

From South Africa to the Big Screen: The Human Geography of “Wimoweh”

Lesson Plan | *Grades 3–12*

MIM

MUSICAL INSTRUMENT MUSEUM

ARIZONA ACADEMIC STANDARDS

Arizona Arts Standards: Dance

K–2nd Grade: 1.A.-C., 4.A., 5.A.-C., 7.A. & B., 11.A.

3rd–5th Grade: 5.A.-C., 7.A., 11.A.

6th Grade–High School: 5.A., 11.A.

Arizona Arts Standards: Music

K–6th Grade: 6.A. & B., 10.B., 11.A. & B.

7th & 8th Grade: 6.A. & B., 10.A. & B., 11.A. & B.

High School: 6.A., 11.A. & B.

Arizona History and Social Science Standards

Kindergarten: K.SP1.1, K.SP1.2, K.SP1.3, K.SP2.1, K.SP3.1, K.C2.2, K.G1.1, K.G1.2, K.H1.1

1st Grade: 1.SP1.2, 1.SP1.3, 1.SP2.1, 1.G1.1, 1.G2.1, 1.G3.1, 1.G3.2, 1.H1.1

2nd Grade: 2.SP1.1, 2.SP1.2, 2.SP1.3, 2.SP2.1, 2.SP2.2, 2.SP3.1, 2.SP3.2, 2.SP3.3, 2.SP3.4, 2.SP3.5, 2.C2.2, 2.E3.1, 2.E3.3, 2.G1.1, 2.G1.2, 2.G2.2, 2.G3.1, 2.H1.1, 2.H1.2, 2.H1.3

3rd Grade: 3.SP1.1, 3.SP1.2, 3.SP1.3, 3.SP3.5, 3.SP3.6

4th Grade: 4.SP1.1, 4.SP1.2, 4.SP1.3, 4.SP3.1, 4.SP3.3, 4.E3.1, 4.G4.1

5th Grade: 5.SP1.2, 5.SP1.3, 5.E5.1, 5.G4.1, 5.H4.1

6th Grade: 6.SP1.1, 6.SP1.2, 6.SP1.3, 6.SP1.4, 6.SP3.1, 6.SP3.5, 6.SP4.1, 6.E5.1, 6.E5.2, 6.G1.1, 6.G3.1, 6.G3.2, 6.H1.1, 6.H1.2, 6.H4.1

7th Grade: 7.SP1.1, 7.SP1.2, 7.SP1.3, 7.SP1.4, 7.SP4.1, 7.E2.1, 7.G1.1, 7.G1.2, 7.G2.1, 7.G2.2, 7.G3.1, 7.G4.1, 7.G4.2, 7.H1.1, 7.H3.2, 7.H3.4, 7.H3.5

8th Grade: 8.SP1.1, 8.SP1.2, 8.SP1.3, 8.SP1.4, 8.SP4.1, 8.G1.1, 8.G2.2

High School: HS.SP1.1, HS.SP1.2, HS.SP1.3, HS.SP1.4, HS.SP4.1, HS.E5.1, HS.E5.2, HS.G2.2, HS.G2.3, HS.G4.2, HS.G4.3, HS.H1.3, HS.H1.4, HS.H1.6, HS.H4.1, HS.H4.2

Key Vocabulary

- **Human geography:** the study of the different ways that human societies develop and operate in relation to their physical environment

Materials

- Provided digital resources
- Physical examples of a vuvuzela, gumboots, and banjo (optional)

Objectives

Students will be able to recognize the relationship between music and history in South Africa by learning a song by ear and charting its musical journey.

[Click here](#) or scan the QR code to find additional images, videos, detailed teaching instructions, and worksheets!



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ENGAGE [10 minutes]

Share three objects (or images of objects) with students: a vuvuzela, a pair of gumboots or galoshes, and a banjo. Ask students to describe the objects based on their observations.

EXPLORE [10 minutes]

Listen to the Tokens perform their biggest hit, “The Lion Sleeps Tonight.” After listening, discuss what the objects might have to do with the song.

Track: “The Lion Sleeps Tonight”

Artist: The Tokens

Album: *The Lion Sleeps Tonight*

Label: RCA Victor

URL: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=OQlByoPdG6c>

EXPLAIN [20 minutes]

With the help of the videos below, teach the significance of the vuvuzela, gumboots, and banjo.

VUVUZELA

Kudu horn, The Metropolitan Museum of Art

<https://www.metmuseum.org/art/collection/search/501084>

“10 things about the vuvuzela,” BBC News

<https://www.bbc.com/news/10312794>

African Lion, Phoenix Zoo

<https://www.phoenixzoo.org/explore/animals/african-lion/>

GUMBOOTS

SPAC Break: South African Gumboot

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=K-b4oV8Bg9Q&t=291s>

“Zulu’s ‘Tip-Toe’ Choir Competition,” All Things Considered

<https://www.npr.org/2004/04/22/1847340/zulus-tip-toe-choir-competition>

BANJO

The Black Music Project Presents: The Roots of the Banjo

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WdWrPoZcchU>

“In the Jungle: Inside the Long, Hidden Genealogy of ‘The Lion Sleeps Tonight,’” Rolling Stone

<https://www.rollingstone.com/feature/in-the-jungle-inside-the-long-hidden-genealogy-of-the-lion-sleeps-tonight-108274/>

ELABORATE [10 minutes]

Perform “Wimoweh” as a group. Try singing it in two parts. Can someone try singing the solo?

EVALUATE [10 minutes]

Discuss: Do we hear the Tokens’ recording differently now? How so?