

# Kwame Crashes the Underworld

by Craig Kofi Farmer

Understanding Indigenous Religious Diversity in Africa

Developed by Kyla Patten, Kraig Knoeferl, and Grace Hiegel for CU Boulder's Children's Book Festival 2024, Open Education Resource, Creative Commons, Available at [colorado.edu/event/bookfest](https://colorado.edu/event/bookfest)



# Grade and Colorado Academic Standard

Content Area	Grade	Standard Category
Social Studies	7th	History

<b>Grade Level Expectation</b>	Apply an understanding of the historical context of significant current events, individuals, groups, ideas, and themes within regions of the Eastern Hemisphere and their relationships with one another, to draw conclusions, and solve problems.
<b>Evidence Outcome</b>	Describe the interactions and contributions of various peoples and cultures that have lived in or migrated within/to the Eastern Hemisphere. For example: conflicts over land and resources between countries, the foundations of world religions, East/West contact, settlement patterns, and the historical roots of current issues.

Colorado Academic Standard information retrieved from <https://www.cde.state.co.us/apps/standards>

View the full standards at <https://www.cde.state.co.us/standardsandinstruction/standards>

# Activity Overview

- This activity relates to *Kwame Crashes the Underworld* in the way that Kwame's culture is located in western Africa; in Ghana. In the book we see him delve into his culture and not only learn more about the Akan religion, but also understand where he is from and who his family is. This activity focuses on the religions that are practiced in Africa and how important they are.
- This activity should take about one to two class periods.



## Activity Overview (continued)



- Each student is assigned an Indigenous religion that is represented in Africa (Akan, Yoruba, Dogon, Vodon, Igbo). Students will research their assigned religion and become confident in their knowledge on it. Students then, would be put into groups with students who were studying different religions than what they had, and share about their assigned religion. The goal of this activity will be for students to compare and contrast the beliefs of several Indigenous religions in Africa.
- Students will research their assigned religion individually, and then share their findings in small groups with students who researched different religions.

# Materials

- Questions to guide research
- Access to either books or online resources to research their assigned religion
- Useful links to use for research:
  - <https://www.britannica.com/topic/Dogon>
  - <https://www.britannica.com/topic/Akan>
  - <https://www.britannica.com/topic/Yoruba>
  - <https://www.britannica.com/topic/Vodou>
  - <https://www.britannica.com/topic/Igbo>



# Directions

1. Introduce the project and how it relates to *Kwame Crashes the Underworld* by answering the reading questions (slide 7).
2. Students are assigned different religions established in Ghana, Africa. For example, Akan, Yoruba, Dogon, Vodon, and Igbo.
3. Next students will do research in order to comprehensively understand what religion they are working on. The research will be focused on questions that the teacher will be giving them at the beginning of the activity (slide 8).
4. After a period of time, the students will then get into groups of 5, each student having researched a different religion. These groups will then discuss what they learned and the greatest takeaways from their individual research.

# Reading Questions

## Before Reading Questions

1. How would you define religion?
2. Do you or your family members believe in any type of religion?

## During Reading Questions

1. What is the name of the underworld that Kwame is pulled in to?
2. What are the names of the gods that Kwame encounters in Asamando?

## After Reading Questions

1. What Indigenous religion is associated with the reading?
2. How does Kwame view his culture at the start of the book compared to the end of the book?



# Research Questions

Make sure students have a clear understanding of what religion they are researching.

To help with this process, the students should focus on the following items:

1. What are the main beliefs of the religion?
2. What kind of traditions does the religion have?
3. What percentage of people in Ghana practice the religion?
4. Provide a brief myth or tale from the religion you are assigned.
5. How long has the religion been around?



## Additional Suggestions

If your students enjoyed *Kwame Crashes the Underworld* and are interested in learning more about the Indigenous religions (specifically the Igbo religion), we'd encourage you to check out another book in our Children's Book Festival, *Bumps in the Night*!



We also hope you can join us on  
Saturday, November 9 at the  
Boulder Public Library to meet  
Craig Kofi Farmer  
and hear more about *Kwame  
Crashes the Underworld*  
in-person...along with other  
authors and illustrators! For more  
information, visit  
<https://www.colorado.edu/event/bookfest>

The CU Boulder School of Education and Boulder Bookstore present

## 2024 Children's Book Festival

Saturday, November 9 | Boulder Public Library



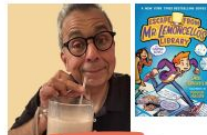
JENNY SUE  
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BRITTANY  
CICCHESE



JULIE LEUNG



CHRIS  
GRABENSTEIN



AMALIE  
HOWARD



CRAIG KOFI  
FARMER

Join us on Saturday, November 9, 2024 | 10 a.m. – 5 p.m.

 Boulder Public Library (Main Branch) - 1101 Arapahoe Ave.  
Free parking available

This free event includes author talks, a panel for educators, book sales and signing, children's activities and more. Come for part of the event, or stay for the day!

Free educational resources available on our website. Continuing Education Units (CEUs) available for teachers and librarians.

Support provided by the CU Boulder Office for Public and Community Engaged Scholarship



Learn more and register at  
[colorado.edu/event/bookfest](https://www.colorado.edu/event/bookfest)

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