
A Brief Lesson on Kenyan History

by Victoria Casal-data

Grade Level: Grade 7

Subject Area: English Language Arts

Lesson Length: 2 hours

Lesson Keywords: Kenya, Multiculture, World History, Africa

Lesson Description: The goal of this lesson is to give students the opportunity to learn about Africa's Kenya. By reading and rereading the passage closely, and focusing their reading through a series of questions and discussion about the text, students will identify the differences between Kenyan history and U.S history and hopefully try to emphasize with Kenyans and their way of living. Through this quick but valuable lesson, students should gain a better understand of a culture and history different than theirs.

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.7.9: 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.7.2: Determine two or more central ideas in a text and analyze their development over the course of the text; provide an objective summary of the text.

CCSS.ELA-Literacy.W.7.2a: Introduce a topic clearly, previewing what is to follow; organize ideas, concepts, and information, using strategies such as definition, classification, comparison/contrast, and cause/effect; include formatting (e.g., headings), graphics (e.g., charts, tables), and multimedia when useful to aiding comprehension.

CCSS.ELA-Literacy.W.7.3e: Provide a conclusion that follows from and reflects on the narrated experiences or events.

CCSS.ELA-Literacy.SL.7.4: Present claims and findings, emphasizing salient points in a focused, coherent manner with pertinent descriptions, facts, details, and examples; use appropriate eye contact, adequate volume, and clear pronunciation.

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: In the excerpt, "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?

- A: Describing a grey object
- B: Belonging to a specific place
- C: A delicate object or being
- D: A beautiful animal

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

- A: Native has many different kinds of foods to offer their visitors.
 - B: My native grandpa her has a white beard.
 - C: The brown, native cups are delicate.
 - D: The grey elephants are native to Kenya.
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Q: 2 WordPhrase: Bordered **WordPhraseTier:** 3

Question: The author states: "Kenya is bordered by Somalia to the northeast, Tanzania to the south, Uganda to the west. On the Southeast is the Indian Ocean." What does the word "bordered" mean?

- A: Bothered
- B: Demanded
- C: Capable
- D: Surrounded

Question: Which one of the sentence below uses the word "bordered" correctly?

- A: The cup bordered my coffee.
 - B: She bordered me to go home.
 - C: Argentina is bordered by Brazil and Uruguay.
 - D: The boy bordered to gain a good grade.
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Q: 3 WordPhrase: Relies **WordPhraseTier:** 2

Question: The author state: "Today Kenya?s economy relies on tourism and agriculture." What does the word "relies" mean?

- A: Awareness
- B: Interest
- C: Dependent
- D: Independant

Question: Which one of the sentence below uses the word "relies" correctly?

- A: Relies the fact that we are human.
 - B: The grass relies on rain to grow properly.
 - C: The vase relies on the table.
 - D: The child relies on the bed.
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Q: 4 WordPhrase: Pride **WordPhraseTier:** 2

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

- A: Kenya felt conected because everyone was proud of their country.
- B: They were together because of their mutual stubbornness.
- C: They felt vengeful.
- D: None of the above.

Question: Which one of the sentence below uses the word "pride" correctly?

- A: Pride will give you a rash.
 - B: They felt pride when they witnessed their team win the last game.
 - C: The pride got an early start.
 - D: We felt pride after witnessing a terrible, unjust war.
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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 - Why is important that we know the history of Kenya?

Why and how is important that the author reveal the toured past of Kenya?

2 - U.S and Kenya

In looking at the text, in which ways is Kenya, an African country, connected to the U.S?

3 - Independence versus Colonies.

Think back to the history of colonies in the U.S in its early development as an independent country. Why do you think Kenyans wanted independence instead of colonies?

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Task 3: Writing Activity

Instructions: After learning about Kenya, think back about your life in the States. Consider U.S history and compare and contrast it to Kenya's. In the last part of your essay, think about how your life differs?from the people that live in Kenya.?