

Africa Y2 Reading comp 18.5

Name: _____

Class: _____

Date: _____

Time: **0 minutes**

Marks: **13 marks**

Comments:

Traditions from Africa

Introduction

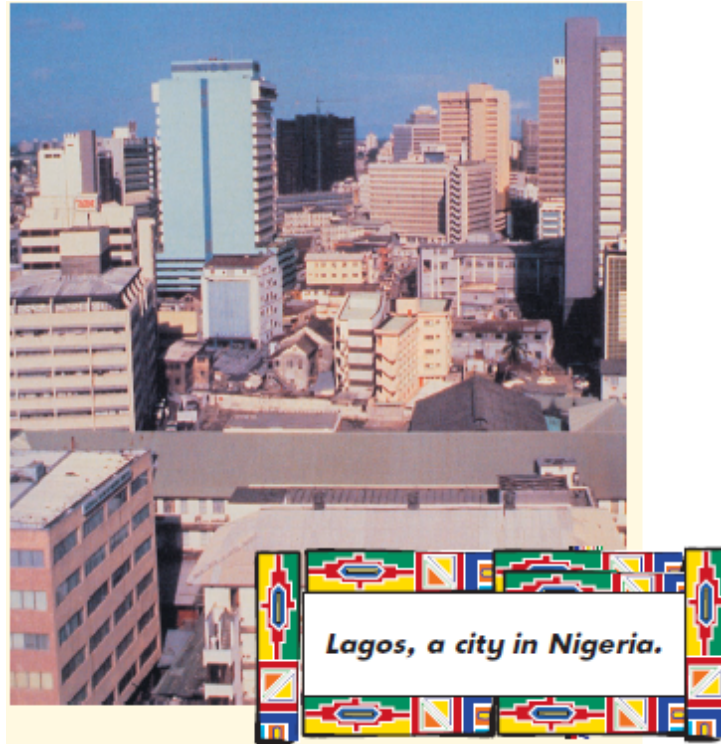
Welcome to Africa, a vast continent covering more than one fifth of the earth's land surface. Africa is made up of many countries, peoples, lifestyles and traditions.

As you can see on the map there are over 40 different countries in Africa. Some of the countries are smaller than England but many are larger.

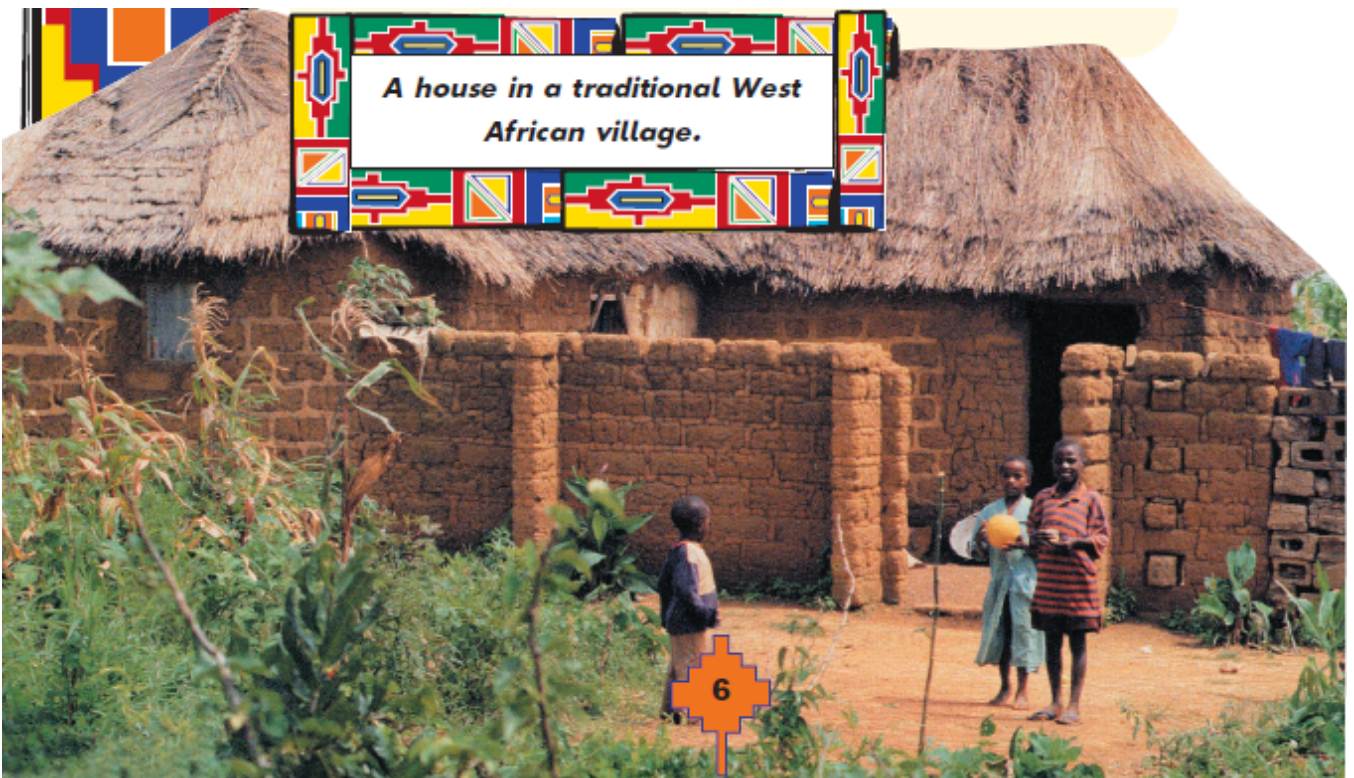
The traditions that people follow depend on where in Africa they live. In the text below you will find out about some of the traditions of West Africa.



West Africa is an interesting mix of the old and the new, the **modern** and the **traditional**.



Most people live in the countryside but more and more West Africans are moving to towns and cities in search of work.



Clothes



A street scene in Ghana showing different styles of clothing.

People in West Africa wear many different styles of clothing.

In Ghana, weavers make narrow strips of cloth from silk. These strips are called **ken-te** strips. The long ken-te strips are sewn together into large cloths, which people wear on special occasions. Sometimes strips of ken-te cloth are worn with modern clothing.



Ken-te cloth worn in a traditional way.

Ken-te cloth worn in a modern way as a tie.

Music and Dance

All over Africa, music and dance play an important part in celebrating events such as birth and marriage. Music and dance in West Africa are a mix of the traditional and modern.



Traditional dancers often wear masks made from wood or animal skins. Mask-makers work carefully so that the masks are the same as they have been for hundreds of years.

Masks can be in the form of a person or animal or a mixture of both. When people put on a mask they can almost feel like they have become another person or animal.



Story Time

There has always been a great tradition of storytelling in Africa. Around fires at night, people told stories and poems that entertained them and helped them to make sense of the world. In some villages, people still gather together to hear stories.

African stories are for children and adults. Many stories are designed to teach the listener how to behave. In most stories at least one character is taught a lesson. Some stories explain how things first came about or were discovered.

Many traditional African stories are hundreds of years old. However, each time a story is told, the storyteller changes the story a little. The changes the storyteller makes will depend on who the listeners are. If the listeners are young children the storyteller will make the story easier to understand.

African stories often have an unusual or surprising ending; in this way the storyteller keeps the listeners on the edge of their seats right to the end. Sometimes the listeners even have to help the storyteller decide on the best ending for a story.

Many African stories have been made into books. People all over the world enjoy reading about traditional characters such as Anansi.

Anansi is a special creature. Sometimes he is a spider, sometimes a man and sometimes a little bit of both. Anansi is often called a 'trickster' because he likes to play tricks on people and animals. Anansi stories came first from Ghana in West Africa, and later travelled to different parts of Africa and to the islands of the **Caribbean**.

The story you are going to read next is about another special spider.



Glossary

Caribbean

A sea off the coast of America.

ken-te

Ken-te is the name given to a colourful silk cloth made in a traditional way.

modern

Doing things in a new way.

traditional

Doing things in the way they have been done for many years.

2

Traditions from Africa

(page 2)

- 1 Which word tells you that Africa is a large continent?

Tick **one**.

vast

☐

smaller

☐

surface

☐

land

☐

(page 4)

- 2 Why are more and more West African people moving to towns and cities?

3 Which of these sentences about West African clothes are true?

Tick **two**.

People always wear traditional clothes.

☐

People sometimes wear modern clothes.

☐

People never wear traditional clothes.

☐

People wear different styles of clothes.

☐

People never wear modern clothes.

☐

4 When do people dress in ken-te clothes?

5 How are ken-te clothes made?

Explain as fully as you can.

First _____

After that _____

6 What does wearing a mask make dancers feel?

7 What do listeners sometimes have to do to help the storyteller?

Tick **one**.

wear a mask	<input type="checkbox"/>	build a fire	<input type="checkbox"/>
decide on the story's ending	<input type="checkbox"/>	decide on the story's beginning	<input type="checkbox"/>

8 What kind of special creature is Anansi?

(question about the whole story)

9 Write **three** things that are done in a traditional way by African people.

1. _____

2. _____

3. _____

(question about the whole story)

10 Here is some more information about Africa.

Draw line to match each sentence to the correct heading in the text.

One has been done for you.

Creation stories describe how and why the world was made.

Introduction

Africa has deserts, forests and mountain areas.

Clothes

Traditional African clothes are made from local materials.

Music and Dance

Some African people play 'talking drums'.

Story Time

Mark schemes

2

Traditions from Africa

1 Vast.

1

2 To look for/find/get jobs.
To look for work.
In search of work.

Also accept:
For work/jobs.
To work.

1

3 People sometimes wear modern clothes.
People wear different styles of clothes.

Unacceptable: (more than 2 ticked)

**1 mark for both
ticked correctly**

4 On special occasions.

Also accept:
For parties/weddings.

1

5 *Award 1 mark for showing an understanding
that the strips of cloth are made of silk.*

Ken-te clothes are made at first:
From silk.
It is woven · made into strips.

*Award one mark for showing an understanding that the strips
are sewn together to make cloth from which clothes are made.*

After that:
Sewn together to make cloth.
Cloth is made into clothes.

*Both marks can be awarded even if the answers
are not written on the appropriate line.*

Narrow strips sewn together to make cloth (2 marks).

**1 for each
correct answer
(up to 2 marks)**

- 6 *Answers that indicate that wearing a mask makes dancers feel like another person or animal, eg:
It makes them feel like a different person/animal
It makes them feel like they are something/somebody else.*

Unacceptable: Take the form of another animal/person
(taken from the wrong part of the text).

1

- 7 Decide on the story's ending.

1

- 8 (A creature who is) sometimes a spider, sometimes a man.
A creature/spider who likes playing tricks on people/animals.

Also accept:

A trickster.

A talking spider.

Unacceptable: A spider [not specific enough]

1

- 9 Award 1 mark for each thing that is done in a traditional way.

House building (in some villages)

(Making/wearing) traditional clothes.

Making ken-te cloth.

(Making/wearing) masks.

Storytelling • listening to stories/poems.

Dancing.

Music/singing.

Weaving.

Give marks even if written in the wrong place, eg:

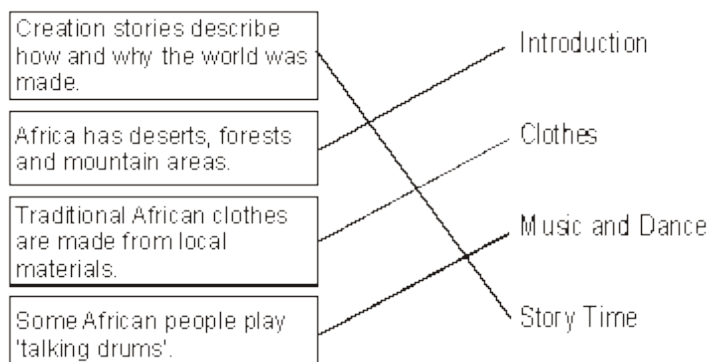
Music and dance (2 marks).

Also accept:

Reading/writing stories.

**1 mark for each
correct answer to
maximum of 3**

10



1