

CURRICULUM GUIDE

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African Pen Pals

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www.woub.org/africanpenpals

AFRICAN PEN PALS GLOSSARY

TERMS	DEFINITION	EPISODE
Acacia tree	Acacias are native to tropical and subtropical regions of the world, particularly Australia and Africa. Their small, often fragrant, yellow or white flowers have many stamens a piece, giving each a fuzzy appearance.	Kenya Moses
Apartheid	<p>Although this term is not mentioned in Zandile’s episode, you may wish to introduce it to your students. Apartheid was an official government policy enforced by the South African government from 1948 to 1994.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Apartheid means apartness.</p> <p>The policy was used to limit the governing power and place of residence of non-white people. Pass laws and pass books were a part of the policy.</p>	South Africa Zandile
cassava	Any of several plants grown in the tropics for their fleshy edible roots which yield a nutritious starch.	Nigeria Rosemary
circumcision	<p style="text-align: center;">male: the act of cutting off the prepuce</p> <p style="text-align: center;">female: the removal of parts of the female genitalia.</p>	Kenya Moses
class prefect	A student who is in charge of the class, especially if the teacher leaves the room.	Nigeria Rosemary
compost	a mixture that consists largely of decayed organic matter and is used for fertilizing and conditioning land	South Africa Zandile
convent	A local community or house of a religious order or congregation; especially, an establishment of nuns.	Egypt Mona
cricket	A game played with a long flat-sided bat, a ball, two wickets (each made of three upright sticks stuck into the ground), and two bails (each bail is a single stick resting atop the wicket.)	South Africa Chistopher
deities	gods and goddesses	Egypt Sharif
diplomats	One employed or skilled in the art and practice of conducting negotiations between nations.	South Africa Chistopher
dynasty	A powerful group or family that maintains its position for a considerable time.	Egypt Sharif

European influence	The act or power of the culture of Europe producing an effect on the culture of Africa without apparent exertion of force or direct exercise of command.	Egypt Sharif
extended family	A household that includes not only parents and children but also other relatives, such as grandparents, uncles, aunts, and cousins.	Kenya Moses
facilities	Things (such as a hospital) that are built, installed, or established to serve a particular purpose.	Nigeria Odafe
fistulate	To make a passage leading from the body's surface to a hollow organ to permit the passage of fluids or secretions. Example: A scientist might fistulate an animal, making a surgical opening to its stomach, in order to study its digestive processes.	Kenya Grace
flat	apartment	Kenya Grace
football	soccer	Nigeria Odafe
Giza	A city in northern Egypt on the west bank of the Nile River near Cairo.	South Africa Chistopher
go to university	Go to college or go to a university.	Nigeria Odafe
headmaster	A man heading the staff of a school; a school principal.	South Africa Chistopher
headmistress	A woman heading the staff of a school; a school principal.	South Africa Chistopher
Ibo	An ethnic group who live primarily in southeastern Nigeria, Africa; a member of the Ibo ethnic group; the language of the Ibo people; a river in Nigeria.	Nigeria Rosemary
initiated	Inducted into membership by or as if by special rites; instructed in the basic knowledge or principles of something.	Kenya Moses
Kikuyu	An ethnic group in Kenya. Grace's mother is from the Kikuyu ethnic group.	Kenya Grace
kola nut	The bitter caffeine-containing chestnut-sized seed of a kola tree; used especially to chew and to make beverages.	Nigeria Rosemary

legacy	Something transmitted by or received from an ancestor or predecessor; or from the past.	Egypt Sharif
Maasai	The Maasai people live in Kenya and Tanzania and cross the border between the two countries freely. Maasai is derived from Maa, the name of the language the people speak.	Kenya Moses
maize	corn	Tanzania Suraj
manyatta	A Maasai village of huts for an extended family.	Kenya Moses
marathon	A long foot race. The traditional marathon is 26 miles long.	Tanzania Warda
Mediterranean influence	The act or power of the culture of the countries that border the Mediterranean Sea producing an effect on the culture of Africa without apparent exertion of force or direct exercise of command.	Egypt Sharif
monogamous	Having only one spouse, for example: one woman married to one man.	Kenya Grace
multi-ethnic	Having many different groups of people (classed according to common racial, national, tribal, religious, linguistic, or cultural origin or background) within the same general area.	Tanzania Suraj
Niger	The Niger River is the principal river of western Africa. It is the third largest river on the African continent and runs through Guinea, Mali, Niger, Benin, and Nigeria.	Nigeria Rosemary
nomadic	Having no fixed residence but moving from place to place usually seasonally and within a well-defined territory.	Kenya Moses
orthodox	of, relating to, or constituting any of various conservative religious or political groups	Egypt Mona
Palestine	Ancient region in Southwest Asia bordering on the east coast of the Mediterranean and extending east of the Jordan River.	Egypt Mona
passbook	Identification papers that black people were required to carry at all times. South Africa's first all-race democratic elections on April 26, 1994, marked the end of the passbook and Apartheid.	South Africa Zandile
pass laws	laws which stated that black women and all non-white men in South Africa had to carry a passbook with them at all times.	South Africa Zandile

passion	A strong liking or desire for or devotion to some activity, object, or concept.	Kenya Grace
pastoralists	Persons who depend upon raising livestock as their primary economic activity.	Kenya Moses
Pharonic Era	The time when the Pharaohs ruled Egypt – 2000 years ago	Egypt Sharif
polygamous	Having more than one spouse, for example: one woman with several husbands.	Kenya Grace Moses
province	An administrative district or division of a country.	South Africa Chistopher
Qur'an	The holy book of the people of the Muslim religion.	Egypt Sharif
Rabai	An ethnic group in Kenya. Grace's father is from the Rabai ethnic group, so her last name, Mwinga, is a Rabai name.	Kenya Grace
Ramadan	Ramadan – the Muslim “month of blessing.” It is the ninth month of the Islamic calendar and marked by prayer, fasting, and charity.	Egypt Sharif
rand	The basic monetary unit in South Africa. The U.S. uses dollars, they use rands.	South Africa Zandile
Reverend Mother	A Catholic sister or nun who has earned a mark of respect; a distinguishing title.	Nigeria Rosemary
rugby	A football game in which play is continuous without time-outs or substitutions; interference and forward passing are not permitted; and kicking, dribbling, lateral passing, and tackling are featured.	South Africa Chistopher
sea front	Land right beside the ocean or sea, beach front.	Tanzania Warda
Sinai Peninsula	A peninsula in northeastern Egypt, located between the Gulfs of Suez and Aqaba at the northern end of the Red Sea, covering some 23,500 sq mi (61,000 sq km).	Egypt Mona
social atmosphere	An environment marked by or passed in pleasant companionship with one's friends or associates.	Nigeria Odafe

socialize	To participate actively in pleasant companionship with one's friends or associates; forming cooperative and interdependent relationships with others.	Nigeria Odafé
spectacles	Eyeglasses	Kenya Grace
spiritual	Concerned with religious values	Egypt Mona
Swahili	A Bantu language that is a trade and governmental language over much of East Africa and in the Congo region.	Tanzania Suraj
tailor	One who sews clothing or other cloth products for a living.	Nigeria Rosemary
traditional	An inherited, established, or customary pattern of thought, action, or behavior (as a religious practice or a social custom).	Egypt Mona Tanzania Suraj
ugali	Cooked corn meal mush, similar to grits. It has different names in different countries.	Kenya Grace Tanzania Suraj
uoali	Cooked corn meal mush, similar to grits. It has different names in different countries. Another name used in South Africa is "mealie meal."	Kenya Moses
water pipe	Commonly known as "hookahs," water pipes are used to smoke a mild, flavored tobacco. Traditionally used only by men, hookah smoking is popular in Egypt, Turkey and many middle eastern countries.	Egypt Mona
Wudu	Muslim practice of ritually cleaning the face, hands, and feet before prayer.	Tanzania Warda

CRITICAL THINKING • CULTURAL AWARENESS GLOSSARY

TERM DEFINITION

analysis A separation of a whole into its parts; an examination of a whole, its elements, and their relationships.

assess To determine the importance, size, or value of

belief Ideas or theories that are not supported by objective or factual evidence. One “believes” that something is true or false.

bias An inclination of temperament or outlook, especially a personal and sometimes unreasoned judgment.

body language The gestures, movements, and mannerisms by which a person or animal communicates with others.

“bottom up” listening The bottom or base of a language is its smallest parts – sounds of vowels and syllables, pitch, stress, word choice, and phasing. The base of a language forms its structure. Bottom up listening is listening to the structure of the language.

culture The total way of life of a group of people, including their beliefs, institutions, and technology.

cultural trait A single element of normal practice in a culture – such as the wearing of a turban.

custom A practice from the past that people continue to observe.

deductive thinking Using general statements to come to conclusions about specific information of situations; proving, reasoning, and clarifying by deduction.

enculturation The slow and day-to-day process of learning your group’s culture as an infant and a child.

enduring Continuing in the same state; long-lasting.

environmental Having to do with the circumstances, objects, or conditions by which one is surrounded.

extended family A household that includes not only parents and children but also other relatives, such as grandparents, uncles, aunts, and cousins.

flowchart A diagram that shows step-by-step progression through a procedure or system especially using connecting lines and a set of conventional symbols.

fluent Effortlessly smooth and rapid

format The shape, size, and general makeup (as of something printed); general plan of organization, arrangement, or choice of material (as for a television show).

framework A basic structure; a skeleton, openwork, or structure.

frequency The fact or condition of occurring frequently; quite often.

TERM	DEFINITION
gender	Sex – male or female
gender roles	What males do as apposed to what females do. A person’s gender role can be expressed through clothing, behavior, choice of work, personal relationships, and other factors.
hypothesis	A not fully worked out or developed explanation for an observable fact or event used as a basis for further investigation.
Inductive thinking	Inferring unknown generalizations or principles form observation or analysis.
infer	To derive as a conclusion from facts or premises. To infer implies arriving at a conclusion by reasoning from evidence.
inference	Decision or conclusion based on facts; something assumed or taken for granted; the act of passing from statistical sample data to generalizations with calculated degrees of certainty.
interpersonal	Being, relating to, or involving relations between persons.
invalid	Being without foundation or force in fact, truth, or law.
leisure time	Time free from work or duties.
levels of culture	We all live and ‘operate’ within a variety of cultures. The basic layer of culture is one’s home and family. Another layer is one’s school or workplace. Yet another is the church one attends. The culture of the clubs and organizations to which one belongs is often different from other layers of culture. A more encompassing level is a national culture that unites citizens of a particular country.
logical	Characterized by reasoning or of using reason in an orderly thoughtful fashion.
metacognitive	Thinking about the way you think; able to deal critically with the ability of knowing, awareness and judgment.
material	Being of a physical or worldly nature; relating to or concerned with physical rather than spiritual or intellectual things.
material culture	The “object” part of culture; all things that people make or build with natural or human-made resources; it includes food, clothing, architecture, arts, crafts, technology, etc.
matrix	Something resembling a mathematical matrix especially in rectangular arrangement of elements into rows and columns.
non-material	Not of a physically or worldly nature; relating to or concerned with spiritual or intellectual things rather than things of a physical or worldly nature.
non-material culture	The “idea” part of culture that includes religion, language, spiritual beliefs, superstitions, values, ways of viewing or behaving in the world.

TERM DEFINITION

norm A rule or standard that defines what people should or should not do, think, or feel in any given social situation.

nutrition The sum of the processes by which animals (including humans) or plants takes in and use food.

occupation Job, means of earning money or making a living

parental expectation What parents/guardians anticipate, look forward to or hope their children will do or accomplish both in the short and long term.

premise A statement or proposition that has already been proved (or is supposed proved) and then used as the basis of an argument or an inference.

producer A person who supervises or finances the production of a stage or screen production or radio or television program

religion Beliefs and practices regarding supernatural beings, power, and forces.

rhomboid A parallelogram with no right angles and with adjacent sides of unequal length. A parallelogram is any four-sided figure where the opposites are parallel to each other and of equal length.

rural Of or relating to the country, country people or life, or agriculture

Service Learning A method under which students learn and develop through active participation in thoughtfully organized service experiences that meet actual community needs, and which are coordinated with a formal educational institution to address and support an academic curriculum.

statistics A branch of mathematics dealing with the collection, analysis, interpretation, and presentation of masses of numerical data

storyboard A sequential depiction of a narrative. Most storyboards include both a sketch or drawing of each sequential event as well as a written explanation or basic script telling what is happening during the event.

typical Having the nature of a type; exhibiting the essential characteristics of a group; conforming to a type.

“top down” listening Listening skills that focus on the overall meaning of oral input. The listener uses strategies such as guessing from context, prior knowledge and inferring.

urban Of, relating to, characteristic of, or constituting a city.

valid Well-grounded or justifiable; being at once relevant and meaningful.

value An idea about what is good, right, wise, or beneficial.