



Bringing Africa to your Classroom

Gizo-Gizo! A Tale from Zongo Lagoon

by
[Emily Williamson](#)

Topics Covered | Things to Introduce:

- Local Environmental Concerns
- Pollution
- Greediness and Friendship
- The Hausa Language
- More about reduce, reuse & recycle
- Teaching your students about pollution

- Level: Primary, Age 4 - 8
- Country Focus: Ghana
- Language Focus: Hausa



Gizo-Gizo! was the Best Book for young people in the 25th Children's Africana Book Awards. In Hausa culture, you always begin telling a story in the same way: The storyteller says, "Ga ta nan ga ta nanku!" "I am about to begin!" And the children respond, "Tazo Mujita!" "We are all ears!"

Using story as the primary learning, teaching and engagement tool, the Zongo Story Project strives to elevate proficiencies in oral, written, and visual forms of literacy; promote the knowledge building of local history, local culture and local contemporary concerns; and lay the crucial foundation for the acquisition of vital twenty-first century critical thinking skills. The conceptual framework for this project originated out of a larger, community-based initiative called the Zongo

Water Project, whose mission is to use water as a way to improve the quality of life for the Zongo.

Working closely with local teachers, Emily Williamson carried out a series of educational workshops at the Hassaniyya Quranic School in the summers of 2012, 2013, and 2014 to teach students about local water and environmental concerns. Employing the story as the foundational element, Emily engaged students in dialogue, shared readings, performances, writing exercises, and visual art, culminating in community drama performances and original folktales. The illustrations and text of this book grew directly out of the work produced in these workshops - (from [African Book Collective](#))

Discussion Questions

- What is pollution?
- What human activity creates pollution?
- Ask students to describe times they, or others, littered or created pollution in some way.
- How does litter and pollution affect plants and animals?
- Talk about problems that may occur when garbage is not disposed of properly.
- Can students think of ways to help the environment?
- Do they know of any actions they could take to reduce pollution in the classroom, or

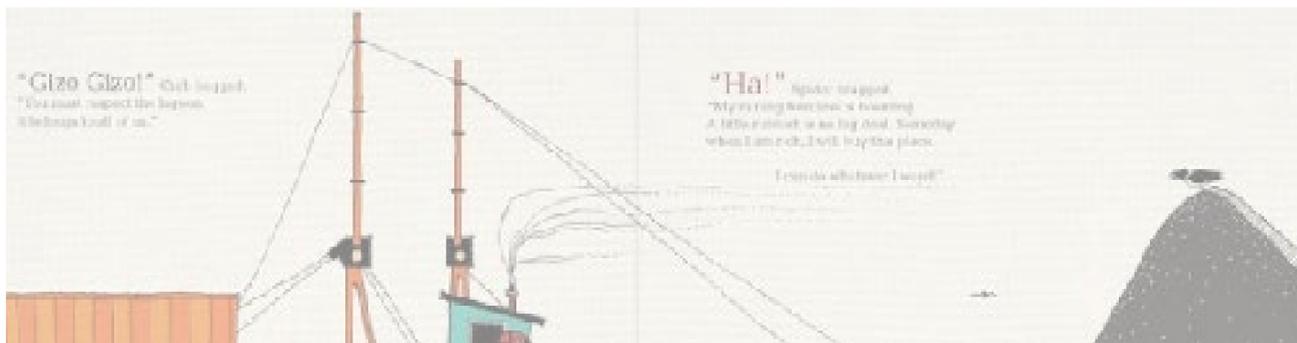
Activity Suggestions/ Resources

Turn old scrap copy paper with printing on one side into practical classroom tools.
Objectives: Students will follow directions Learn why recycling is important to Earth Learn multiple uses for used copy paper
Lesson Plan: Make your own envelopes Make your own drinking cups

More info: https://www.educationworld.com/a_lesson/03/lp308-05.shtml

Paper envelope tutorial: <https://www.thesprucecrafts.com/easy-folded-paper-envelope-2905553Drinking>

Cup tutorial: http://www.instructables.com/id/How-To-Create-a-Cup-From-Only-a-Sheet-of-Paper/Friendship_worksheet/



Country Fact Box: Ghana

Capital:

Accra

Population:

28 Million People

People from Ghana are called:

Ghanaians

Main Languages Spoken in Ghana:

Twi, Bono, Dagaare, Dagbani, Dangme, Ewe, Ga, Gonja, Kasem, Fante, Nzema, Wasa, Talensi, Frafra & Hausa



Language Box: Hausa

How many people speak Hausa as their mother tongue?

27 Million, with speakers in Southern Niger, Northern Nigeria, and Ghana

Practice some Hausa!

"Hello" – Salam
"My name is..." – Sunana shi ne...
"Thank you" – Na gode
"Yes" – Li
"No" – A'a

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

<http://aboutworldlanguages.com/hausaland>

