

## African Griot

Students will learn to tell an African folktale. A griot, the clan storyteller will tell the tale and the class will take on the other parts.

Rationale: Students will intertwine music and rhythms with storytelling. They will get the opportunity to experience a way of telling history and moral tales with a musical twist. Students will practice rhythms, chanting ensemble, sound effects and get the chance to perform.

### Objectives.

Students will learn to play and hear melody. Students will learn to play and hear harmony. Students will learn to play and hear rhythms. Students will learn to play and hear music forms. Students will learn to play and hear various musical timbres. Students will improvise melodies. Students will learn improvise rhythms. Students will learn improvise harmonies. Students will learn manipulate traditional and innovative forms of music. Students will learn manipulate timbres of music. Students will sing and perform alone and with others. Students will perform on instruments alone and with others. Students will create original compositions. Students will learn of music from other cultures. Students will compare the music of their own culture with the music of other cultures. Students will learn the place of music in history. Students will work cooperatively. Students will learn kinesthetically. Students will exercise interpersonal skills. Students will exercise the skills of personal craftsmanship. Students will create visual representations of music and culture. Students will reflect on the personal and emotional impact of

### Materials

Story....Anonsi tales from the Ashanti tribe of Ghana.

Glass Bottles

Drums

**the music, its aesthetic qualities.  
Students will show leadership.  
Students will participate in class discussions of music and culture.  
Students will work as a community to create music. Students will share materials and help one another .  
Students will take pride in personal accomplishment  
Student will seek help from others.**

Procedure.

The clan story teller is called the griot or an epic pourer. The griot will tell a story of history or a moral folktale accompanied by a chorus of percussionists, bottles, melodies, and chanters. A chorus chants parts in the background and fills in the voices of the other characters. A voice in the chorus might also act as the questioner, asking questions of the storyteller, encouraging him with praises or calls. An action might accompany a choral sound, then, you could alternatively use only the action. The chorus would use single sounds/words, take separate parts and create a rhythm. Oftentimes the sound of rhythmic banging on bottles is used as an accompaniment.

1. Tell the story to the class.
2. Hand out the script and have each child tell the story to a partner. The partner will try to improvise where to put in rhythms, melodies, chants, and comments/questions. The partners should mark it accurately in the script.
3. Two sets of partners will get together and compare, musing their scripts with the best ideas of each.
4. At the end of class, each script gets turned in.

Next class.

Teacher should read the scripts and put the best ideas together.

1. Assign the roles of griot, questioner, drummers/chanters, and bottle players.
2. Rehearse.
3. Videotape the dress rehearsal, and watch for new ideas and polishing the

performance. Comment on the best parts and what can be done better.

#### 4. Perform for an audience.

For performance: Make sure you have either videotaped or audiotaped the performance ahead of time so the performers know what they sound like. Arrange the performers in a u-shape so they can see each other.

special notes

#### Assessment

Performance. Self evaluation of best and worst. Each child should participate in the performance.