



#9547

AFRICA'S CHILD: ETHIOPIA: FESTIVAL OF FIRE

BENCHMARK MEDIA, 2000

Grade Levels: 7-10

15 minutes

DESCRIPTION

An Ethiopian teenager shares her life in Addis Ababa, the capital, as she talks about her religious life, schooling, foods, ambitions, and the Meskel festival.

ACADEMIC STANDARDS

**Subject Area: World History – Era 5 – Intensified Hemispheric Interactions
1000 – 1500 CE**

- ★ Standard: Understands the growth of states, towns, and trade in Sub-Saharan Africa between the 11th and 15th centuries
 - Benchmark: Understands social and religious features of West Africa (e.g., what art reveals about the societies and rulers of Benin and Ile-Ife, the story of Solomon and Sheba and the role of Sheba in African history) (See Instructional Goal #1.)
 - Benchmark: Understands religious aspects of Ethiopian society (e.g., the expansion of the Christian Ethiopian kingdom and its search for wider connections in the Christian world, the major achievements of the Zagwe Dynasty in Ethiopia and how this dynasty affected both Coptic Christians and Muslims) (See Instructional Goal #2.)

INSTRUCTIONAL GOALS

1. To depict the life of a student in urban Ethiopia.
2. To introduce the culture and religion of Ethiopia.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

Ethiopia is a republic in northeast Africa. This country includes fertile plains, mountains, and deserts. Recent droughts, war with Somalia, and civil war have devastated the nation. Allowing Eritrea its independence in 1991 has left Ethiopia landlocked. Half Muslim, half Christian this multilingual country is primarily rural and very poor.



VOCABULARY

1. traditional
2. abroad
3. district
4. icon
5. patriarch
6. bonfire



BEFORE SHOWING

1. On a map of the world locate the following.
 - a. On a political map locate Addis Ababa, Ethiopia.
 - b. On a landform map locate the deserts, mountains and fertile plains of Ethiopia. Consider the source of water, natural resources, and exports.
2. Imagine what life is like in rural and urban Ethiopia. List at least ten hypotheses about living in West Africa. Consider food, religion, school, work, and recreation.

AFTER SHOWING

► Discussion Items and Questions

1. What is a typical day like for Selamavit? What are her dreams for the future? What does she like to do with her best friend, Jeri? What is her family like?
2. What are traditional Ethiopian foods?
3. What are typical religious activities in the Ethiopian Eastern Orthodox Church?
4. How is the Meskel Festival of St. Helena celebrated? What is the story behind the celebration?

► Applications and Activities

1. Draw a chart with the headings houses, school, climate, leisure activities, traditional foods, and religious festivals. Under each heading place two columns: one for Selamavit and one for yourself. Fill in the chart.
2. Plan a trip to Ethiopia. Use maps, consulate tourist information, internet resources, books, articles, and the video.
 - a. How would you travel to Ethiopia?
 - b. Where would you visit?
 - c. What would you expect to see?
 - d. What time of year would you prefer to travel?
 - e. What clothing would you bring?
 - f. What might the weather and landscape be like?
3. Make two columns on the board: one for Ethiopian Christianity (Eastern Orthodox) and the other for a familiar local religion. List and fill in the following topics:
 - a. Icons
 - b. Festivals
 - c. Dress
 - d. Music
 - e. Special foods
 - f. Architecture of places of worship
 - g. Rules

- Investigate Ethiopia. Consider population density, history, export of coffee, and the Ark of the Covenant's role in the Ethiopian Christian church.

RELATED RESOURCES



- [The Right to Choose #9377](#)
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World Wide Web

The following Web sites complement the contents of this guide; they were selected by professionals who have experience in teaching deaf and hard of hearing students. Every effort was made to select accurate, educationally relevant, and "kid safe" sites. However, teachers should preview them before use. The U.S. Department of Education, the National Association of the Deaf, and the Captioned Media Program do not endorse the sites and are not responsible for their content.

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- ETHIOPIAN RELATED NEWS AND INFORMATION**

<http://ethio.com/newethio/>



Includes headline news and facts about Ethiopia.

Political Resources on the Net

- AFRICAN POLITICAL RESOURCES**

<http://www.politicalresources.net/africa.htm>

Index of African political sites available on the Internet sorted by country with links to Parties, Organizations, Governments, and Media. Includes links to maps of Africa.
