



Study Guide

World Music in the Schools • Living Room Learning: World Music & Dance

South Africa: Music & Culture

Teaching Artist: Nomsa Burkhardt • [Nomsa's Artist Profile](#)

Video link: <https://video.link/w/Znmkb>

Sanibonani: “I see you!” *Yebo*: “Yes, I am here!” A greeting in Zulu, which is one of South Africa’s 11 official languages. There is so much to learn from what might seem like a simple exchange of pleasantries. South Africa, often referred to as the “Rainbow Nation,” is a country full of cultural diversity. During this interactive assembly students will be introduced to South African music and culture through singing along with a traditional song in Zulu (South Africa’s most widely spoken language), and learning clapping patterns to accompany the infectious rhythms of African percussion.

Learning Objectives: Students will learn . . .

- How to greet one another in Zulu, and understand the cultural significance and meaning of this greeting
- To locate South Africa on the map
- To sing along with a song in Zulu
- The value of music in South African society
- To explore empathy through learning about a different culture

Alignment with **California Arts Standards for Public Schools:**

- **Music:** .MU:Cn11: Relate artistic ideas and works with societal, cultural, and historical context to deepen understanding

Preliminary Activities

Geography:

- On a world map, locate the continent of Africa, and notice how it is more colorful than other continents: It contains 54 countries
- South Africa is located at the southernmost tip of the continent of Africa
- South Africa has three capital cities: Pretoria (executive), Bloemfontein (judicial), and Cape Town (legislative)
- South Africa is a multi-ethnic society, with 11 official languages

History:

- South Africa is a multiracial country with a complex and troubled history of interactions between indigenous Africans, European settlers, Asians, and people of mixed race.
- Apartheid was a system of separating people according to their race, comparable to racial segregation in the United States.

Traditions:

- Music and Dance play a significant role in passing on traditions from generation to generation among the Indigenous African groups.
- South Africa has a thriving and globally influential music industry, ranging from (but not limited to) popular, traditional, cultural, gospel, jazz, and choral music.

Culture:

- South Africa is home to The Cradle of Humankind, one of the eight World Heritage Sites, where some of the oldest hominin fossils have been found.
- The diverse culture of South Africa reflects the widely varied population.
- South Africa is the first and only country in Africa to have hosted the FIFA World Cup competition (2010).
- Soccer, Rugby and Cricket are South Africa's most popular sports.

Follow-Up Activities

Ask your students to . . .

- Share with a classmate one thing you learned or liked. Share this with your family.
- Practice your new Zulu vocabulary with a classmate:
 - *Sanibonani*: "I see you!" *Yebo*: "Yes, I am here!"
- Locate South Africa on the map.
- Explain the value of music in South African society.
- Give examples of music you experience in your own life.
- Discuss the role music plays in expressing your own identity (family, culture, gender, hobbies, etc).
- Look for items around your own house that you can use to make your own rhythms.
- What does South Africa and San Diego have in common according to the Sanibonani song?
- Answer the question: what more would you like to learn about South Africa?

Song lyrics: *Sanibonani* (with Zulu translation)

Sanibonani, Sanibonani	<i>I see you</i>
Siya nibingelela	<i>We greet you</i>
Sanibonani, Sanibonani	<i>I see you</i>
Sesi fikile	<i>We have arrived</i>
iYebo! — iYebo! — iYebo! — iYebo!	<i>Yes, I am here!</i>
Siphum' eMzansi	<i>We are from the south</i>
Siphum' eSoweto	<i>We are from Soweto</i>
Siphum' eSan Diego	<i>We are from San Diego</i>
Sithi . . .	<i>We say . . .</i>