



Duniya Dance & Drum Company



Guinean Dance & Drumming

STUDY GUIDE



RHYTHMIX CULTURAL WORKS



Dear Teachers and Educators,

Rhythmix is excited to have you join us for the 2021-22 season of **PAL - Performance, Art & Learning**. These assemblies are intended to serve as a catalyst for arts learning and a springboard for integrating arts education into your classroom activities and curriculum.

To help your students gain the most out of these PAL assemblies, we suggest that the learning begin before, and continue after, watching the videos. Utilizing the resources provided, your students can engage more fully with the performance experience, connecting what they see and hear to their personal lives, culture, community and any school subjects you choose.

Aligning with the **California Arts Standards**, activities are included in every Study Guide to help foster students' artistic competencies, cultivate their appreciation and understanding of the arts, and support them to fully engage in lifelong arts learning.

New this year, **Artist Q&A** videos focus on **Social Emotional Learning (SEL) Through the Arts** with activities based on CASEL's SEL Framework to help students develop healthy identities, manage emotions, achieve personal and collective goals, show empathy for others, establish supportive relationships, and make responsible decisions.

At Rhythmix, we believe exposure to the arts can be a transformative experience, helping us learn about ourselves, each other, and the world.

Thank you for joining us on this journey,

Your PALs at Rhythmix



Where is Guinea?



What Have you Learned?

1. On which continent can you find Guinea?
2. Can you name which countries share borders with Guinea?
3. What is the capital of Guinea?
4. How many people live in Guinea? How many people live in West Africa? How many people live in the United States? In the world?



Dance & Drum

There are many different dances and rhythms originating in Guinea. The rhythms you will see in Duniya's PAL performance are: Djole, Sinte, Soli, Sorsonai and Yamama.

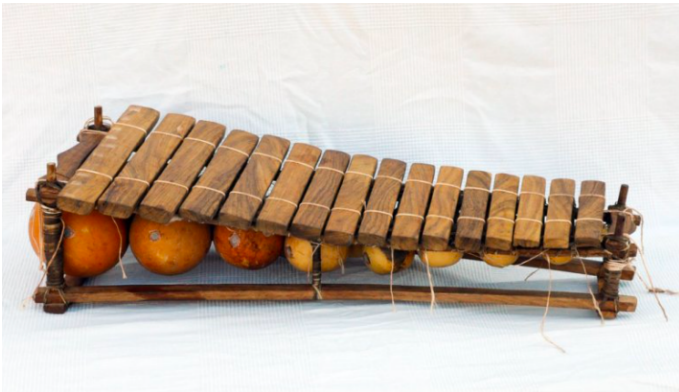
Because Guinea, along with many countries in West Africa, used to be part of the Mali Empire, it shares a lot of dances and rhythms with other countries including Mali, Ivory Coast, Senegal, etc.



Instruments



The **djembe** has an animal skin top and a wooden base. It is played with hands, not sticks. The djembe is an instrument that brings people together.



The **balafon** has 16 wooden keys and is played with mallets.



The **dununs** are a set of 3 drums. The largest is called the **doundounba**. The middle one is called **sangban**. The smallest one is called the **kenkeni**. They can be played all together by one person, or separately by three different people, in traditional style.



Instruments



The **ngoni** is made of a gourd and has strings and a long stick like a guitar. “Calabash” is the French word for “gourd.”



The **gongoma** is made of a gourd and has metal saw blades for keys.



Reflections

1. Have you ever seen or heard any of these West African percussion instruments? When? Where?
2. Have you ever seen West African dancing before? What was it like? How did it make you feel?
3. What other types of music, dance and instruments do you know about that you can share with the class?





About Duniya Dance & Drum Company

Based in San Francisco, Duniya Dance and Drum Company is led by Artistic Director Joti Singh and Music Director, Bongo Sidibe. The company performs and teaches traditional and innovative performance pieces from Punjab, India and Guinea, West Africa. Duniya's work is characterized by its high energy and the unique way it pays homage to traditional forms while innovating to address subject matters relevant to contemporary times. Duniya's mission is to cultivate respect for traditional forms, foster cultural exchange, effect social justice and engage in community building. In 2011, the Directors founded the Duniya Center for Arts and Education in Guinea, West Africa, a community center that offers computer, language, and traditional dance and music training for young artists in the capital city of Conakry.



Thank You!

Thank you for joining Rhythmix Cultural Works and Duniya Dance & Drum Company. We look forward to seeing you next time!



For more information about Dujniya Dance & Drum Company,
please visit: duniyadance.com

For more info about Rhythmix, please visit: www.rhythmix.org



About Rhythmix Cultural Works

Rhythmix Cultural Works brings people of all ages together to experience and explore music, dance, visual art and educational opportunities. The organization seeks to build community by inspiring engagement in the arts as a way to learn about each other and the world. With a strong commitment to provide programming relevant to the local population, Rhythmix strives to promote cultural awareness, encourage participation in the arts, and support local artists in the presentation of their work.

Since Rhythmix opened its doors in 2007, the community-based arts facility has built its reputation through the artistic excellence and cultural depth of its programming. To date, more than 150,000 people have engaged in arts experiences, attending high-quality performances of world music, dance, theater, exhibits and community events, as well as enrolling in classes for youth and adults in the arts, crafts, and movement-based practices from other cultures.

About PAL - Performance, Art & Learning

Rhythmix Cultural Works believes that exposure to the arts can be a transformative experience and a catalyst for cultural celebration. In support of this vision, Rhythmix developed PAL as an assembly-based youth arts education program in collaboration with the Alameda Unified School District. PAL fosters awareness of world cultures and empowers underserved youth through exposure to educational music and dance performances.

In response to the ongoing pandemic, Rhythmix launched its PAL program virtually for the 2020-21 school year, expanding its reach to all schools in Alameda County. Thanks to the belief in the power of arts education and generous support from the foundations listed below, PAL has served over 40,000 students since its inception in 2012.



RHYTHMIX CULTURAL WORKS

Thanks to our PAL Funders and Partners

RADIUM



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