

DLR - Artefact 2 (Djembe Drum) Transcript

[Audio: background music, light and upbeat. Person talking to camera.]

(Setting: Warehouse, historical dolls, Djembe Drum)

(Large sign with text and images:

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Images include: The skeletal jaw of a dinosaur, Lady's Miao Boots (China/Thailand), children reading Viking books and examining ancient Viking pottery, child holding a rock.)

(Adam Bushnell) My name is Adam Bushnell and I'm an author working with Durham Learning Resources to use some of their artefacts to inspire creative writing in the classroom.

(Object: Adam Bushnell is holding a Djembe Drum. It has a yellow, green and red pattern with black ropes along the sides of the drum. The camera zooms in on the Djembe Drum.)

(Adam Bushnell) The object that I have today is a Djembe Drum, from Africa. The way that the Djembe is played, you get the in lots of different sizes. This is quite a small one. A full size one you would actually sit on, so the sound comes out of the base. The sound can travel for miles and miles, but it's played whether it's big or small in the same way.

(Action: Adam Bushnell begins to play the Djembe Drum.)

(Adam Bushnell) The African storytellers used to use the Djembe using syllables, so each syllable was a beat. Now in my name A-dam, there are four letters in my name, but there are two syllables in my name.

(Action: Adam Bushnell uses his fingers to display the number of syllables in his name.)

(Adam Bushnell) So, I would play it A-dam.

(Action: Adam Bushnell beats the number of syllables in the word A-dam on the Djembe Drum creating two sounds.)

(Adam Bushnell) For my surname Bushnell, how many syllables do you think are in the name Bushnell?

(Action: Adam Bushnell pauses to let the audience think.)

(Adam Bushnell) There are two syllables Bush-nell

(Action: Adam Bushnell uses his fingers to display the number of syllables in his name.)

(Action: Adam Bushnell beats the number of syllables in the word Bush-nell on the Djembe Drum, creating two sounds.)

(Adam Bushnell) I wonder how many syllables are in your name and how you would play that on the Djembe Drum. The Djembe Drum is steeped in African history in the Ashanti culture which comes from Ghana. The Djembe played an important part during the times of slavery.

(Adam Bushnell) Can you see the colours that are on here, you've got yellow, you've got green, and you've got red. These colours are represented on African flags as well.

(Object: Camera zooms in on Djembe Drum.)

(Adam Bushnell) On the Ghanaian flag, the yellow colour that's on means money. It means that they don't want help from anybody else; they can support themselves. The green means that it's a beautiful place; it's a beautiful country. The red represents the blood of the slaves because a long time ago something very sad happened. People from places like Europe, travelled to Africa and took the people as slaves.

(Action: Adam Bushnell is pointing at each colour he is describing.)

(Adam Bushnell) If I said to you Cinderella was a slave, you'd understand what that means. You would know that that means she had to do lots of work, and she got no money. This is what happened to lots of people in Africa and they were treated very, very badly and were in horrible conditions. They were forced to work on places like farms but at night time they took their Djembe Drums and they told stories to each other.

(Action: Adam Bushnell begins to play the Djembe Drum.)

(Adam Bushnell) They sent messages to secret people that were hiding in different places. There was a group of slaves called the 'Maroons.' The Maroons freed themselves from slavery and went around freeing other slaves from different farms and the Djembe Drum was used to do that.

(Adam Bushnell) Part of the Ashanti culture was telling stories about a character called a Nancy the Spider. You might have heard of Anansi the Spider before. I've written a lot of Anansi books; I love those books. Anansi was sometimes a spider and sometimes a man, which made him a kind of spider-man. Anansi the Spider always used his brain to get himself out of tricky situations. For example, if he was going to be eaten by a lion; he would trick the lion. If he was going to be if he was going to

look for some food; he would use his brain of how he could trick other animals to get that food. What I thought that you could do, is plan your own Anansi story. Here's the beginning of an Anansi story; it's Anansi and The Monkey King's Daughter. Anansi was walking down the street.

(Action: Adam Bushnell begins to play the Djembe Drum as he tells the story.)

(Adam Bushnell) When all of a sudden, he stopped.

(Action: Adam Bushnell strikes the drum hard and pauses at the word, 'stopped.')

(Adam Bushnell) He stopped because he came across the Monkey King's daughter. She was the most beautiful girl he had ever seen in his life. Anansi and the Monkey King's daughter they fell in love with each other. They went to go and see the Monkey King and they asked the Monkey King if they could be married. The Monkey King said, "You can only be married if you do three impossible tasks."

(Action: Adam Bushnell strikes the Djembe Drum three times to represent the three impossible tasks.)

(Adam Bushnell) What tasks could Anansi have to do. Maybe he has to climb over something; maybe he asks has to wrestle something; maybe he has to eat something; or run around something. How is he going to be able to do that; how could he use his spider webs to help him.

(Adam Bushnell) Once you've planned and written your story, you could tell your story to each other using a Djembe Drum (Action: Adam Bushnell bangs the Djembe Drum) to be the background noise to your storytelling. That's just one of the ways that you can use a Djembe from Durham Learning Resources.

(Text: Navy Blue Screen with text saying 'Durham Learning Resources' logo and a 'Durham County Council' logo.)