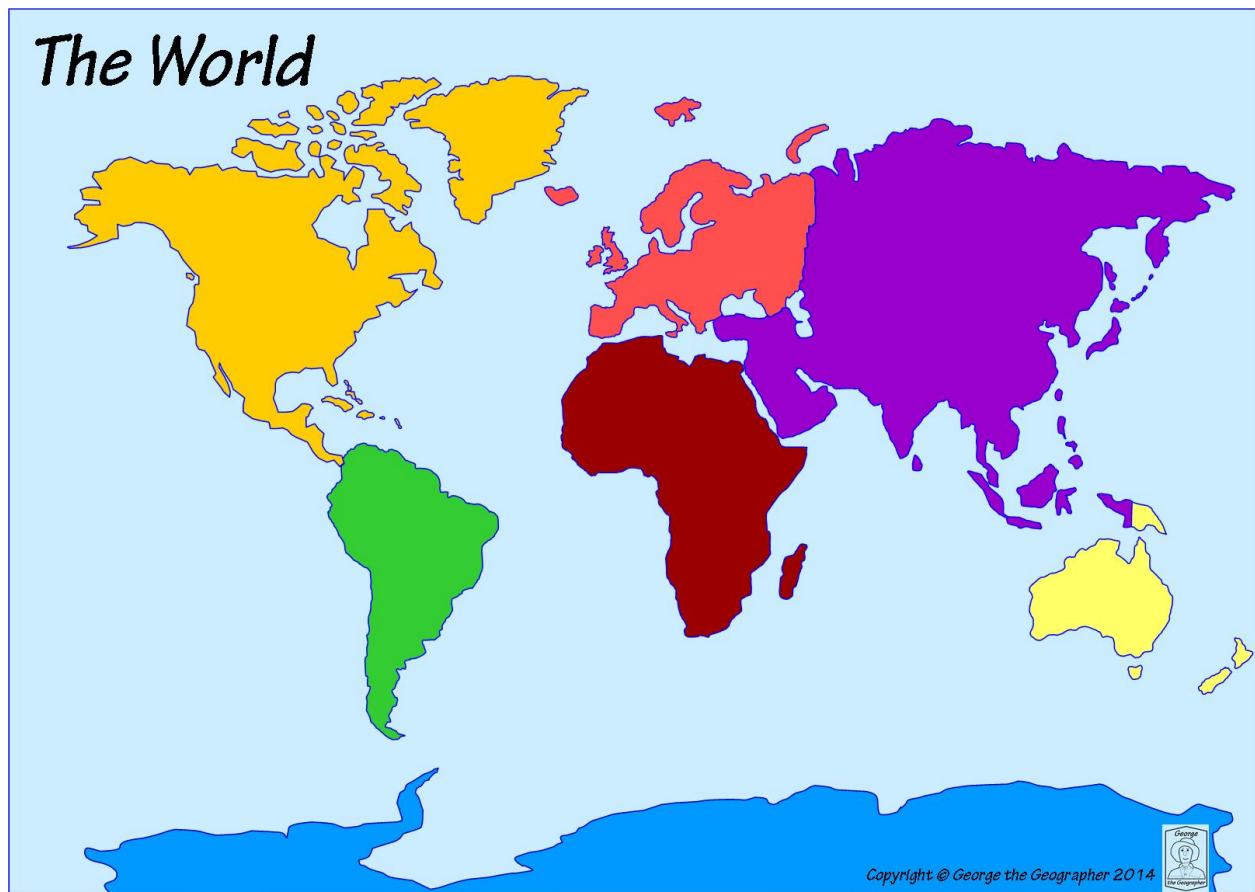


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