

Let Me Learn of Jesus Classroom Resources



A mission project of the

LUTHERAN HERITAGE FOUNDATION

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Thank you for your support of
this important mission.

As a teacher, you know how important it is for children and adults to be able to read and write. And as a Lutheran day school or Sunday school teacher, you've dedicated untold hours to sharing the love of Jesus with your students.

"Let Me Learn of Jesus" is a mission project that passes on these values to your students: telling children in Ghana about Jesus Christ by giving them the textbooks they need to learn to read.

In the pages that follow, you'll find a wide variety of ways you can expose your students to the colorful culture of Ghana, helping them to feel closer to their Ghanaian brothers and sisters in Christ.

As you consider these activities, you'll find that some work best in a Lutheran day school situation, whereas some are better suited to a Sunday school environment. Feel free to pick and choose the projects that are the best fit with your curriculum and schedule.

Please note that throughout the 2014-2015 academic year, regular updates will be available from Rev. Nicholas Salifu and the teachers and students at Concordia Preparatory School in Bawku.

If you would like to receive these email updates, please send an email to JBagnall@LHFmissions.org, with "Ghana Updates" written in the subject line.

Again, thank you for your support of "Let Me Learn of Jesus: Lutheran Books for Ghana." We hope you and your students enjoy this project!

Generating enthusiasm and support for your chosen mission project



By now, experience has probably taught you the importance of maintaining interest and enthusiasm for your chosen mission project. But how?

Here are a few basic but effective ideas:

1. **Keep the project visible.** Plan a “Let Me Learn of Jesus” kick-off by taking full advantage of this resource kit. Share the DVD with your students. Use the photos to create a bulletin board display in a prominent area. Send the parent flyer home, so that parents know what their children’s mission offerings will be used for.
2. **Pray for families in Ghana.** Remind the children that the recipients of these books are our Christian brothers and sisters! As family, they should be a part of your classroom or chapel prayers.
3. **Make it fun!** One week, surprise your students with Benne Cookies to give them a taste of life in Ghana. Another time, do one of the enclosed art ideas as a Sunday school craft or classroom project. Or at storytime, share a Ghana folk tale. Each time, briefly mention the connection between the activity and the children’s mission project.
4. **Give regular updates.** Share Rev. Salifu’s updates with the children, or even copy snippets into your church newsletter or school parent announcements. Create a visible means for illustrating how many books the children have collected offerings for. You can post a big thermometer to track progress toward your goal, or photocopy and post a *Child’s Garden* cover for every \$5 raised.

For more ideas, go to www.LHFmissions.org/Excitement4Missions



Music

“Let Me Learn of Jesus” Theme Song

An easy song for devotions or to sing in church. The music to this old favorite can be found in *All God’s People Sing*, page 156:

Let me learn of Jesus, He is kind to me.
Once He died to save me, Nailed upon a tree.

When I go to Jesus, He will hear me pray,
Makes me pure and holy, Takes my sin away.

Let me think of Jesus, He is full of love,
Looking down upon me, From His throne above.

Oh, how good is Jesus! May He hold my hand
And at last receive me to a better land.



“Sansa Kroma” – An African Folk Song

“Sansa Kroma” is a musical activity that teaches students rhythm, team work, and a bit of Akan, another language spoken in Ghana.

To gain the best understanding of this activity, first go to YouTube and watch a video of the song being performed. (Go to the LHF “Let Me Learn of Jesus” Ghana Links page to connect, or type into your web browser: www.youtube.com/watch?v=-Hib6V1vrKs)

Akan words:

Sansa kroma

Ne na wuo

Che che akokoba.

Pronunciation:

Sah-sah kroh-mah

Nee nay woo

Chay chay koh-koh mah.

1. Before attempting the rhythm part of this activity, first teach your students the words and melody to “Sansa Kroma.” You may choose to use the linked video (or do a search for another - there are several) to do so.

The English translation for these words is, “Sansa, the hawk. You are an orphan, and so you carry up baby chicks.” According to Ghanaian folklore, children singing this song are reminded that if anything happened to their parents and they became orphans, they would not have to wander alone, trying to care take of themselves. They would be taken in by a relative or a family in their village, just as Sansa swooped down to take care of the baby chicks.

2. Once your students have the basic words down, they can begin implementing the rhythms. In this video, the children used cups to beat out the rhythm. In Ghana, the children often use their flip flops or a rock.

Have the children sit in a circle. On beats 1 and 2, the children slap their cups/flip flops/rocks on the ground. On beat 3, they pass their cup/flip flop/rock to the next person in the circle. Beat 4 can be a pause for the beginners; once the children get more practiced at “Sansa Kroma,” they can add a clap on beat 4.

Picking up the tempo also adds an extra challenge!

Online Helps



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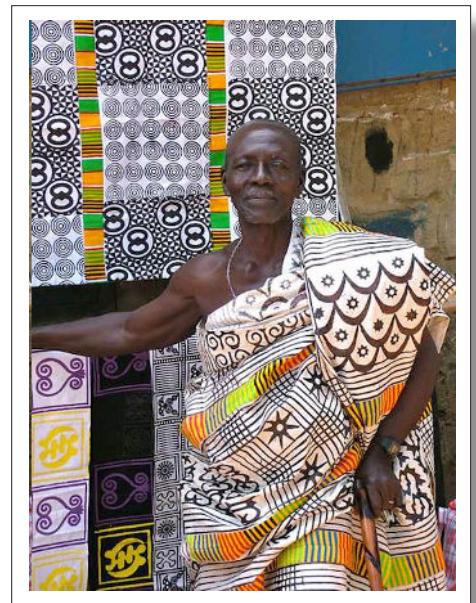
Arts and Crafts



Adinkra Cloth

In Ghana, adinkra cloths were traditionally only worn by royalty and spiritual leaders for funerals and other very special occasions. They are now worn by anyone, stylishly wrapped around women or men on any special occasion.

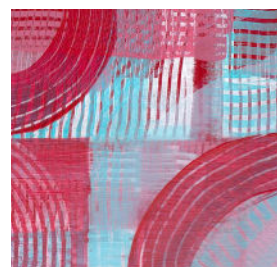
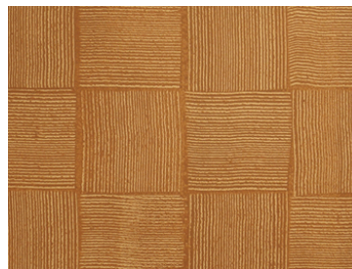
As illustrated above, adinkra is a printing process. Traditionally, a carved calabash shell is used to stamp the designs, but given that calabash shells are in short supply here in the United States, your young artists can try some other approaches!



Combing with Paints

Supplies:

Acrylic or tempera paints
Paper
Wide toothed combs



The artist in the photo above is using a comb to print parallel lines, which divide the sections of his cloth. To make a grid, dip the comb deep in the paint so that most of the length of the teeth are covered. Drag the comb along the paper, turning the comb over and adding more paint when needed until you have drawn a grid pattern. Change the direction of the comb to create interesting patterns in the paint, as illustrated. The artwork can stand alone, or after the paint dries, your students can use black paint/markers to write a special Bible verse on top.

Foam Prints

Supplies:

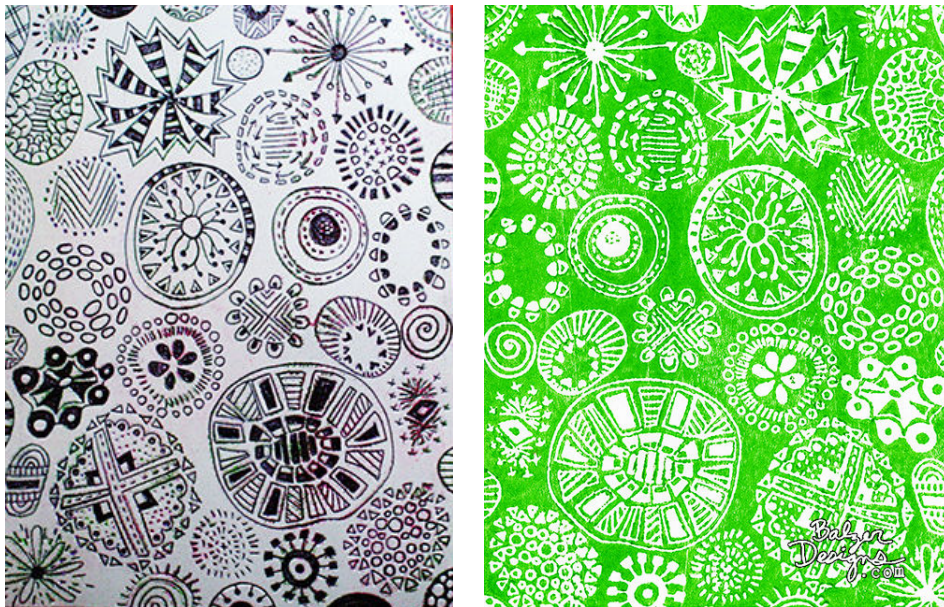
Acrylic or poster paints

Styrofoam plates, such as those found beneath packaged meats
(Plates can also be purchased at art supply stores or online. Search for "Scratch Art Scratch-Foam Board")

A stylus for pressing designs into the styrofoam, such as a dull pencil, ballpoint pen, or skewer

In this process, the students will press designs into the styrofoam, which they will then use to make a reverse print. As they draw into the styrofoam, the indented areas will show as white in the print.

So for example, the illustration at left below was drawn into a styrofoam plate with a black ballpoint pen. The artist then brushed green paint across the styrofoam plate, turned it over, and gently pressed it onto a sheet of paper. Voila! A reverse print.



Your students can try creating a pattern using the symbols on the next page, or they can try drawing an illustration to go with your Bible lesson for the day.

Adinkra Symbols

There is a long tradition in Ghana where certain symbols carry meaning when creating and wearing adinkra prints. Based on these meanings, have your students create a pattern that represents who they are. Additional symbols may be found online.



Sankofa: going back to my beginnings

Going back to my roots, to undo or correct mistakes; to build and plan a better future.



Adinkrahene: chief of all adinkra symbols

Symbol of greatness, charisma and leadership



Akoma: heart

Symbol of patience and tolerance



Gye Nyame: except God

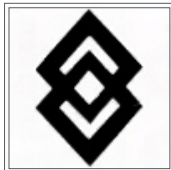
Symbol of supremacy, omnipotence of God the Divine Creator



Nyame Biribi Wo Soro:

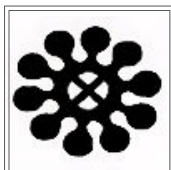
God - there is something in the heavens for me

A symbol of hope



Epa: Handcuffs

Symbol of captivity and slavery. You are a slave of him whose handcuffs you allow on you.



Ohene Aniwa: The King's eyes

Symbol of vigilance and wariness. The king has eyes everywhere.



Ntesie: I have heard and kept it

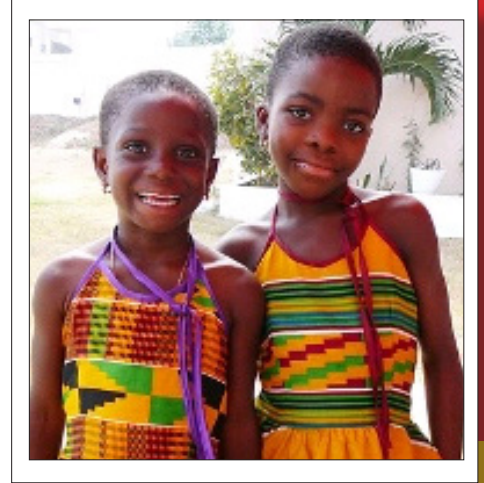
Symbolizes the need for acquiring knowledge and information

Kente Cloth

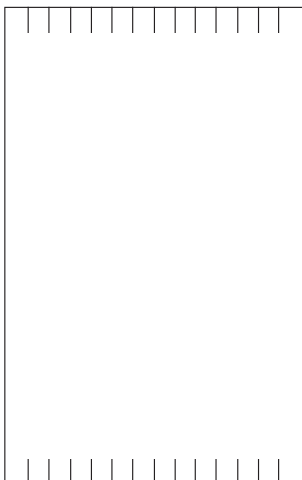
In Ghana, traditional weaving is done by the men of the Ewe and Ashanti tribes. Ashanti cloth is usually geometric in design, whereas Ewe work is distinguished by animal, human and symbolic patterns woven into the cloth. Both groups excel at weaving cloth fit for a king; in fact, Kente was originally only worn by kings, chiefs or people in very prominent positions.



Watch a Kente cloth weaver at work:
<http://www.our-africa.org/ghana/weaving>



There are many, many weaving projects your students could undertake, including the following.



Supplies:

9" x 12" pieces of sturdy cardboard
Yarn of varying colors and textures
Scissors

1. With the scissors, make evenly-spaced cuts, about 1/2" long, along the top and bottom edges of the cardboard. (See illustration at left, below.)
2. Using yarn still attached to the skein, pull the yarn through the first notch at the top and the corresponding notch at the bottom of the cardboard. Knot the yarn on the back of the board.
3. Once the yarn is firmly knotted, start wrapping it lengthwise around the board, running the yarn through the notches. The yarn should be pulled taut, but not so tight that the students won't be able to run the yarn behind it. This forms the loom.
4. Begin running different colored yarns, over and under through the strings of the loom. When changing colors, tuck yarn ends through the weaving so they don't show on the front.



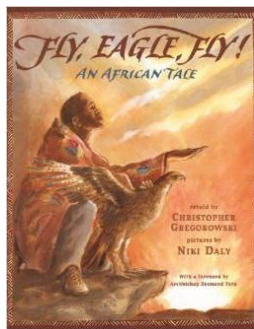
Literature



One Hen

by Katie Smith Milway (ISBN: 1-55453-028-1)

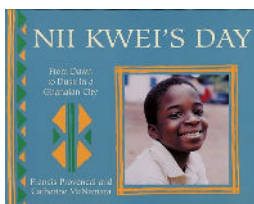
When families in a Ghanaian village pool their small savings to loan Kojo's mother money for her business, he asks her for a few coins to buy a hen. The hen produces eggs for the family as well as a few for him to sell at the market, and Kojo uses that money to grow his business into a thriving enterprise. Kojo's inspiring, upbeat microfinance story makes the economic concept easy to grasp and admire. (Booklist) *(Excellent illustrations of Ghana and a good foundation for a simple math/economics lesson.)*



Fly, Eagle, Fly

by Christopher Gregorowski (ISBN: 0-689-82398-3)

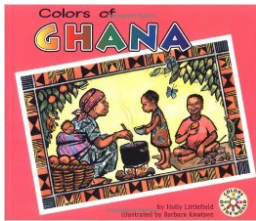
Early one day, a farmer finds an eagle chick. "The eagle is the king of birds," he says, "but we shall train it to be a chicken." And so the proud bird is raised among the barnyard fowl. One day, a friend visits and vows to prove that the eagle really belongs to the sky. In a breathtaking moment, the bird rises with the sun and soars into the sky, "never again to live among the chickens." Gregorowski's retelling of a Ghanaian folktale is a powerful celebration of the human spirit and its need for independence. (Booklist)



Nii Kwei's Day: From Dawn to Dusk in a Ghanaian City

by Catherine McNamara (ISBN: 1-847-80134-X)

A day in the life of a Ghanaian boy. Nii Kwei lives in Accra, the capital city of Ghana. He gets up at 6 a.m. every morning. He helps his sisters and brother tidy up the compound, then he eats a breakfast of coco (corn porridge), bread, fried eggs and a chocolate drink. At 7:30 he goes to school in a taxi. Later, on his way home, he goes to Abraham's material store with his mother. He ends the day playing football with his cousins, back at the compound. (Amazon)



Colors of Ghana

by Holly Littlefield (ISBN: 1-57505-354-3)

Colors of Ghana is a solid introduction to a plethora of facts about Ghana: flora and fauna, borders, population, ancient and modern history, and languages. It then goes on to introduce readers to the colors of Ghana, each introducing various cultural and historical aspects of the country. (Amazon)



Anansi Stories

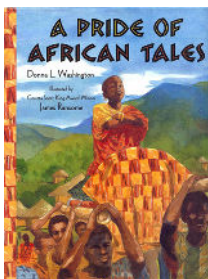
Anansi the Spider is one of the great folk heroes of the world. He is a rogue, a mischief maker, and a wise, lovable creature who triumphs over larger foes. He's a favorite figure in many tales told by the Ashanti, a large tribe in Ghana. There are many, many Anansi books to be found in most children's libraries; you may already have some in your classroom. Below are a few options for you to consider:



Anansi the Spider

by Gerald McDermott (ISBN: 0-8050-0310-X)

A Caldecott Honor Book. In this traditional Ashanti tale, Anansi sets out on a long, difficult journey. Threatened by Fish and Falcon, he is saved from terrible fates by his sons. But which of his sons should Anansi reward? Calling upon Nyame, the God of All Things, Anansi solves his predicament in a touching and highly resourceful fashion.



A Pride of African Tales

by Donna Washington (ISBN: 0-06-024929-3)

This treasure trove of lavishly illustrated stories comes from different regions in Africa. The first story, "Anansi," is an uproarious story from Ghana, where the tables are turned on lazy Anansi. (Amazon)



Also recommended: Anansi videos

Do a quick search on YouTube for Anansi, and you'll find a wide variety of well-produced, short retellings of different Anansi tales. Try:

- **Anansi and the Turtle**
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jsqo9v_Aoow
- **Anansi and the Pot of Beans**
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Sau3E2LEfcl>



Language Arts

Ghana Proverbs

Ghana's oral traditions are filled with colorful proverbs. Below are just a few examples you can introduce to your students. Start classroom discussion by asking the class what they think the proverb means.

Expand your students' writing skills by asking older students to select a proverb they can relate to. Ask them to write a few paragraphs about how they've seen this proverb's teachings come true in their own lives.

Younger children can select a proverb to copy and to illustrate.

- 1. Rain beats the leopard's skin but it does not wash out the spots.** (Interpretation: If you are known in your community for one thing – especially something bad – it will be very difficult for the society to change its opinion about you, even if you one day do good things. Impressions count a lot.)
- 2. One falsehood spoils a thousand truths.**
- 3. When a rooster is drunk, he forgets about the hawk.**
(Interpretation: This proverb is an admonition to people who get out of a tough circumstance and forget about it. In life, it is always good to remember that whatever threatens one's life never goes away, regardless of one's circumstances. The advice is that one should always be on the alert.)
- 4. If you are in hiding, don't light a fire.**
- 5. When you follow in the path of your father, you learn to walk like him.** (How is this true of us and our Heavenly Father?)

Ghana Proverbs (continued)

6. Two small antelopes can beat one big one.
7. Do not look where you fell, but where you slipped.
8. It is the fool's sheep that break loose twice.
9. The ruin of a nation begins in the homes of its people.
10. A child who asks questions does not become a fool.
11. Nobody can prepare for the harmattan (Ghana's dry season, with hot winds blowing in from the desert) by drinking plenty of water.
12. Two men in a burning house must not stop to argue.



More proverbs:

- <http://www.bu.edu/africa/outreach/resources/gp/>
- <http://www.pinterest.com/proverbatim/ghanaian-proverbs/>
- <http://proverbsafricanliterature.wordpress.com/country-profile/west-africa/ghana/>
- <http://www.friendsoftafo.org/proverbs.htm>

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Games

Pilolo

Pilolo (which means “time to search for”) is a game Ghanaian children normally play between 3 p.m. and 6 p.m., depending on any chores that need to be done after school.

From the players, select a leader and a timekeeper. While the players hide their eyes, the leader hides several small objects throughout the playing area (kind of like an Easter egg hunt). Then the leader announces, “Pilolo!”, and the players rush to be the first to find one of the objects while the timekeeper starts the stopwatch.

Players take turns being the leader and timekeeper. You can either play each game individually, with the winner being the child who first finds an object, or you can tabulate the results, adding up the winners’ times to see who was the fastest overall.

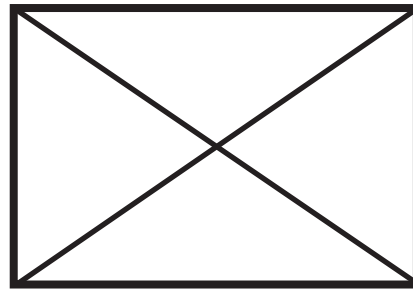
Pombo

Children play Pombo using seven stones.

In this Ghanaian version of American jacks, a child tosses one of the stones in the air while trying to pick up one of the rocks on the ground. She must pick up the stone and catch the other stone before it hits the ground. The next time she must throw the stone and pick up two rocks from the ground before catching the falling stone. She continues to do this until she has picked up all the stones.

Kwaiara Franga

Similar to Tic Tac Toe, in Kwaiara Franga – also called Sunday's Flag – two players draw a rectangle on the ground using chalk. Two diagonal lines cut through the rectangle to connect the corners, creating four triangles.



Each player has 12 of their own color of marbles or playing pieces. To win, a player needs to get three of their own marbles into any one of the triangles.

As play begins, the first player puts a marble into one of the triangles. Now player #2 gets to place a marble. As the game progresses, the players not only need to work to get their own three marbles into a triangle, but also to block the other player from getting three marbles.

The game can end in two ways: one player wins with three marbles in one triangle, or there is a stalemate in which neither player gets three of their colored marbles in one triangle.

Big Snake

Big Snake is a kind of Ghanaian tag, where the object is for the snake to catch the other players.

First, one player is chosen to be the snake and goes to his home, which is a space about ten feet square. As play begins and another player is tagged, he or she must join hands with the snake, and the two continue the chase. As players are caught the snake gradually grows longer.

Only the players on either end of the snake may tag a runner. The newly tagged person becomes the tail of the snake, and player first chosen to be the snake decides who should be chased next.

Should the snake break because the players let go of their hands, the runners may tag the snake and thus force it to return to the home. Once back home, the snake rejoins and begins the chase anew. The game is over when all players are caught.

Ampe

Ampe (pronounced ahm-pee) is a very favorite game of children in Ghana, passed down from generation to generation.

To play, the group stands in a line or gathers in a circle. The first player, or leader, stands face-to-face with the next player. Both players jump up at the same time, clap, and jump again. As they land, they each thrust one of their feet forward.

The leader tries to anticipate which foot the other person might thrust forward. If the leader and the other player have the same foot forward, the leader wins a point. If they are different, then the other player becomes the leader and plays against the next in line.

If only two players are playing, they keep score until a certain number of points determines a winner.



You may find these directions easier to understand by watching a video or two first:

- http://youtu.be/LhaZf2M_hlY
- <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xU1S6t614r0>

Recipes



One of the best ways to introduce children to another culture is to give them a taste of food from that country. In Ghana, the people grow a lot of cocoa, plantains, yams, cassava, and corn. You can bring in some of those foods to share, or you can try one of these Ghanaian recipes:

Sweet Potato Bread

These lightly sweet loaves are easy to make and delicious with a little butter and honey! This recipe makes six small loaves.

Ingredients:

- 1 cup mashed sweet potatoes (may wish to use a food processor to eliminate chunks of sweet potato in your bread)
- 1 egg
- 2 teaspoons baking powder
- 1 cup cornmeal (NOT self-rising)
- ½ teaspoon salt
- 1 cup flour

Mix sweet potatoes and egg together. Add the rest of the dry ingredients and mix well. This is a very heavy, dry dough (rather like scone dough), so you'll need to use your hands to get the dry ingredients thoroughly mixed.

Line a baking sheet with parchment paper. Divide the dough and pat into small loaves; place on baking sheet. Bake in a hot oven (450°F) for 15 minutes.



Chocolate Syrup

Cocoa is a major crop in Ghana. Children and adults alike enjoy this sweet chocolate syrup mixed into a mug of warm milk. 14 servings.

Ingredients:

2 cups sugar
¼ cup cocoa
1 cup water
1 teaspoon vanilla extract
Milk

In a large pot, mix together the sugar and cocoa. Add the water and bring to a boil; boil vigorously for 5 minutes.



Allow the mixture to cool, then add the vanilla and mix thoroughly.

Add 1+1/2 tsp. of the syrup to 1/2 c. warm milk and stir. Yum!

Benne (Sesame) Cookies

Ingredients:

1 cup finely packed brown sugar
1/4 cup butter or margarine, softened
1 egg, beaten
1/2 teaspoon vanilla extract
1 teaspoon freshly squeezed lemon juice
1/2 cup all-purpose flour
1/2 teaspoon baking powder
1/4 teaspoon salt
1 cup toasted sesame seeds



Preheat the oven to 325°. Generously oil a cookie sheet, or line the sheet with parchment paper.

Mix together the brown sugar and butter, and beat until they are creamy. Stir in the egg, vanilla extract, and lemon juice. Add flour, baking powder, salt, and sesame seeds. Drop by rounded teaspoons (no bigger - these spread) onto the cookie sheet 2 inches apart. Bake for 15 minutes or until the edges are browned. Allow to sit for a few minutes before removing from pan.

More Info



Of course, the Internet yields boundless information about Ghana and its people. Here are just a few more websites that tell about life in Ghana and in a quick and easily understandable way:

www.OUR-AFRICA.org

<http://www.our-africa.org/ghana/welcome-to-ghana>

<http://www.our-africa.org/ghana/education-at-college> (education in Ghana)

<http://www.our-africa.org/ghana/climate-agriculture> (plantain farmer)



Good manners in Ghana

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=biY3x-_4Bxk

When visiting Ghana, watch out for that left hand, be sure you take your shoes off, and don't be offended by the hissing! (13-minute video)

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