

How will I learn?

Call and response song is learned by taking part, responders later becoming callers. Tonight we aim to help you make this transition.

Auditory learning and engagement is the authentic way to learn Ghana's call and response songs. Oral learning, using songs to hold histories and moral codes, is central to traditional education in Ghana.

Many Ghanaian languages have characters/sounds that do not exist in English. As songs are unifying many (including tonight's) include a number of languages.

Therefore to support tonight's learning we do not have written lyrics. However to support you we have audio and video files at www.africanactivities.org.uk/song. Please let us know if you would prefer these to be emailed.

Past Teaching of call and response song by writing lyrics and containing the music has led to an odd form of Chinese whispers. Therefore, tonight there may be one of more famous songs that feel familiar. You may be as shocked as we are by how different they are!



CPD Session: Leading call and Response Songs From Ghana

Call and response song is used to unify people, remind them of the power of the collective and get them working together to achieve things that alone can seem impossible. Once mastered you can use call and response to unify your classroom at any time.

African Activities CIC
www.africanactivities.org.uk
03 8178 2720
Kwame@africanactivities.org.uk

What will I need?

You genuinely just need voices to replicate call and response song in the classroom. Its simplicity is part of what makes it such a powerful tool.

Tonight's session is accompanied by drums. They complement each other but are not necessary. Much call and response song occurs spontaneously to raise morale, often at the workplace where drums are not available. However you will note the lead bell - this is often improvised and used to help lead the call, but it is not essential.

Movement is a central part of African music – with dancers and drummers essentially carrying out a conversation without the spoken word. Dancing, movement and clapping can help support synchronisation in the response to reinforce the call.

Further development: Many songs can lend themselves to be sung as rounds. You may choose to do so, but please note this is not the traditional authentic form.

What songs will we be singing?

Tonight's songs are from Ghana, West Africa. Twi is the lead dialect used but Hausa, English, Gonga and various other languages and dialects make an appearance!

Kwame will teach each song and place it within its context. Context and translation notes can be found with the audio files online.

- PETE PETE (Known in the UK as Senwa De dende)
 - This song is the story of a mother vulture calling her children to eat the delicious food she has cooked. Her children are busy playing!
- Bring your Calabash
 - This song is a collective calling in. It is inviting people to share porridge together, but it works as a reminder of the collective. Both the burdens and the fruits are sweeter when we work together.
- Laba Laba Zumba
 - This song is welcoming. It is an invitation to dance and enjoy. It is a call to play, to enjoy and to have fun.