

KASCC

KANSAS AFRICAN
STUDIES CENTER
UNIVERSITY OF KANSAS



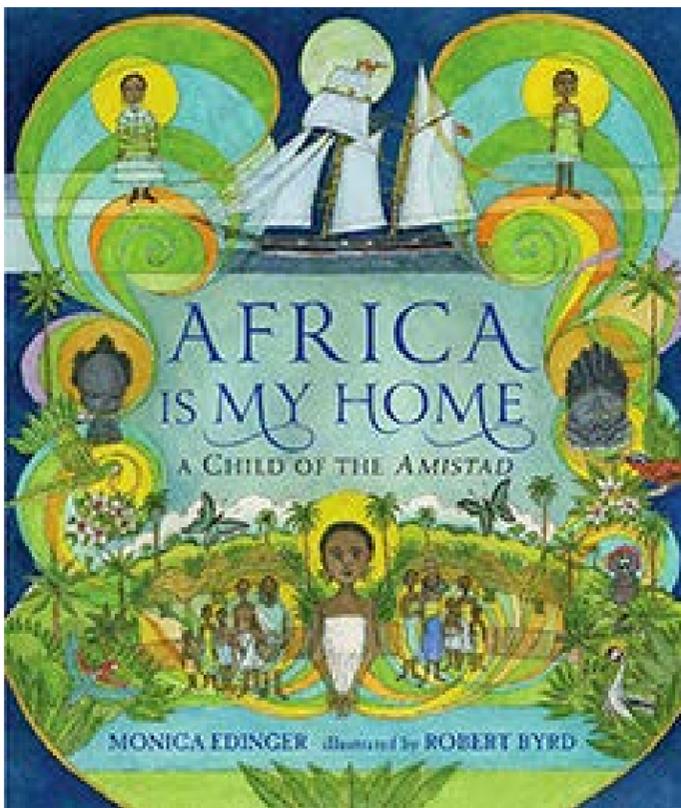
Bringing Africa to your Classroom

Africa Is My Home by Monica Edinger

Topics Covered | Things to Introduce:

- Slavery
- Family
- Resilience
- Hope

- Level: Primary, age 10+
- Country Focus: Sierra Leone
- Language Focus: Temne



When a drought hits her homeland in Sierra Leone, nine-year-old Magulu is sold as a pawn by her father in exchange for rice. But before she can work off her debt, an unthinkable chain of events unfolds: a capture by slave traders; weeks in a dark and airless hold; a landing in Cuba, where she and three other children are sold and taken aboard the Amistad; a mutiny aboard ship; a trial in New Haven that eventually goes all the way to the Supreme Court and is argued in the Africans' favor by John Quincy Adams. Narrated in a remarkable first-person voice, this fictionalized book of memories of a real-life figure retells history through the eyes of a child -- from seeing mirrors for the first time and struggling with laughably complicated clothing to longing for family and a home she never forgets.

From Publisher's Blog: About Monica Edinger

Monica Edinger was born in the South and then moved about for much of her childhood, living in various Midwestern, Eastern, and European locations. After college, she spent two years in Sierra Leone as a Peace Corps Volunteer before settling in New York City where she is now a fourth grade teacher at the Dalton School. The author of several books for teachers as well as articles on a variety of topics, Monica has reviewed for Kirkus, The Horn Book, and the New York Times.

Discussion Questions

- When did you experience something new?
- Have you ever moved houses?
- Have you ever gone to a new school? How did you feel?

Activity Suggestions/ Resources

Introductory Activity:

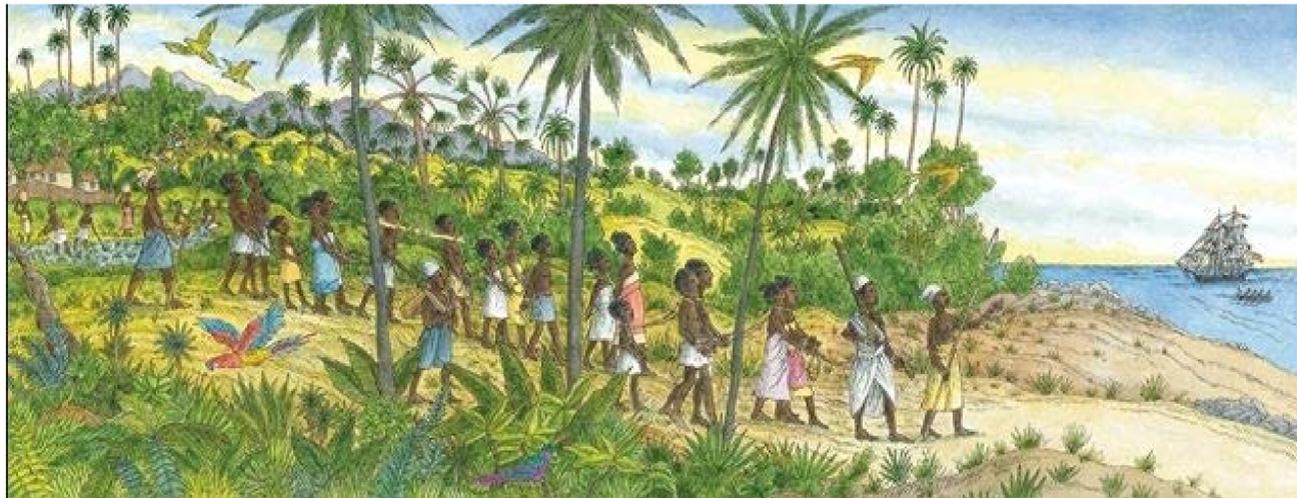
“The Family is a cultural, social, and political unit” Ask students why families are important, how is culture transmitted through families (family stories, special family recipes, jokes, special holidays and events), consider how the family serves as an economic institution (the work parents and children do to bring income to the family, how household work helps to support the family breadwinner, and how wealth is passed down from parents to children), why society sees benefits in encouraging strong, stable family units Ask students to consider the impact of the slave trade on African families, how newly enslaved Africans might have attempted to reconstitute families, how slavery destroyed families, how slaveholders might have used family ties as a form of social control

Family Research Project

Fill out a family tree diagram, sample here:

https://www.familytreetemplates.net/preview/Blank_Family_Tree

Family interviews : After students have learned about genealogical terms and family trees, students should learn how to interview family members to gather stories Sample interview questions: What are some of your favorite memories from your childhood? What were your parents like? Do you recall any memorable family vacations? Where did you live throughout your childhood? Did you live through any big historical events? If so, what do you recall from those days?



Country Fact Box: Sierra Leone

Capital:

Freetown

Population:

7 Million People

People from Sierra Leone are called:

Sierra Leoneans

Main Languages Spoken in Sierra Leone:

Temne, Mende, Krio, English



Language Box: Temne

How many people speak Temne as their mother tongue?

2 Million

Practice some Temne!

ɛ as in English 'bed.'

e as in English 'day'

ɔ as in English 'cot'

ʌ as in English 'cut'

ə as in English 'among'

o as in English 'bowl' or 'boat'

u as in English 'fool'

l as in English 'seat'

l

How are you?

To pɛ mu-a?

How do I?

to mɛ ?

How much does it cost?

mɔɔ-a ?

How old are you?

mɔlc tɛren ɔŋ ba-a ?

Hurry Up

bʌsɔr

I am fine

min yenki

For more information on Temne and what it sounds like, visit

<https://www.omniglot.com/writing/temne.htm>