



A Musical Trip Around the World

with ELISE WITT

WHO AM I?

My name is Elise Witt. I was born in Bern, the capital of Switzerland. I speak five languages fluently and sing in at least a dozen more. Since I was a little girl, I have been collecting songs from all over the world. My job is singing and playing the guitar. I am also a composer because I write my own songs, too. I travel all over the United States and around the world giving concerts, teaching workshops, and learning from the people I meet. I am lucky because I love my work!

WHAT ARE WE GOING TO DO?

When I come to your school, we are going to take **A MUSICAL TRIP AROUND THE WORLD**. It is a concert where you get to listen some and sing some, too. I will teach you songs in many different languages, for

example: Spanish, Kiswahili, French, Russian, Japanese, Sign Language, and English. Music is a language spoken by people all over the world. When we learn songs from other countries, we learn to appreciate what makes each culture different, special, and unique. We also see how music is universal. It is a bridge that brings us together as one human family. Don't worry if you don't know a lot of languages already. By the end of the concert you will amaze yourself by being Multi-lingual! (See Vocabulary)



Thank You



Vocabulary

CULTURE - how a group of people expresses itself. We do this through songs, stories, dance, language, even food.

GUMBO - The U.S. is a Gumbo because it has citizens from many countries. Gumbo is a Louisiana stew made of rice, corn, okra, tomatoes, hot peppers, onions, and anything else you might have on hand to toss in. Each item maintains its own unique character and flavor, yet also combines with the others to make an interesting mix.

FOLK MUSIC - "Folks" means people. So "folk music" just means *peoples' music*. It is songs that are passed along by friends and family over the years. Songs express how we feel. Folk songs can tell the story of a place or a family or a particular event. They tell us about our history.

MULTI-LINGUAL (bi-, tri-) - *Multi* means "many"; *lingual* means "languages." A multi-lingual person speaks many languages.

IMPROVISE - to make it up as you go along; to use information you already have to find a new answer or to create a new idea. You can improvise in music (take a solo), and also in life.

HARMONY - (In music) two or more musical lines that when sung or played together make a pleasing sound. (In life) two or more people or things or cultures that are different but live together in peace (like gumbo!).

CALL & RESPONSE - a musical form often used in Africa where someone sings a line or phrase and the group responds by echoing it back. You will hear this used a lot in our *Musical Trip Around the World*.

SIGN LANGUAGE - the language used by people who are deaf or hearing impaired. During our *Musical Trip Around the World* you will learn some sign language, too.

When we travel to another country it is always nice to learn at least some of the language spoken there. Let's learn how to say "thank you" in:

謝	CHINESE	Hse Hse	(shay-shay)
	FRENCH	Merci	(mare-SEE)
	ITALIAN	Grazie	(GRAH-tsee-ay)
	SPANISH	Gracias	(GRAH-see-ahss)
	GERMAN	Danke	(DUNK-uh)
	KISWAHILI	Asante Sana	(ah-SAHN-tay SAH-nah)
	GREEK	Ίfharisto	(cef-ha-ree-STO)
	BULGARIAN	Blagodarya	(blah-go-DAR-yah)
	FINNISH	Kiitos	(KEE-tohs)
	NORWEGIAN	Takk	(tahk)
	RUSSIAN	Spasiba	(spah-SEE-ba)
	POLISH	Dziękuję	(jen-KOO-yeh)
	PORTUGUESE	Obrigado	(aw-bree-GAH-doh)
	HINDI	Shukria	(SHOO-kree-ah)
	VIETNAMESE	Gamöd	(gahm-erd)
	HEBREW	Toda roba	(toh-DAH rah-BAH)
	XHOSA	Kosi	(NGOH-see)
شكرا	ARABIC	Shukran	(shoo-krahn)



Geography

- In the southeastern U.S. traditional music has been shaped primarily by people who came from West Africa and Europe. These cultures have come together to create *original American forms of music*. Can you name some? (Blues, Bluegrass, Country & Western, Jazz, Rock 'n Roll).
- **Spanish** is spoken in Europe, in the Caribbean, and in North, Central, and South America. Can you name the countries and find them on the map? (Spain / Cuba, Puerto Rico, Dominican Republic / Mexico / Belize, Honduras, Nicaragua, Costa Rica, Panama, El Salvador, Guatemala / Colombia, Peru, Uruguay, Paraguay, Ecuador, Argentina, Chile)
- **Latin America** (Mexico, the Caribbean, Central, and South America) is a Gumbo (see Vocabulary). There are 3 main influences that have created the music and culture of today. Can you name them and find them on the map? (Indigenous or Native American / African / Spanish)
- **Kiswahili** is a trade language using tonalities from several African tribal languages. It is widely spoken in at least 9 countries on the East Coast of Africa. Can you name them and find them on the map? (Kenya, Congo, Somalia, Tanzania, Zambia, Mozambique, Malawi, Burundi, Rwanda)



Drawings & Letters

I enjoy receiving drawings and letters that express students' reactions to A Musical Trip Around the World. Each student can respond in a personal way beyond what was possible in the assembly itself:

- What was your favorite song? What did you like about it?
- What was your least favorite song? Why?
- What did the concert make you feel?
- What did you learn?

Send your letters to the address below.

Kiswahili Spanish

1	moja	uno	1
2	'mbili	dos	2
3	tatu	tres	3
4	ine	cuatro	4
5	tano	cinco	5
6	sita	seis	6
7	saba	siete	7
8	nane	ocho	8
9	tisa	nueve	9
10	kumi	diez	10

Personal Histories Student Interviews

Not only is the United States a cultural Gumbo, but each one of us is a mixture, too. Find out about your family history:

- Where is your family originally from?
- When did your relatives (or you) first come to the United States?
- What language(s) did (do) they speak?
- What did it feel like to come to the United States?
- Do you have relatives in another country?

Have students conduct interviews with a relative, a teacher, or a community member. Before beginning the interviews, devise a set of questions with the class and talk about good interview techniques. The interview results can be presented as Class Reports and collected in the form of a Newspaper.



Local Resources

Invite a parent or person from the community who can talk about another culture to your class. See if they can teach you a song in their language.

Current Events

Many of the most serious conflicts in the world today are caused by two or more cultures who do not live together in Harmony. Talk about some examples and study their history, causes, and effects.



CD's

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