Teacher Resources
for an
African-centered/
Global Education Curriculum
in Early Childhood Education

Advanced Project Artifact

Frances Newman

2012
We must change the system of education and instruction. Unfortunately, history has shown us that brotherhood must be learned, when it should be natural. ~ Josephine Baker
Contents

What is an African-Centered Curriculum? ................................................................. 4
What is a Global Education Curriculum? ................................................................. 4
Curriculum Goals ........................................................................................................ 5
Three Secrets to Success in the Learning Process ....................................................... 6
Pre-K Resources (ages 3-4) ........................................................................................ 7
Kindergarten Resources (ages 5-6) ............................................................................. 9
First Grade Resources (ages 6-7) ............................................................................. 11
Second Grade Resources (ages 7-8) ......................................................................... 13
Additional Resources ................................................................................................. 16
References .................................................................................................................. 17

"The principle goal of education is to create men who are capable of doing new things, not simply of repeating what other generations have done - men who are creative, inventive and discoverers." ~ Jean Piaget
This easy to use resource guide is designed to assist early childhood educators in integrating African-centered and global curriculums into their traditional lesson plans. Research has shown that these two programs of study have been instrumental in increasing learning outcomes for African American students.

What is an African-Centered curriculum?

The African-centered curriculum can be defined as the adoption of Afrocentric ideology and culture relevancy for use within classrooms.

An African-centered curriculum:

- **Focuses** on the holistic development of students
- **Employs** teaching methods using African cultural principles, processes, laws, and experiences, making curricula more relevant and meaningful to students' everyday lived experiences
- **Acknowledges** that African American children are highly visual, audible, and fashion-oriented and exposure to a high degree of stimuli at an early age, including expressiveness, dance, and rhythm

Research has confirmed that Black children thrive when they are within their natural developmental frame of reference as well as their historical and existing, functional cultural context.

What is a Global Education curriculum?

Global Education or GE is the study of human beliefs and values, global systems, global issues and problems, global history, cross-cultural understanding/interaction, awareness of human choices, the development of analytical and evaluative skills, and strategies for participation and involvement.

A Global Education curriculum:

- **Requires** students to develop appropriate thinking and communication skills
- **Equips** students with the knowledge and attitudes for living in a culturally diverse and globally interrelated world
• **Features** include cross cultural awareness, global issues, universal values, critical thinking, and experiential learning

• **Teaches** students to accept and respect different cultures and develop empathic understanding for others, as well as concern for what is happening in the world.

Global Education offers students the opportunity to examine their own values and attitudes and develop the skills and knowledge to fight injustice and discrimination, and to actively participate in a global community at both local and international levels.

**Curriculum Goals**

**Behavior**

• Promote self-discipline and positive self-image

**Academics**

• Achieve excellence in course work

• Set high expectations — no grades lower than a B

**Relationships**

• Learn how to build and maintain appropriate relationships with associates, friends, and families

• Learn social skills of coping, conflict resolution, and etiquette

**Health and Wellness**

• Emphasize diet and time management

• Develop personal and public safety strategies

• Teach money management and how to nurture the body, mind, heart, and soul

**Cultural Competence**

• Develop ability to know, understand and acknowledge the history of different cultures and the norms and values that produce uniqueness in each culture
Three Secrets to Success in the Learning Process

**Listening** is the most fundamental and important skill

- **Ears** — make a conscious effort to hear to ensure clarity of stated words
- **Eyes** — make a conscious effort to see; observation of the actions of others
- **Mind** — make a conscious effort to think; maintain focus for extended periods of time
- **Heart** — make a conscious effort to feel; have compassion for the plight of others

**Obey** is the most significant responsibility of student

- **Study lessons**
- **Complete assignments**
- **Do homework**

**Follow** instructions
Pre-K Resources

READING

A Rainbow of Friends
by P.K. Hallinan
This beautifully illustrated book expresses that each person is unique and adds to the lives of others. Children are encouraged to respect those with disabilities, to help those in trouble and to reach out to those around them.

Bright Eyes, Brown Skin (A Feeling Good Book)
by Cheryl Willis Hudson
This book, written and illustrated by African Americans, is the story of four Black children who feel good about who they are and how they look as they enjoy the activities of a typical school day, happy and full of confidence and self-esteem.

Mama, Do You Love Me?
by Barbara M. Joosse
This perfect first book for toddlers is the story of a child testing the limits of her independence and a reassuring mother that confirms that love is unconditional and everlasting.

I Love my Hair!
by Natasha Anastasia Tarpley
This full-color illustrated book is perfect for preschoolers. This story with the main character, Kenya, an African American girl, encourages Black children to feel good about the uniqueness of their hair and to be proud of their heritage.

FOREIGN LANGUAGE

The Language Workshop for Children’s Director/Founder François Thibaut invented the enriched play method to teach French, Spanish, Italian and Chinese to kids. He offers stimulating language lessons for babies, toddlers and elementary grades. The book presents original music, vocabulary-building songs, language immersion, festive visual aids, action games and native-fluent language teachers.
ADDITIONAL PRE-K RESOURCES

**Cercone Music Mastery**
http://www.musicsuccessnow.com/

Music with the brain in mind. Learn all the notes with color and stories. Learn all the keys in 2 minutes. Learn chords, and then read music as you read books. Great for parents and children. Continuing lessons online.
More information on website - free videos.

**Artsology**
info@artsology.com

Artsology is a web site which uses fun games and activities to expose children to the arts: visual art, music, literature and dance. Its aim is to provide a gateway or springboard to further investigation and enjoyment of the arts.

**The Imagination Factory**
kidatart@kid-at-art.com

The Imagination Factory integrates art with science and social studies to teach environmental concepts. Some of the activities include drawing, painting, sculpture, collage, papier-mâché, and crafts. A new membership option, which features a Hawaii unit, twenty-five additional lessons, and a quarterly newsletter, is available for $10.
Kindergarten Resources

READING

Chocolate Me!
by Taye Diggs
The story is about a boy who is teased for looking different than the other kids. His skin is darker, his hair curlier. He tells his mother he wishes he could be more like everyone else and she helps him to see how beautiful he really, truly is.

A Feast for Ten
by Catherine Falwell
This book, easily related to by African American children, details the story of a family shopping for and preparing a big meal.

Filipino Children’s Favorite Stories
by Liana Rumolo and Joanne De Leon
Theses classic Filipino children’s stories have amused, inspired, and taught millions of children universal life lessons throughout the centuries. Now they are gathered together in one gorgeous volume.

Too Many Tamales
by Gary Soto
This is a story about Maria, a young Hispanic girl that loses her mother’s wedding ring while helping to prepare tamales. The ring could be in any of the 24 tamales.

FOREIGN LANGUAGE

Hello World.com—World Languages for children of all ages.
Games, songs, and activities that make learning language fun. Use Hello World by itself or as an enhancement to any language program.
ADDITIONAL KINDERGARTEN RESOURCES

Linking the Language
linkingthelanguage@windstream.net

Linking the Language is a K - 3 program for integrating literacy, comprehension, science, and social studies that provides rigorous, relevant, and respectful instruction; best practice; efficient use of instructional time; higher-order thinking; teaching for understanding; connectivity among content areas, and total support for educators. Subscribe to their FREE newsletter.

Music Play
http://www.giamusic.com/music_education/

Music Play is a major curriculum for early childhood music. Includes a complete color book with children engaged in music activities. The book also includes lesson plans adaptable to the individual needs of each child and a complete introduction to how young children learn when they learn music.

Crafts for Kids http://www.enchantedlearning.com/crafts/

This site contains almost any type of craft project imaginable, all made from materials found around the house-egg cartons, cardboard boxes, string, paint, glue, crayons, etc.

“I cannot emphasize enough the importance of a good teacher.” ~ Temple Grandin
First Grade Resources

READING

A Picture Book of Rosa Parks
by David a. Adler
This book is about Rosa Parks and how her refusal to give up her seat started the civil rights movement.

The Name Jar
by Yangsook Choi
Uhei has just moved from Korea and is anxious about her first day at school in America. Fearful that the children might not be able to pronounce her name, she creates a game during her first week that leaves everyone wondering what her name is.

Sugar Plum Ballerinas #1
by Whoopie Goldberg, Nancy Cato, and Deborah Underwood
Alexandrea Petrakova Johnson’s mom enrolls her in Nutcracker Ballet school but Alex doesn’t want to be a ballerina, nor does she want to leave her friends. She ends up with the lead in the play although she is a terrible dancer.

All the Colors of the Earth
by Sheila Hamanaka
This book celebrates the earth, children and the diversity of the world’s ethnic heritages.

"Education is not preparation for life; education is life itself." ~ John Dewey
FOREIGN LANGUAGE

Language Stars
http://www.languagestars.com/

The Language Stars team of expert linguists and educators have developed hundreds of engaging activities and games around a curriculum structure that builds functional language skills. Call and request information on school programs.

ADDITIONAL FIRST GRADE RESOURCES

Gayle’s Preschool Rainbow
http://www.preschoolrainbow.org/multicultural.htm

This website promotes multicultural awareness and self-esteem with a multitude of class activities and lesson plans that offer activities with multicultural themes.

Teachers First
http://www.teachersfirst.com/

Teachers First is a rich collection of lessons, units, and web resources designed to save teachers time by delivering just what they need in a practical, user-friendly, ad-free format. Sign up for free access to core curriculum as well as extracurricular activities, including music and art.

Children’s Music Web
http://www.childrensmusic.org/

A network for children and families, featuring a wealth of web-based channels, archived audio, podcasts, and links. Also includes links for teachers and performers.
Second Grade Resources

READING

A Picture Book of George Washington Carver
by David A. Adler
This book is a brief biography of the African American scientist who overcame tremendous hardships to make unusual and important discoveries in the field of agriculture.

The Girl Who Loved Wild Horses
by Paul Goble
This book, with its colorful details of flowers, insects, and birds, is representative of the love of and harmony with nature popular in Native American culture, and tells the story of a Native American girl who feels such a kinship with the wild horses grazing near her village that she eventually becomes one of them.

What Color is My World?
by Kareem Abdul Jabbar, Raymond Obstfeld, and Ben Boos
While Twins Ella and Herbie help Mr. Midal, who is working on their new home, he tells them about African American inventors like Granville T. Woods, Dr. Henry T. Watson, and James West, giving them a new perspective on their heritage.

Nasreen’s Secret School: A True Story from Afghanistan
by Jeanette Winter
Nasreen’s Secret School is the true story of a young Afghan girl who loses her voice when her parents disappear, and regains it by daring to attend a school for girls forbidden by the Taliban. Reading Nasreen’s story will make American students appreciate the value of education and freedom.
ADDITIONAL SECOND GRADE RESOURCES

**Arts and Education**

http://schools.nyc.gov/offices/teachlearn/arts/benchmarks.html

The Arts Education goal for the New York City Department of Education (NYCDOE) is to provide all public school students with universal access to a high quality arts education. Fulfillment of this mission will lead students to discover the lifelong enjoyment and wonder inherent in dance, music, theater, and visual arts, and will connect them to arts institutions and organizations that exhibit and perform the arts.

---

**Core Knowledge**

http://www.coreknowledge.org/

The Core Knowledge sequence is a detailed outline of specific content for language arts, history and geography, visual arts, music, mathematics, and science. The philosophy of Core Knowledge is the more you know the more you are able to learn. The Core Knowledge series gives teachers age appropriate content that builds from one grade to the next.

---

**Blick Art**

http://www.dickblick.com/multicultural/lessonplans/

This well-known art supplier offers cultural lesson plans for early childhood educators including Native American, Chinese, and Aboriginal projects.
“Someday, maybe, there will exist a well-informed, well considered and yet fervent public conviction that the most deadly of all possible sins is the mutilation of a child’s spirit.” ~ Erik Erikson

The educational system of a country is worthless unless it [revolutionizes the social order]. Men of scholarship, and prophetic insight, must show us the right way and lead us into light which is shining brighter and brighter.” ~ Carter G. Woodson
Additional Resources


References

Covington Clarkson, L.M. & Johnstone, J.R. When the African-centered paradigm is not enough: lessons from an urban charter school. *Journal of Negro Education, 80*(2), 108-120.


Cover/contents image: http://www.psychologytoday.com/files/u15/Children.jpg

Photos: Frances Newman - Children & Grandchildren
Kenya Grooms - Daughter, page 6