

## CLASSROOM GUIDE

**DANCE DRAMA** is a story of a village head that took a trip to another town and made an interesting discovery. The most important lesson he brought back home to his people was "go to school, stay in school and acquire knowledge!"



(C) MANGA



# Manga African Dance Inc.

## Bio

Manga African Dance, Inc. is a non-profit - 501(c) 3 organization based in Atlanta, Georgia. It was founded in 1990 by Ramatu Afegbua-Sabbatt. Originally under the umbrella of Barefoot Ballet, Inc. – called Barefoot ballet Many; it was later incorporated as Manga African Dance, Inc. in March, 1996. The ensemble provides schools with high quality professional programs as well as training to aspiring performers.

Manga performed in the 2003 Georgia State University’s World Music Festival and was featured in the opening and closing ceremonies of the 1996 Olympic Games and was sponsored by Motorola to perform for the corporate pavilion. Manga host 2 major annual event: The dance and drum conference in April and Osun Festival in August.

The company’s high-energy repertoire includes dances and rhythms from Ghana, Senegal, Guinea, Gambia, Mali, Liberia, South Africa and Nigeria.

## Key Vocabulary

**Rijiya:** Well (with water)

**Kafin inha Kan Uban Kowa:** Before I climb on to everyone’s father. ( Misinterpreted for before I go any further)

**Ba Saida Kifi a garin nan:** No more selling fish in this town. (Misinterpreted for no more selfishness in this town)

**Note:** Teachers may contact Ramatu to discuss pronunciations at [ramatu.mangadance@yahoo.com](mailto:ramatu.mangadance@yahoo.com).

## Objectives

1. Preserving and maintaining African culture through dance, drums, songs and adornment.
2. Reinforcing the importance of education by staying in school. Message is delivered from the perspective of a village head or told as a story and acting depending on the grade level.
3. Demonstrate the essence and value of a good education

## Standards

### Relevant Curriculum Standards

1. **Music and Math:** Djundjun, agogo (cowbells), Sekere and Djembe provide musical accompaniment. The brain is mathematically engaged when you play music.
2. **Physical Education:** Drumming, singing and dancing are rigorous forms of aerobic exercise and audiences will have opportunity to participate.
3. **Foreign Language:** Two languages (English and Hausa) will be spoken throughout the performance and audiences will be given an opportunity to participate.

## Assess the Learning

Include a list of questions that can be asked to assess student learning following the program.

1. Describe the following music instruments: Djembe, Djundjun, Songban, agogo (cowbell), sekere
2. Create your own village stories that relates to the benefits of education. Name your village.
3. Talk about the responsibilities of a leader; e.g. chief or king.

## Extend the Learning

Include at least 3 suggestions of activities that can extend the learning. These can be pre-show activities and/ or post-show activities.

- Before the program discuss with your students what makes a good audience.
- Compare appropriate behavior for different kinds of audience situations – e.g., concerts
- Students will get more out of the program if they come prepared. Use this guide to help students anticipate what to listen and look for.
- Set a good example. Catch up on paperwork after the performance.

### Pre-Performance Learning Activities

Discuss the importance of education with the students. Graduating from school must be emphasized. Encourage and incorporate music or movement in the classroom.

## Additional Resources

**This program was created by Ramatu Afegbua-Sabbatt out the different stories told by elders and colleagues about the coming and integration of Western civilization in Africa.**

**For more information about Manga African Dance, Inc. visit website:**

[www.mangadance.org](http://www.mangadance.org)