African Americans in Ghana & the African-based Curriculum

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Lesson 1

A. Pretend you are a child again:
1. Write down three words you would have used to describe Africa.

2. Write down three words you would have used to describe African people.

3. What forms of documentation were influential in your description of Africa and Africans?

4. Which were primary sources? Which were secondary sources?

B. Now that you have been in Africa (or studied Africa):
1. Write down three words you would use to describe Africa.

2. Write down three words you would use to describe African people.

Look at the words in sections A and B:
Put a check on any word you consider negative
Put a star on any word you consider positive

• Turn to the person on your right and compare your words and sources.
• Record those that are similar.
• Has there been a shift in your thinking from your childhood to now? Explain why.
Lesson 2

Core Cultural Ghanaian Values and African Centered Education

What cultural values do you associate with each proverb?
1-religious, 2- family, 3- communal/individual, 4- moral, 5-political/economic

No one shows the Supreme Being to a child.
God pounds fufuo for the one armed man.
Birth is the remedy for death.
The ruin of a nation begins in the homes of its people.
If two men carry a log, it does not weigh them down.
When you follow the path of your father, you learn to walk like him.
The human being is more beautiful than gold.
Carpenters are not Blacksmiths.
Despite the fact the women is blind, she can still move around.
When an old lady dies, a library is closed.
When a king has good counselors, his reign is peaceful.
Do not call the forest that shelters you a jungle.
Little by little grows the banana.
The lizard does not eat pepper for the frog to sweat.
The beauty of a woman depends on her husband.

African-Centered Education in the Detroit Public Schools is based upon the research that all humans have their physical, social and Intellectual origins In Africa. The child Is placed and grounded at "this center" and through an inclusionary process, all representative groups are placed, not above or below any group but alongside the rest of humanity as events and truth dictate.

The Detroit Public School district, through African-Centered Education, prepares the students to acknowledge the
past and accept responsibility for the future; which Is the foundation for self-determination. Through African-Centered Education, students demonstrate a sense of responsibility to self and others. Students are equipped with a historical consciousness that enables them to succeed in a global society. The student is equipped with the knowledge and strategies to promote entrepreneurial skills. African-Centered Education empowers students to expect and to strive for academic success.

Lesson 3

Auntie Yaa’s Photo Stories

1. When you look at the photograph, what is the first thing you see?

2. Does the photograph tell a story that you can articulate? Explain.

3. Does the photograph elicit an emotion? In other words, can you relate to the subject or the situation? Explain.

4. Which core Ghanaian value(s) does the photograph support?

5. In which academic disciplines would this photograph be useful?

6. How would this photograph enrich an African-centered curriculum?
Auntie Yaa’s Photo Album
Photos by Okomfo Yaa Nson Opare (2009)