

# Kinobe and the African Sensation

Exploring Ugandan Music, Stories, and Culture

## Study Guide for Teachers

**Program Summary:** Through Ugandan music Kinobe introduces his audience to the rich culture of Uganda through lively and soulful performance with a combination of song, dance, poetry, drumming and fable. While sharing the beauty of his country through an energetic performance, Kinobe shares thoughtful and humorous lessons to his young audience that are rooted in Ugandan culture and which he heard throughout his childhood. Even more exciting, Kinobe engages his audience by sharing and using traditional African instruments that he builds himself.

**About the Artist:** Kinobe, a talented young musician from Uganda, has been performing internationally since the age of ten, captivating audiences with virtuoso performances of Ugandan roots music as well as original compositions, reflecting a wealth of African and world influences. A multi-instrumentalist and singer-songwriter, Kinobe, accompanied by two other performers, leads his listeners into the soul of African music with traditional instruments, songs, and stories from his homeland.





## What to Know and Consider Before the Performance


### Music:

1. Introduction: Ugandan music is very different from American music and is heavily comprised of traditional African instruments. Introduce students to this new style of music by playing a variety of African music so that they can become familiarized with this style of music.
2. Discover: After listening to African music, introduce the instruments that are commonly used in traditional African music to the students. These instruments can include: the tama, kalimba (also known as the akogo in Uganda), kora, adungu, endongo, and the endingidi.
3. Explore: Discuss with the students what they already know about African or Ugandan music. Ask the students what they are expecting to hear and see in Ugandan music.

## Musical Instruments

<b>Tama or Talking Drum</b>	A West African drum whose pitch can be regulated to the extent that the drum is said to “talk.” The player puts the drum
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	<p>under one shoulder and beats the instrument with a stick. The drum is hourglass shaped with two heads tuned by straps that connect the heads with each other. A tama player raises or lowers the pitch by squeezing or releasing the drum's strings with the upper arm. It was used to communicate from hill to hill, and in traditional child naming ceremonies.</p>
<p><b>Kalimba or Akogo</b></p> 	<p>A musical instrument that is played by cultures all over Africa. Several reeds or tines are plucked with the thumb or fingers, and the reed vibrations are amplified by a hollow box resonator or a sounding board. The name kalimba is a Bantu word which means "little music."</p>
<p><b>Kora</b></p> 	<p>A 21-string harp lute from West Africa. A kora is built from a large calabash (a type of gourd) cut in half and covered with cow skin to make a resonator, and has a notched bridge like a lute or guitar. The player uses only the thumb and index finger of both hands to pluck the strings, using the remaining fingers to hold the sticks either side of the strings and secure the instrument. The kora is played in Guinea, Guinea Bissau, Mali, Senegal, and The Gambia and is the principal instrument of the <i>griots</i>, the traditional, hereditary story-tellers of West Africa.</p>
<p><b>Adungu</b></p> 	<p>A 9-string harp native to northern Uganda. It is constructed from a hollow wood shell covered in cowskin and a neck of coffee tree wood. Its upbeat sound lends itself to parties, weddings, celebrations and worship.</p>
<p><b>Endongo</b></p>	<p>A very unique instrument, a bowl lyre native to Uganda. The body of the instrument is a gourd covered with the skin of a monitor lizard and dressed with goat tail hair. The</p>

	<p>lizard skin gives the instrument a very rough, distorted sound that sets this instrument apart.</p>
<p><b>Endingidi</b></p> 	<p>Is one of the earliest Ugandan instruments. It is a bowed string instrument, made from a single string and a cylindrical body made of wood. It is traditionally associated with storytelling in the king's palace.</p>

### **Social Studies:**

1. Geography: With a map or globe, identify Africa and then locate Uganda in the eastern region along the Equator in Sub-Saharan Africa. Explain that Uganda is a landlocked country bordered by Sudan to the north, the Democratic Republic of Congo to the west, Kenya to the east, and Tanzania and Rwanda to the South. It is important to know that Uganda's landscape is characterized by its many lakes, the largest one being Lake Victoria. How do Uganda's neighbors and prevalent lakes influence its everyday life and culture?
2. History: Uganda has a very rich history full of culture and transition. Under the rule of the Buganda Kingdom until 1914 when the United Kingdom shaped the borders that we recognize Uganda as today. In 1962, Uganda gained its independence and remained in political turmoil until 1980. Today, the modern capital of the country is Kampala, which helps to keep the country relatively stable. With its full history, Uganda is made up of multiple peoples, tribes, and ethnicities, which make the cultural and social structure of this country very unique.
3. Clans in Uganda: There are over fifty clans in Uganda, each represented by its own totem, a kind of plant or animal. The song "Butiko" is about a member of the mushroom clan imagining the taste of the mushroom (butiko), which she will never eat because it is her clan's totem.

### **Geography and History**

<b>Sub-Saharan Africa</b>	The countries in Africa which are located south of the Equator. This includes Uganda and forty other countries.
<b>Lake Victoria</b>	Is the largest lake in Africa and the third largest body of fresh water by surface in the world. It is fed by multiple streams, receiving the majority of its water from the White Nile.
<b>Lake Kyoga</b>	Is a large and shallow lake that is located in central Uganda. The White Nile flows through Lake Kyoga to Lake Victoria.
<b>Nile River</b>	At over 4,000 miles long, the Nile is the longest river in the world. It flows North through East Africa and empties into the Mediterranean Sea on the Egyptian coast. It has two major tributaries, the White Nile and the Blue Nile. The White Nile, the longer of the two tributaries, originates in the Great Lakes region of Africa, drawing most of its waters from Lake Victoria, which borders Tanzania, Kenya, and Uganda.
<b>Explanation of Ugandan Flag</b> 	From the top, a total of six horizontal stripes of black, yellow, red, black, yellow, red. Black symbolizes African heritage and Uganda's fertile soil; yellow is for the glorious sunny days, so characteristic of Uganda; red symbolizes the red blood that runs in our veins, forming a common bond to all humankind. The majestic crested crane is Uganda's National Bird.
<b>Clans of Buganda</b>	There are at least 52 clans that claim status of belonging to the Buganda Kingdom. There are multiple, distinct sub-groups among these clans; the Nansangwa, the oldest and indigenous clan, and the migrant groups of Kintu and Kimera.

### Science:

1. Learn about the animals of Uganda. Ask the students if they think the animals are characters in Ugandan stories or poems. Have they ever seen an instrument that is made up of different parts of an animal?
2. List of Animals. Have the students heard of any of these animals before? Can they compare these animals to animals that they are familiar with?

### African Animals

**Buffaloes**



**Uganda Kob**



**Ewes**



**Rothschild Giraffe (Baringo Giraffe or Ugandan Giraffe)**





**African Elephant**



**Grey Crowned Crane**





**Nile Crocodiles**



**Zebra**



<b>Hippopotamus</b>	
<b>Juvenile Highland Gorilla</b>	

### Language Arts:

1. Explore various stories and folktales from Uganda. Check out *The Story of the Fairy Bee* or *The King of the Snakes and Other Folk-lore Stories from Uganda* by George Baskerville.

### Terms, Names, and Songs to Know

<b>Obudde Bukedde</b>	“good morning” in Luganda; translates literally as “the night is gone.”
<b>Malijja</b>	The name of a very special sheep, admired by all the villagers.
<b>Bukunja</b>	This song is about a man who longs to return to his native village, Bukunja, after many years in the city.
<b>Kunyanja</b>	“On the Lake.” This is a traditional song about Lake Victoria, known as Nalubaale, which means mother of the spirits. There are seven spirits in Ugandan folklore.
<b>Bundu</b>	A song about children playing and splashing each other with the waters of the lake.
<b>Amazziganyanja</b>	“The Waters of the Lake.” This is the song fisherman sing to ask the spirit of the lake for protection. The waves seem more dangerous and deadly than the crocodiles and poisonous snakes that inhabit the waters.
<b>Sesalambe</b>	This song is sung by girls to accompany a traditional game, similar to hopscotch.
<b>Lusejjera</b>	“The Locusts.” In the story of the locusts, a wizard who lives on Mount Elgon persuades the locusts to fly over the lake, where he conjures up a storm to drown them, thereby protecting the crops from devastation.

<b>Butiko</b>	“Mushroom.” From the point of view of a member of the mushroom clan, imagining the taste of the mushroom, their clan’s totem, which they do not eat. There are over fifty clans in the Buganda kingdom, each with its own totem.
<b>Abataka</b>	A song that celebrates the spirit of community and brings people together to enjoy the fruits of their work on the farm. Everyone works together and everyone celebrates together.

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## Resources to Extend the Students’ Experience

### Music

For pictures and explanations of listed instruments visit:

Go to <http://classactsarts.org/artist/kinobe-and-african-sensation> and select the program tab to access a song with sheet music.

### Geography and Culture

For more information, pictures, and worksheets visit:

Go to <http://classactsarts.org/artist/kinobe-and-african-sensation> and select the program tab to access additional maps.

[www.ugandaembassy.com](http://www.ugandaembassy.com)

Brittanica Online Encyclopedia - Nile River: Study and Exploration

<http://www.britannica.com/EBchecked/topic/415347/Nile-River/37082/Study-and-exploration>

National Geographic Lesson Plan: River Sources and Stories

<http://www.nationalgeographic.com/xpeditions/lessons/03/g35/morellriver.html>

Wild Egypt - The Nile Adventure

<http://touregypt.net/wildegyp/nile1.htm>

The Clans of Buganda

<http://www.buganda.com/ebika.htm>

### Omweso

Omweso is an ancient Ugandan game played by many in the royal palace of the Buganda kingdom, including the king himself. It is among the mancala family of games, and as such, it is very simple to learn, but players can spend a lifetime improving their strategy. All you need to be able to do is count and think ahead! Depending on the time available, teachers should be able to teach omweso to older elementary and middle school students. We suggest playing a game between teachers in order to familiarize yourselves with the game-play. A single game of omweso can vary enormously in length, such that two experienced players can play a single game for hours on end. This less likely to be the case with beginning players, but games can still go on for some time.



International Omweso Society

<http://www.geocities.com/omweso/>

Rules, gameplay, history, and a mathematical analysis of Omweso

[http://us.share.geocities.com/omweso/board\\_games\\_in\\_academia\\_v\\_omweso.pdf](http://us.share.geocities.com/omweso/board_games_in_academia_v_omweso.pdf)

### **Stories**

For full texts of *The Story of the Fairy Bee* or *The King of the Snakes and Other Folk-lore Stories from Uganda* by George Baskerville visit:

Go to <http://classactsarts.org/artist/kinobe-and-african-sensation> and select the program tab to access Ugandan folklore.

### **Worksheets, Mazes, Crosswords, and Quizzes**

Go to <http://classactsarts.org/artist/kinobe-and-african-sensation> and select the program tab to access pre-show activities.