

JABALI AFRICAN ACROBATS

TEACHER'S NOTES



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 Chinese 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”.

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.

KiSwahili Phrases:

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

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. With 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.

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 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 is 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 Seychelles, Comoros, Canary Islands, Madeira Islands Cape Verde Islands, Equatorial Guinea, and Sao Tome.

African facts are from website: <http://www.go2africa.com/kenya/facts>

