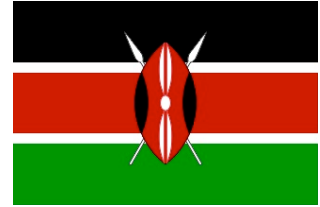


JABALI AFRICAN ACROBATS

TEACHER'S NOTES



Brought to you by Class Act Performing Artists & Speakers; 800-808-0917

JABALI ACROBATS

This incredible Kenyan troupe combines Chinese and African traditions of acrobatics in a fast-paced show that blends limbo, tumbling, jumping, dancing and amazing intricate balances. Performers bounce, bop, and balance to a joyful Benga beat as they combine acrobatic feats with East African musical tradition.

Winners of many national acrobatic competitions in Kenya, Jabali was named "Best New Act" at the Edinburgh (Scotland) festival in 1990. Since then they have performed at major arts festivals in Canada, the US, Japan, Australia, New Zealand, and throughout Europe. Based in Mombassa, Kenya, the Jabali Acrobats have been called "Kenya's high-energy super-circus".

SIGNIFICANCE AS RELATED TO MOMBASSA, KENYA

The Acrobats are bringing to you a unique and culturally significant performance. Many of the routines and dances have meanings indigenous to Mombassa, Kenya. The culture of Mombassa is rich in folklore. The Acrobats wish to share this culture with as many men, women and children as possible.

The Name "Jabali"

"Jabali" is a Swahili word from the coral Reef. The Coral Reef is believed to be very strong and mighty. Despite all of the sea waves and currents, the Coral Reef is always there and remains strong. It serves to break down the strong pressures of the ocean. The name was chosen because no matter how hard life is in Africa, they were determined to stay together as a group, and perform this unique cultural act from the coast province of Kenya. The act and dances are a symbol of togetherness and teamwork.

Building of Human Pyramids:

1. "Juhudi" means Hard Work
2. "Harabee" means pulling together or let's build something together
3. "Umoja" means united or unity

The Human Pyramids cannot be built with one person.

Cultural Dances:

These Dances have been passed from generation to generation of the coastal community of Kenya. Dance workshops are offered to participants of all ages.

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Swahili:

During the program, the acrobats relay some words in Swahili. Workshops incorporate more Swahili.

Rope Skipping:

Rope Skipping is commonly used in Kenya as a way to stay healthy or in good shape.

Chair Balancing:

Chair Balancing is a symbol of sacrifice and determination.

The Skills and Art that the acrobats are bringing is unique to the coastal region of Kenya. The Music, Dance and Act are derived directly from Mombassa, Kenya

KENYA

The Republic of Kenya is located in East Africa and bordered on the north by Sudan and Ethiopia, on the east by Somalia and the Indian Ocean, on the south by Tanzania, and on the west by Lake Victoria and Uganda. Kenya is twice the size of the state of Nevada. Swahili is the official language, but English is also used. There are 42 ethnic languages in Kenya. Some of the earliest remains of humans have been found in the Great Rift Valley of Kenya.

The great majority of Kenyans engage in subsistence farming, but tourists attracted by Kenya's protected wildlife in national parks and reserves, are an important source of income. Kenya is one of the last places on earth where so many wild animals roam free. The major species are the elephant, rhinoceros, zebra, giraffe, lion and other large cats as well as birds and reptiles including the python and cobra. The Swahili word "Safari" (meaning journey) wouldn't mean much to most people if it wasn't for this East African adventure land.

Kenya is best known in the sports world for distance runners... both men and women.

Kenya's major cities are Nairobi, the capital, and Mombassa, the chief port and home of the Jabali Acrobats. The climate in Mombassa, located just below the equator, is hot and humid with an average temperature of 80 degrees, Mombassa began as a Swahili community about 1,000 years ago and is still considered one of Africa's great ports.

Kenya has more than 70 tribal groups within its populations. As western cultural values are becoming more deep-seated, the traditional values of the tribes are disintegrating. Other tribes in Kenya include Kikuyu, Luhia, Luo, and Kikamba as well as a plethora of minor tribal tongues.

KISWAHILI PHRASES

Welcome	Karibu
Goodbye	Kwaheri Asante
Thank you	Karibu
You're Welcome	Ndiyo
Yes	Hapana
No	Habari
How are you?	Nzuri
I'm fine, thanks	Hii njia ya... ?
Is this the way to...	

AFRICAN FACTS

Africa is the second largest of the seven continents on Earth. (Can you name the largest continent?) Africa is bound by the Atlantic Ocean on the west, the Indian Ocean on the east, the Mediterranean Sea on the north and the Red Sea on the northeast.

Africa is over 11,700,000 square miles in size. There are approximately 53 countries in Africa. (Some of these are disputed). The biggest African country is Sudan. This country covers 967,500 square miles. The largest populations include Nigeria (107,000,000 people), Egypt (64,800,000) and Ethiopia (58,700,000 people).

Mount Kilimanjaro in Tanzania is the tallest point in Africa. It measures 19,340 feet tall. (Do you know in what part of Africa Mt Kilimanjaro is located? Answer: Eastern Africa) The lowest point in Africa is Lake Assal, this lake is located in Djibouti near the Horn of Africa. Lake Assal is 512 feet below sea level.

Africa's largest lake is Lake Victoria covering 26,836 square miles. Does anyone know the longest river in Africa? Answer: the Nile River it is 4,241 miles long. The three other rivers in Africa are the Congo, Niger, and Zambezi Rivers.

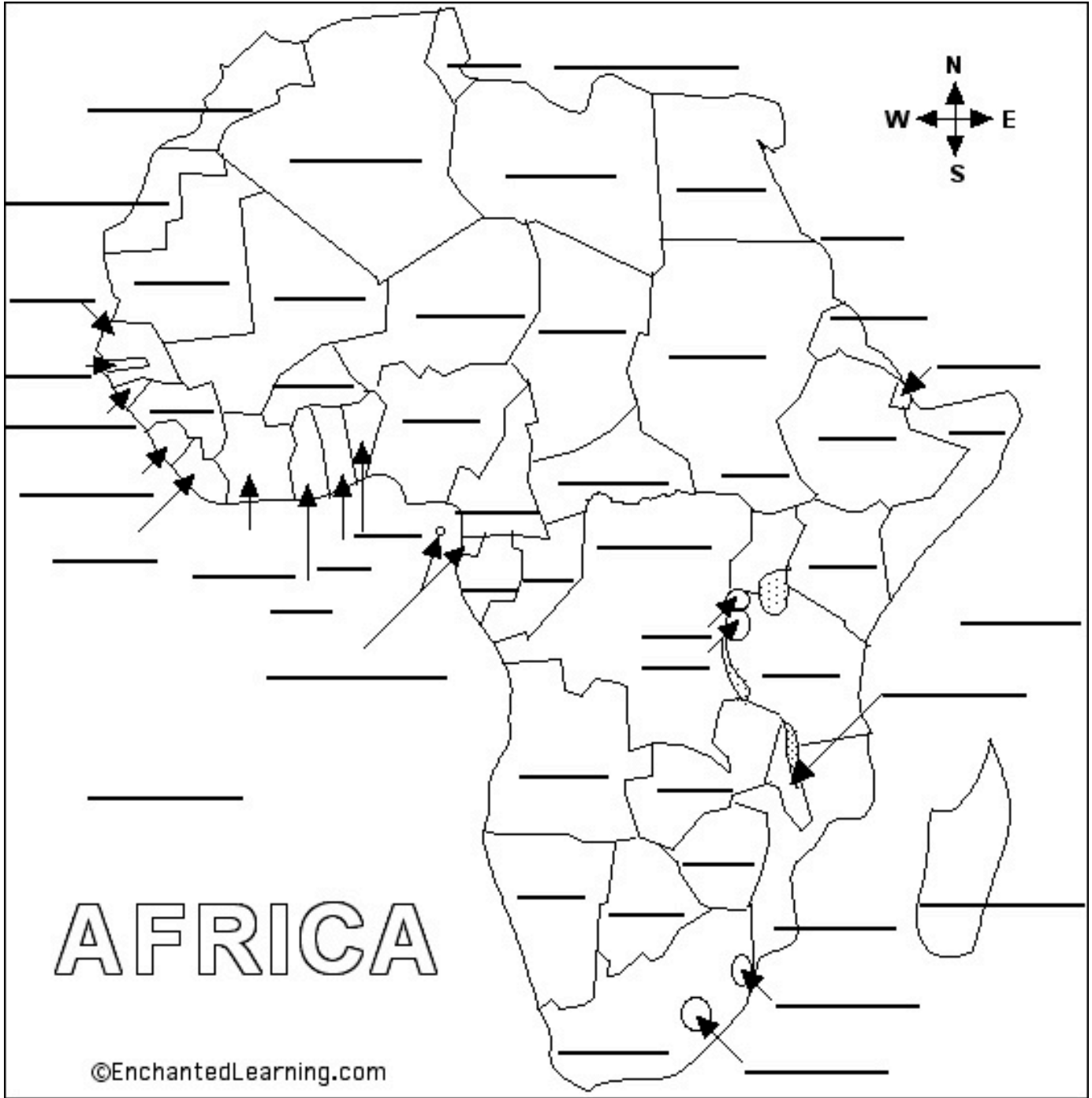
DESSERTS OF AFRICA

The Sahara dessert is located in northern Africa. It covers 3,500,000 square miles. The Kalahari, located in southern Africa, is another large dessert in Africa.

ISLANDS

The biggest island off Africa is Madagascar, which is located near the southeast coast of Africa. Madagascar covers 226,658 square miles. Other islands include the Seychelles, Comoros, Canary Islands, Madeira Islands, Cape Verde Islands, Equatorial Guinea, and Sao Tome.

NAME THE AFRICAN COUNTRIES



ANSWERS

