

— INTRODUCTION —

As It Was! is an interdisciplinary approach to various cultures in history. It takes broad-based concepts and applies them to a particular culture, people or period of time. Students are provided with opportunities to investigate aspects of past cultures through the following disciplines:

- English
- Social Studies
- Science
- Maths
- Art

This book is divided into three units:

ISSUES

Activities are designed to provide students with opportunities to understand and analyse major historical topics.

PEOPLE

Activities are designed to provide students with opportunities to understand and analyse major historical individuals.

PLACES

Activities are designed to provide students with opportunities to understand and analyse major historical locations.

Each unit is divided into three sections:

GET THE IDEA!

This page introduces and defines the concept. It includes an activity which teaches the concept.

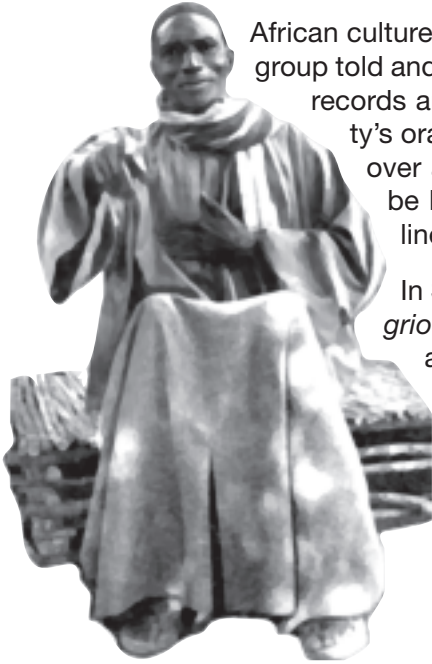
GET THE FACTS!

These pages provide multi-curricular activities based on the concept. Students express their grasp of concepts and content through the provided integrated activities.

MAKE THE CONNECTION!

Each “Make the Connection” page contains an open-ended activity which enables students to synthesise and evaluate the relationship between the concept and the content.

ORAL TRADITION



African cultures have a rich tradition of oral history. The older people in each group told and retold general stories and legends. Traditions, history, myths, records and anything else of importance was a part of each community's oral tradition. Information from centuries past was told over and over again to new generations and then passed on. All this could be lost through conflict or happenstance which would break the line of memory.

In Senegal, there are musician entertainers known as *griots*. The *griots* chant stories and recite poems about the deeds of warriors and other events of importance to the village. They also memorise the genealogy, or family history, of the villagers and help pass on that history from one generation to the next.

Get the Facts!

English:

As a *griot*, explain the origin of man.

Maths:

Estimate the number of words a *griot* might have memorised to do a fifteen-minute story. Orally explain how you arrived at your estimate.

Science:

Create a folktale explaining a concept in nature that is common to sub-Saharan Africa.

Social Studies:

Gather an oral history of your own family. Tell it to someone.

Art:

Present an entertaining and informative monologue about a region of Africa.

Write your own:

SUNDJATA (SUNDIATA)

Sundjata, one of the most legendary figures in African history, is known as the historical founder of Mali. He ruled Mali from 1230 to 1255. One legend indicates that he began as a royal slave and magician among the Susu (Soso), who had inherited the empire of Ghana. Another legend says that he was one of the twelve heirs of the Kangaba throne. Sundjata is known for introducing cultivation and weaving of cotton to the region. Oral histories recount the tale of how Sundjata seized the major territories through which gold was traded and how he built the foundation of Mali.



Get the Facts!

English:

Write a chant that Sundjata may have used when he was a magician.

Science:

Make a flowchart of the process involved in cotton going from plant to clothing in ancient Africa.

Art:

Make a weaving pattern that would give honour to Sundjata.

Maths:

Create drawings of two cultivated fields. Provide measurement information and calculate the area of each field.

Social Studies:

Explain how the introduction of weaving and cultivation would have an impact on the people of Mali.

THE KALAHARI DESERT



The Kalahari Desert is located in south-western Africa in what is now parts of Namibia, Botswana and South Africa. It is a dry, large, sandy basin 910 metres above sea level covering about 260,000 square kilometres. The Kalahari often gets more rain than the 25 centimetres per year a typical desert receives. There are large land areas covered by sand while other portions are hilly, rocky, or scrub land. It has summer temperatures that can reach over 38° C. During the summer rains, grasses thrive. Wildlife can live off the vegeta-

tion found in the grassland but migrate away in the dry season. Kalahari's winters are cold and dry with temperatures sometimes dropping as low as -13° C. The San were the first known humans to inhabit this desert. (Note: The San were formerly called Bushmen, but this term is now considered offensive by some communities.)

Get the Facts!

English:

Design a crossword puzzle using terms related to the Kalahari Desert.

Maths:

Make a graph to compare the rainfall distribution of the Kalahari Desert to your home over five years.

Science:

Research the formation and movement of sand dunes.

Social Studies:

Hypothesise how living in a desert region would effect the culture of the peoples there.

Art:

Create a papier-mâché sculpture of an animal resident of the Kalahari Desert.

Write your own: