

Early African History Resources for Elementary Teachers

Elementary Print:

- Aardema, Verna. *Why Mosquitoes Buzz in People's Ears*. Illus. Leo Dillon. New York: Dial Books, 1984. Have you ever wondered why mosquitos make that bothersome buzzing sound? This West African folktale answers that question through its humorous telling of the origin of the mosquitos' buzz.
- Asante, Dr. Molefi Kete. *Classical Africa*. New York: People's Publishing Group, 1994. Drawing on oral as well as written histories, this important text describes the many diverse cultures, languages, and societies of an Africa never before explored from an African-centered perspective.
- Cornell, Christine. *The Dogon of West Africa (Celebrating the Peoples and Civilizations of Africa)*. New York: Powerkids Press, 1997. Describes the history and customs of the Dogon, who live in Mali and Burkina Faso.
- _____. *The Zulu of Southern Africa (Celebrating the Peoples and Civilizations of Africa)*. New York: Powerkids Press, 1997. Describes the history and customs of the Zulu people of South Africa.
- Haskins, James and Kathleen Bensen. *African Beginnings*. New York: People's Publishing, 1998. The authors focus on early civilizations such as the Kush which have had a lasting impact on the world's history.
- Hetfield, Jamie. *The Asante of West Africa (Celebrating the Peoples and Civilizations of Africa)*. New York: Powerkids Press, 1997. Briefly describes the beliefs, traditions, food, clothes, and gold jewelry of the Ashante of Ghana.
- _____. *The Yoruba of West Africa (Celebrating the Peoples and Civilizations of Africa)*. New York: Powerkids Press, 1997. Briefly describes the history and customs of the Yoruba in West Africa.
- Hetfield, Jamie and Marianne Johnston. *The Maasai of East Africa (Celebrating the Peoples and Civilizations of Africa)*. New York: Powerkids Press, 1997. Describes the customs, traditions, food, clothes, and homes of the Maasai people, who live in the grasslands of eastern Africa.
- Kroll, Virginia. *Africa: Brothers and Sisters*. New York: Fourwinds Press, 1993. From Ashanti weavers to the beautiful turbaned women of the Wolof, Jesse and his father celebrate more than twenty different African peoples as they honor their connections to the continent's rich cultural traditions.
- Peffer-Engels, John. *The Benin Kingdom of West Africa (Celebrating the Peoples and Civilizations of Africa)*. New York: Powerkids Press, 1997. Describes the history and customs of the Edo of Benin who live in the rain forest of Nigeria and are known for their ivory and brass art.

- Stanley, Diane and Peter Vennema. *Shaka, The King of the Zulus*. New York: William Morrow, 1988. Stanley presents the life story of Shaka, a Zulu military genius who became king of his people in the 18th century.

Elementary Media:

- *Africa: A History Denied*. 48 minute video. Richmond, VA: Time Life, 1995. The video by Joel Westbrook presents a view of the ruins of the southern African Kingdom of Great Zimbabwe, explaining its past civilizations.
- *The Land of Kush*. Five day study unit. New York: In-Step Productions, 1991. The five sections on Kush civilization focus on its culture and lasting legacy.
- *The People Could Fly*. 78 minute cassette recording. New York: Knopf, 1987. Based on a folktale of the same name, it tells the story of how long ago some Africans knew how to tap the spiritual part of themselves and direct their minds and bodies to do whatever they wished.