



A Lesson on Kenya by Ashley Cyrus

Grade Level: Grade 7

Subject Area: English Language Arts

Lesson Length: 1 hour

Lesson Keywords: Reading, Writing, Vocabulary

Lesson Description: The goal of this lesson is to practice and improve on there reading and writing skills while reading about the history and culture of Kenya.

Common Core Standards Covered with This Lesson

CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RL.7.1: Cite several pieces of textual evidence to support analysis of what the text says explicitly as well as inferences drawn from the text.

CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RL.7.9: Compare and contrast a fictional portrayal of a time, place, or character and a historical account of the same period as a means of understanding how authors of fiction use or alter history.

CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RI.7.3: Analyze the interactions between individuals, events, and ideas in a text (e.g., how ideas influence individuals or events, or how individuals influence ideas or events).

CCSS.ELA-Literacy.W.7.1b: Support claim(s) with logical reasoning and relevant evidence, using accurate, credible sources and demonstrating an understanding of the topic or text.

CCSS.ELA-Literacy.W.7.2: Write informative/explanatory texts to examine a topic and convey ideas, concepts, and information through the selection, organization, and analysis of relevant content.

CCSS.ELA-Literacy.L.7.4: Determine or clarify the meaning of unknown and multiple-meaning words and phrases based on grade 7 reading and content, choosing flexibly from a range of strategies.

CCSS.ELA-Literacy.L.7.4d: Verify the preliminary determination of the meaning of a word or phrase (e.g., by checking the inferred meaning in context or in a dictionary).

Lesson Content: Book/Story/Reading Passage

Instructions: Please read the following reading passage as many times as needed (aloud and silent) before starting to go through other lesson pages. Understanding the content of this passage is very important since the lesson activities will be all about this content. Feel free to print the passage if needed.

Kenya

by

Content: The Republic of Kenya is a country in East Africa. Ethiopia borders Kenya to the north. Kenya is bordered by Somalia to the northeast, Tanzania to the south, Uganda to the west. On the Southeast is the Indian Ocean.

Mount Kenya is the highest point in this country. It is a wonderful place to see a great country. It really is the second highest mountain peak in Africa. Kenyans have much to be proud of, including a history of great cultures. This area was a trading center. And it still is a nature center. There are many acres of wildlife habitat where you can see native animals of Africa, especially lions, leopards, and elephants.

Part of their history was a time of problems. At some times, other countries attacked to take over the country. There was much fighting. Kenya was made a British colony. That meant that Kenyans did not rule their own land.

The native people of Kenya believed in independence. They did not want to be a colony. It took years, but they got their land back. Kenya became independent in 1963, and the Kenyan people declared not only their independence but formed a country. They took the name Kenya as the name of their country.

Kenya has a long history, and people lived there for thousands of years before the British took over. If you go to a museum in Kenya, you will see objects that people made hundreds of years ago. You will see that there were great leaders in the past. You will find that there are several different cultures within this one country.

Today Kenyas economy relies on tourism and agriculture. The country exports many food products. Kenya has some of the most beautiful game parks and national parks on the continent. People come to see the animals living as they have lived for centuries.

There are different groups of people in Kenya. It was not one country before it became a colony. Different groups lived in different places and had their own languages and ways of living. After independence, they joined together in one country, but they still have differences.

The Kikuyu are one group in Kenya. They have lived there for centuries. When the area became a colony, one of the Kikuyu leaders helped bring about progress. That leader was named Jomo Kenyatta. He would become the first president of Kenya. Another Kikuyu has been a world leader. She is Wangari Maathai. She won the Nobel Peace Prize for her accomplishments to help people work together for progress.

There are other culture groups within Kenya. While they are from the same region they have different histories. Each has its own traditions. Traditions should be respected. While most people in Kenya speak and write in English because of the colonial years, each culture has its own language and history. There still are problems having a united country.

In 2008, all the people of Kenya joined together in pride. That was the year that the son of a Kenyan was elected the President of the United States. Barack Obamas family includes people living in Kenya today as well as in the United States. We now have a very special connection to this great African country.

Task 1: Vocabulary

Instructions: Please complete the following vocabulary activity by choosing the correct meaning of each word selected from the passage and use of each word correctly in a sentence.

Q: 1 WordPhrase: Native **WordPhraseTier:** 2

Question: The author in our story says "There are many acres of wildlife habitat where you can see native animals of Africa, especially lions, leopards, and elephants." What does the word "native" mean in the sentence?

A: place of origin to a particular region

B: natural

C: original source

D: closely related

Question: Which one of the sentences below uses the word "native" correctly?

A: The plant was natively grown because the farmer used soil and water from that region.

B: The animal was native to Florida because they migrated there.

C: I am a native to Florida since I have lived there my whole life.

D: I am a native to Russia since my cousin's husband is from there.

Q: 2 WordPhrase: colony **WordPhraseTier:** 3

Question: In our story the author says "There was much fighting. Kenya was made a British colony." What does the word colony mean in the sentence?

A: A population within a species

B: people with common interest

C: a territory that has a parent country

D: isolated people

Question: Which sentence uses the word "colony" correctly?

A: We saw a colony of turkeys in the yard.

B: The colony of snakes were not allowed to be with any other animal at the zoo.

C: There were a colony of termites in the house.

D: Before the Revolution, the United States was a British colony.

Q: 3 WordPhrase: Nature center **WordPhraseTier:** 3

Question: The author states "It really is the second highest mountain peak in Africa. Kenyans have much to be proud of, including a history of great cultures. This area was a trading center. And it still is a nature center." In the sentence what does the word "nature center" mean?

A: organization

B: zoo

C: area for wildlife and plants

D: building

Question: Which sentence uses "nature center" correctly?

A: There was a nature center that met every Saturday to talk about the earth.

B: There was a nature center that promoted green living.

C: The Everglades still remain a nature center with wildlife and plants native to Florida.

D: There was a nature center that was open to the public and had animals from all over.

Q: 4 WordPhrase: economy **WordPhraseTier:** 2

Question: The author states "Today Kenya's economy relies on tourism and agriculture." In the sentence what does "economy" mean?

A: saving money

B: organization

C: consumption of money

D: management

Question: Which sentence uses "economy" correctly?

A: The man had organized all her expenses giving him a good economy.

B: The bank had a bad economy because they lost their money.

C: The lady thought she had good economy because she saved her money.

D: Florida's economy is boosted by tourism because of Disney World.

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Task 2: Forum Discussion

Instructions: This discussion forum will have questions for students to respond. Read the posted questions, and respond to each. Students are responsible for posting one initial and two peer responses for each topic.

1 - After Kenya gained independence

After Kenya gained independence from Britain, were they more unified? If so give textual evidence to support your answer.

2 - Cultures in Kenya

Why does Kenya have diverse culture?

3 - Kenya's Economy

What are the types of ways that Kenya earns money?

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Task 3: Writing Activity

Instructions: For the writing assignment compare and contrast Kenya and the United States, we were both once a colony of Britian. Make sure to comment on at least the culture and econmy of both contries. 250 word minimum.

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