



West African Drumming Supplementary Resources for Elementary Classroom Teachers:

Before drumming instruction:

Introduction:

- Video Clip introduction:
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=q5U8md4rZS8&list=PL942A4CCE0BE967BD&index=1>
- Identify Africa on the map, point out the West African countries.

Other activities for sometime before or after drumming instruction:

Language Arts:

- Read Hand, Hand, Fingers, Thumb by Al Perkins.
 - Watch an animated version (0:56) of the book here:
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0JkJCPZA62s&list=PLL6xH_mNCLAx83h0mnnEbbsuK9qOCWXC&index=7 It's quick- if the students are very familiar with the text, they may be able to follow along.
 - Use it how you'd like, or discuss comparisons of the book vs. animation.
 - Another option: Read/watch the book before the experience, and then again after the experience. Did your thoughts change after the experience? Did the monkeys do anything like we did? Did they do anything differently than we did?
 - Practice with repeated readings for fluency. A printout of the words is on the final page.
- Share the book To Be A Drum by Evelyn Coleman. Or, watch this quality version of James Earl Jones reading it. <http://www.storylineonline.net/to-be-a-drum/>
 - This book is set in Africa, and explains that the rhythm tells a story, and that rhythm is the pulse that has moved through the African people and through time and place.
 - A copy of the discussion questions/extension activities can be found here: http://www.storylineonline.net/activityguides/storyline_drum.pdf .

Integration stems:

LA/Communication- African drumming tells a story. We can identify narrative story elements.
Math- Patterns, precision, counting
Culture- Background information on West Africa, how drumming is an integral part of the culture, how African drumming/movement is the origin of much of our popular music/dance today.
And more!

- Comprehension Passages for 3rd & 4th grade:
 - ReadWorks Djembe passage/questions (3rd grade level)
<http://www.readworks.org/passages/musical-instruments-djembe>
 - ReadWorks West Africa passage (4th grade level)
<http://www.readworks.org/passages/west-africa-introduction-west-africa>

Social Studies/ Math/ Movement

- Relating times on a clock to African dance movement:
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IIPEVHGjdP4&feature=share> This clip is fabulous example of arts integration and would be appropriate for all of our grades!!
 - Students follow the movements of the leader in this 9 minute video. It could be done in two parts if the students get tired. 😊 There is a live djembe player in this clip as well.
 - Disclaimer: There are some traditional movements that involve shimmying and some hip action. Depending on your class, you may need to have a conversation about this being the origin of these dance moves that we see in pop culture. Although they may seem uncomfortable moving this way, in African culture the human body is celebrated through that movement. (They don't think of it as suggestive.)
- If your class liked that video clip, here's another shorter, but more challenging, one. It teaches the students a traditional W. African dance.
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=y3W-YloW8Bw>
- This link contains an interactive picture for grades 3 & 4, possibly 2nd as well. In 3rd and 4th it could be an independent web link for the students to explore.
<http://www.thinking.com/scene/392895235694264322>

What resources would you add to the list? There are so many incredible connections between content areas and West African drumming. Comment below- I'd love to read your ideas!

Hand Hand Fingers Thumb

By Al Perkins

Hand Hand Fingers Thumb

One thumb One thumb Drumming on a drum.

One hand Two hands Drumming on a drum.

Dum ditty Dum ditty Dum dum dum.

Rings on fingers.

Rings on thumb. Drum drum Drum drum Drum drum drum.

Monkeys drum...

...and monkeys hum. Hum drum Hum drum Hum drum hum.

Hand picks an apple.

Hand picks a plum. Dum ditty Dum ditty Dum dum dum.

Monkeys come And monkeys go.

Hands with handkerchiefs. Blow! Blow! Blow!

"Hello Jack." "Hello Jake."

Shake hands Shake hands Shake! Shake! Shake!

"Bye-bye Jake."

"Bye-bye Jack." Dum ditty Dum ditty Whack! Whack! Whack!

Hands play banjos Strum strum strum.

Hands play fiddles Zum zum zum.

Dum ditty Dum ditty Dum dum dum,

Hand in hand More monkeys come.

Many more fingers. Many more thumb. Many more monkeys. Many more drums.

Millions of fingers! Millions of thumbs! Millions of monkeys Drumming on drums!

Dum ditty Dum ditty Dum dum dum.

