



A Lesson on Kenya by Avelina Von dran

Grade Level: Grade 7

Subject Area: English Language Arts

Lesson Length: 2 hours

Lesson Keywords: Kenya, culture, multicultural, writing, reading, skills

Lesson Description: The goal of this lesson is to use students' reading and writing skills to learn about a culture outside of the United States, in this case, Kenya. By carefully reading and using higher thinking skills to answer questions and write down their ideas, students will be able to get a glimpse into another culture. Students will be able to use their skills and learn about Kenya's culture and teachers will be able to incorporate multi-cultural education into their lesson plan.

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.7.4: Determine the meaning of words and phrases as they are used in a text, including figurative and connotative meanings; analyze the impact of rhymes and other repetitions of sounds (e.g., alliteration) on a specific verse or stanza of a poem or section of a story or drama.

CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RL.7.10: By the end of the year, read and comprehend literature, including stories, dramas, and poems, in the grades 6-8 text complexity band proficiently, with scaffolding as needed at the high end of the range.

CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RI.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.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.7.1: Write arguments to support claims with clear reasons and relevant evidence.

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.

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: colony **WordPhraseTier:** 3

Question: The author says in the story, "Kenya was made a British colony." What does the word colony mean in this sentence?

- A:** An independent country
- B:** A country fully or partial under the control of another country
- C:** An ally country
- D:** A newly created country

Question: Which one of the sentences uses the word colony correctly?

- A:** India was a colony of Great Britain in the 1700's.
- B:** The colony of seal went out to find food.
- C:** The ant colony works together in order to provide for the queen ant.
- D:** The penal colony only consisted of prisoners. .

Q: 2 WordPhrase: pride **WordPhraseTier:** 2

Question: The author states, "In 2008, all the people of Kenya joined together in pride." What does the word pride mean in this sentence?

- A:** The feeling of deep satisfaction from one's achievements.
- B:** To be proud of a skill.
- C:** A shared expression of confidence by members of a group.
- D:** To have a excessively high opinion of oneself.

Question: Which one of the sentences uses the word pride correctly?

- A:** The lawyer had a lot of pride for her work.
- B:** The LGBTQ community came together in pride.
- C:** Arrogant people have too much pride.
- D:** She held pride in her guitar playing skills.

Q: 3 WordPhrase: Republic **WordPhraseTier:** 3

Question: The author states in the story, "The Republic of Kenya is a country in East Africa." What does the word republic mean in the sentence?

- A:** The people hold the power in a country.
- B:** The country is ruled by a monarch.
- C:** The country is ruled by another country.
- D:** A country where the citizens cannot vote.

Question: Which one of the sentences uses the word republic correctly?

- A:** The United States is a federal republic.
- B:** King Henry VIII ruled England from 1509, which means England was a republic.
- C:** Saudi Arabia is a republic because it is ruled by a king.
- D:** When Britain had control of India, it was a republic.

Q: 4 WordPhrase: Independence **WordPhraseTier:** 2

Question: The author states, "Kenya became independent in 1963, and the Kenyan people declared not only their independence but formed a colony." What does the author mean by independent?

- A:** A country which is self-governing.
- B:** A person who does not rely on someone.
- C:** The ability to be able to support yourself on your own.
- D:** A country ruled by another country.

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

- A:** The student was independent because she paid all her bills and school tuition.
- B:** The Philippines became independent in 1898 and was no longer ruled by Spain.
- C:** "I wish I could be as independent as you are" said the woman to her friend.
- D:** When Kenya was ruled by Britain, it was independent.

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 - Why does the author state "traditions should be respected?"

The author states, 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. Why do you think it is important to respect others traditions?

2 - Why does Kenya rely on tourism and agriculture?

Using the information found in the text, explain why Kenya's economy relies on tourism and agriculture.?

3 - What makes groups in Kenya different from each other?

The author states, There are different groups of people in Kenya. How can groups of people be different in the same country? Use evidence found in the text to support your answer.?

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Task 3: Writing Activity

Instructions: Write a 500 word essay on why you think it is important for a country to be independent. For example, using evidence from the text, explain why Kenya thought it was important?to gain indepdence from Britain.

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