

VOICES
PEACE • PRIDE • ACTIVISTS • SOCIAL ACTION

SENUFO

Mud Paintings of Côte d'Ivoire
Nothing Sweet

Obi nkyerkyere nyansa kotoku mfa nkoto
adakam mmegyina adihonse se, "Kyere me
asem!"

Akan Language

No one should gather wisdom in a bag, put it
in a box, and then stand on a road and say,
"Teach me wisdom!"

English Language



Grade Level

Grade 2- 5

Curriculum Area

Art • Science • Social Studies • French Language

Overview

Fakaha is a small village in the country of Côte d'Ivoire, West Africa. The Senoufo people create paintings that are stylized drawings of masked figures and animals. Painted by the men, who live in Fakaha, the paintings are drawn and painted on pieces of white, loosely woven, cotton fabric. First, the Senoufo draw the figures freehand with a yellowish-green dye made from the leaves of the palma bush. Then a second coat of black paint is drawn on top of the palma dye. This paint is made from a sludgy mud dug from the roots of trees in swampy areas. Traditional Senoufo paintings were made into dance or hunting clothes. The Senoufo believe the drawings have special powers that protect and bring the hunter good luck. Today this cloth is seldom made into hunting clothes. Instead, the paintings are sold to tourists and specialty shops. Many have become ornamental fabrics for wall hangings, pillows, tablecloths, or other decorative items.

Looking at the art of the Senoufo can be an entrance to issues that children face in the country of Côte d'Ivoire, West Africa. Less widely known is what happens on the cocoa farms of Côte d'Ivoire; the plight of many child workers on cocoa plantations. In 1998, an investigation by the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) uncovered a reemergence of child slavery in the cocoa fields of the Côte d'Ivoire, where 43 percent

of the world's cocoa comes from. Two years later, a report by the US State Department concluded that in recent years approximately 15,000 children aged 9 to 12 have been sold into forced labor on cotton, coffee and cocoa plantations in the north of the country. A June 15, 2001 document released by the Geneva, Switzerland-based International Labor Organization (ILO) reported that trafficking in children is widespread in West Africa. Some of these children wind up as slaves on cocoa farms in Côte d'Ivoire. At the beginning of the 21st century, the children of West Africa are trapped in conditions that were supposed to have been eliminated in the 19th century. The reemergence of child slavery can be blamed, in part, by a downturn in the price of raw cocoa. Cocoa prices are currently in a slump, the casualty of global overproduction. The price drop has been exacerbated by deregulation of agriculture in West Africa, which abolished commodity boards across the region, leaving small farmers at the mercy of the market. With prices in the basement, cocoa farmers have been forced to cut their labor costs, and tragically that has meant relying on slave labor.

Objectives

To gain knowledge of the art and history of the Senufo people of Côte d'Ivoire, West Africa.

To gain appreciation of the literature, proverbs and poetry of Côte d'Ivoire.

To provide an entrance into the world of a child in another country; what issues that the international community have to support child labor laws; how it affects us in our country. What does chocolate consumption of Americans have to do with Côte d'Ivoire?

To Boycott or Not. Can you avoid cocoa harvested from child labor? Is boycotting the answer? What action can you do? Should I stop buying M&Ms, Hershey bars, and Nestles chocolate milk?

Activities

Activity

Ceremonial masks are part of the tradition of the Senufo people of the Côte d'Ivoire, and the book, *Lord of the Dance*, is a poem telling the story of a certain mask. The chanting rhythm of the legend is accentuated every few lines by the drum beat "Tom-tom-tom-tom-tom." The chant grows stronger with the telling: the spirit of nature and of humankind must not be lost; man came to Earth with the animals and there must be harmony among them. It tells how cities sprung up from the forest and the mask was thrown away, a symbol of the past at odds with the concrete and steel industrialized world.



Activity

Compare Tadjo's illustrations with the designs that come from the traditional African cloth. List and discuss the animals represented in the cloth's designs and relate how man's relationship to these animals has changed.

Activity

Develop an understanding of the country and its products by creating a variety of maps. Include: world maps, atlases, globes, country, continental maps. Find a map with products that are produced in Côte d'Ivoire. Let that be an introduction to discussing chocolate and what chocolate comes from: cocoa beans. Ask the students what their favorite chocolate candy is. Ask questions about how it is produced. Find out what countries are known for exporting cocoa beans. Where are the main candy companies in America? Who makes various chocolate candies? Investigate the candy counter at the grocery store. Locate the states listed on them and map them on a United States map.



Map of Côte d'Ivoire and Ghana with Textiles

Activity

Read the following articles regarding Côte d'Ivoire and its exports; explore the issues with students.

"In Canada, Europe, America, what we have on our shelves is cheap, such as coffee, chocolate bars. If we put a stop to child trafficking, the prices of certain things--cotton shirts, coffee, candy bars – will rise. The reality is if your products are cheap, it's because of this situation." Michel Larouche, the West Africa regional director for Save the Children Canada, 2001.

Côte d'Ivoire and its Exports

Côte d'Ivoire is located on the southern coast of West Africa. Its exports include: cocoa, gold, rubber, palm oil, coffee, and tropical woods. The cocoa trade drives one-third of Côte d'Ivoire's economy. Côte d'Ivoire provides 43 percent of the world's cocoa beans. Côte d'Ivoire is the top grower of world's cocoa beans: 1,290,000 during the 1999 -2000 growing season. There are approximately 600,000 cocoa farms in Côte d'Ivoire. It is the world's fourth-largest Robusta coffee grower (after Vietnam, Indonesia, and Uganda). Coffee and cocoa crops are often grown together, so the taller cocoa trees can shade the coffee bushes. On some farms, the same workers harvest both crops.

Sources: Knight Ridder; Port Import Export Reporting Service, 2001.

Côte d'Ivoire, Child Labor & Education

The minimum age for light agricultural work is 12 years. Those ages 12 to 14 must have parental consent and may not work more than four and a half hours a day. Otherwise the basic minimum working age is 14 for all activities except domestic work (12), public performances, and (for girls) working in street stalls or using pedal driven sewing machines (16). The Ministry of Labor is responsible for enforcement of the child labor laws. Compulsory education is set for children up to the age of 16. This law is not enforced, as evident in the fact that roughly 70 percent of Ivorian children leave school at the age of 12 or 13. School costs, including entrance fees, books, uniforms, supplies, and transportation; deter poor families from sending children to school. Ivorians do not generally perceive child labor as an issue that requires attention. International agencies have not found much public support or interest in the cause. Ivory Coast has not ratified International Labor Organization's Convention 182. Eighty-nine countries have ratified this convention since its introduction in 1999, including the United States.

Source: U.S. Department of Labor, *By the Sweat and Toil of Children: The Use of Child Labor in American Imports*, 1994

Chocolate Consumption in the United States

Americans spend \$13 billion a year on chocolate. The U.S. is the world's top consumer of cocoa beans and processed cocoa products: It imported 627,000 tons of cocoa from cocoa-growing countries in 2000.

Activity

"This government and this industry is not responsible for what happens in a foreign country at all. We don't enforce their labor laws... Isn't it the Côte d'Ivoire government's job to enforce its own laws?" Gary Goldstein, National Coffee Association, which represents the companies that make Folgers, Maxwell House, Nescafe, and other brands, 2001.

To Boycott or Not

Can you avoid cocoa harvested from slave child labor? Currently, it's impossible for a consumer to know without a doubt whether a product containing cocoa has its roots in Ivory Coast cocoa harvested from farms that use child slave labor. Just like it is with coffee, most chocolate manufacturers use a blend of cocoa beans. Since Ivory Coast cocoa commands such a significant part of the market, it's likely that at least some Ivory Coast cocoa is in most chocolate products. Even if you know that Côte d'Ivoire cocoa is in a particular brand or product, you won't know whether the cocoa came from a farm that uses child labor.

Is Boycotting all Chocolate the Answer?

It is a choice a consumer may make, though it may not be the best choice. Many reputable organizations – such as Anti-Slavery International and UNICEF—say that falling prices on cocoa encouraged many farmers to resort to slavery. How much has cocoa prices dropped? In 1977, the price rose to a high of \$4.89 per pound. Today, it is at 51 cents per pound. Boycotting chocolate could drive the prices down further. A boycott may, in fact, make the situation worse. If not a boycott, what action is recommended? Consumers can help fight slavery by speaking out. You can play a key role by encouraging governments, industry leaders, and companies to do the right thing. Your voice, united with those of other concerned consumers, will keep the pressure on to correct this abhorrent abuse of children.

Chocolate Manufacturers with No Apparent Child Slavery Used in Cocoa Production

Please feel free to contact these companies yourself. They need to hear positive feedback from as many concerned consumers as possible so they know their extra efforts matter.

Caffarel
Chaine Confiseur
Chapel Chocolates

Italy
Switzerland
England

Chocolate by Jamieson, Ltd.	USA
Chocolates El Rey	USA
Chocolats Rohr	Switzerland
Chocolove	USA
Clif Bar	USA
Cloud Nine	USA
Colombina	Colombia
Confections by Michael Recchiuti	USA
Confiserie Tschirren	Switzerland
Dagoba Organic Chocolate	USA
Day Chocolate Company (also Divine and Dubble)	England
Denman Island Chocolate	Canada
Droste B.V.	Holland
Gardners Candies	USA
Green and Black's	USA
Kailua Candy Company	USA
Koala King Chocolates	Australia
Koppers Chocolate	USA
L.A. Burdick Chocolates	USA
Montezuma's Chocolates	England
Newman's Own Organics	USA
Omanhene Cocoa Bean Company	Ghana, USA
Rapunzel Pure Organics	USA
Ruth Hunt Candies	USA
Scharffen Berger Chocolate Maker	USA
Teuscher	Switzerland
The Endangered Species Chocolate Co.	USA
Valrhona	France
zChocolat	France

Activity

Speak Out: Tell the U.S. government. Who should be contacted? Members of Congress. The President of the United States:

President George W. Bush
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20500

Points to consider in your letter/email to President Bush and your member of Congress:

Your outrage about the use of child slaves in growing and harvesting cocoa in Côte d'Ivoire. Your expectations for the U.S. government to investigate child slavery in the cocoa industry in Ivory Coast and to take appropriate action as outlined in Executive Order No. 13126 and the Tariff Act of 1930. EO 13126

prohibits federal agencies from buying products that are made using forced or indentured child labor. The Tariff Act of 1930 bans entry into the U.S. of products that are made by forced or indentured child labor. Your interest as a consumer in supporting initiatives that include monitoring, reporting, and preventing the use of child labor in cocoa harvesting.

Speak Out: Tell the Chocolate Industry Chocolate Manufacturers Association
Points to consider making in your letter/email to CMA:

Your outrage about the use of child labor in growing and harvesting cocoa in Côte d'Ivoire. Your expectation for something to be done by the cocoa industry to ensure that cocoa imported in the U.S. is not harvested by enslaved children. Your interest as a consumer in supporting companies that are committed to monitoring, reporting, and preventing the use of child labor in cocoa harvesting.

Specific companies:

Nestle, Hershey Food Corporation, Mars Confectionery, Kraft Foods North America

Speak Out: Tell the Côte d'Ivoire Government:

Ambassador Koffi Moise
Embassy of Côte d'Ivoire
3421 Massachusetts Avenue NW
Washington, DC 20007

Points to consider in your letter/email to Ambassador Koffi Moise:

Your outrage about the use of child labor in growing and harvesting cocoa in Côte d'Ivoire. Your expectation for the government of Côte d'Ivoire to stop child trafficking and child labor in the cocoa industry. Let them know that responsible action would include finding and prosecuting adult traffickers, monitoring the farms for labor abuses, reporting on findings to the public, and programs to prevent the use of child labor in cocoa harvesting. Let them know that you will be following their progress in addressing this problem. You are supportive of responsible action that will take into consideration the impacted children and ensure that any action does not worsen their situation.

Activity

Request a visit of a representative of the Milwaukee candy company, Omanhene: the Cocoa Bean Company to your school. The company manager/owner is from Milwaukee. He receives his cocoa beans from the country of Ghana. Ask why it is that Ghana is free from the controversy of child labor. What makes the difference for children in Ghana compared to Côte d'Ivoire.

Omanhene Dark Milk Chocolate Made Without Slave Labor

Recent newspaper articles allege the use of slave labor to harvest cocoa beans in the Ivory Coast. "The only way to assure a chocolate bar is made without slave labor is to make sure the chocolate is not made from cocoa beans grown in countries such as the

Ivory Coast where slave labor has been documented in the harvesting of cocoa beans," reports Steven Wallace, president of The Omanhene Cocoa Bean Company. Omanhene dark milk chocolate is made with cocoa beans grown exclusively in Ghana. There is no use of slave labor on Ghanaian cocoa farms and no such allegations have been made, even after exhaustive investigative reporting in West Africa's cocoa-growing countries.

Until the founding of Omanhene, virtually every chocolate bar consumed was made from blends of beans grown from around the world; because such bars were made of beans from many countries, it was simply impossible to assure a chocolate bar was not the product of slave labor. "The only way to assure slave-free chocolate is to buy chocolate bars made from beans grown solely in a slave-free country, such as Ghana," Wallace says. In 1994, Omanhene became the first company in the world to effect worldwide distribution of single-source chocolate - that is, chocolate made from cocoa beans grown exclusively from a single country-of-origin.

"Unlike the Ivory Coast, Ghana's cocoa farms are small, family-run enterprises of just a few acres each; there is no need for a large supply of cheap labor as each family cultivates only as much as they are able to harvest themselves," Wallace notes. "The need for cheap labor arises only in countries where cocoa is grown on large cocoa plantations of several hundred acres each. Ghana has no tradition of such large-scale, corporate farms. Further, because the Government of Ghana has stringent quality controls that apply to every cocoa bean grown in the country, cocoa beans from Ghana are sold at premium over the benchmark Ivory Coast beans. Ghana has never been regarded as a source of cheap cocoa beans; rather Ghana enjoys the reputation of growing premium beans - beans that are more expensive than others," according to Wallace. Indeed, The Financial Times of London reports that, "Ghana grows the finest cocoa in the world."

Not only is Omanhene dark milk chocolate made exclusively with 100% Ghanaian cocoa beans, it is also manufactured entirely in Ghana. This assures that Ghanaians reap the added value from the processing of their beans into chocolate. Most of the world's chocolate bars are manufactured in countries that do not actually grow cocoa.

For a true and authentic chocolate, buy Omanhene dark milk chocolate, made in Ghana, using cocoa grown on family-owned cocoa farms. Call 1-800-LUV-CHOC (800-588-2462) or visit our website and order online at www.omanhene.com

Resources

Lord of the Dance: An African Retelling. Veronique Tadjou. New York, New York: Harper/Collins Children's Books. 1991.

Côte d'Ivoire: Enchantment of the World. Patricia K. Kummer. Chicago, Illinois: Children's Press. 2000.

Côte d'Ivoire in Pictures: Visual Geography Series. Albert Rossellini. Minneapolis, Minnesota: Lerner Publications Company. 1988.

West African Folktales. Steven H. Gale. Lincolnwood, Illinois: National Textbook Company Publishing Group. 1995.

Spider and His Son Find Wisdom: An Akan Legend. Melinda Lilly. New York, New York: Rourke Publishing. 1999.

Internet Links

Teachers and Students

There's Nothing Sweet about Child Slave Labor in the Cocoa Field

<http://www.stopchildlabor.org/internationalchildlabor/chocolate.htm>

West African Gallery

<http://www.westafricanjourney.com/Gallery/Countries/Cmap.htm>

Textbooks

- ***Making a Difference***
Harcourt Brace Social Studies
Grade 2 2002 Edition



Standards and Expectations

(Second grade adaptation)

MPS Second Grade Social Studies:

A.2.2 Construct a map/understand purpose and use of a map, learn how to make a map, understand and use a map key.

A.2.6 Identify connections between the local community and other places in the world.

B.2.1 Identify and examine various sources of information that are used for constructing and understanding the past.

B.2.2 Examine biographies, stories, narratives, and folk tales to understand the lives of ordinary and extraordinary people. Place them in time and context, and explain their relationship to important historical events.

B2.3 Compare and contrast changes in contemporary life with life in the past by looking at roles played by individuals and groups.

D2.2 Identify resources and products from the world and be able to track their movements and exchanges.