

## Arts for Learning CT PROGRAM GUIDE

### LEARNING OBJECTIVES

- To introduce and familiarize students with the Ghanaian culture through music, dance, and storytelling.
- To foster appreciation for balance and physical coordination in combination with music and storytelling by demonstrating specific Ghanaian dances.
- To demonstrate for students the importance of global citizenship.

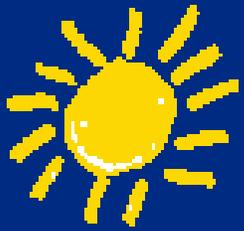


## Soro Bindi

Iddi Saaka

### ABOUT THE PROGRAMS

Soro-Bindi is an exciting, interactive performance that incorporates traditional Ghanaian dances, songs, and stories. Artist Iddi Saaka drives his audience through Africa with various dances such as the Kpanlogo dance and the Bawa harvest dance, then invites students to learn about and play traditional Ghanaian instruments. His friend, Rachel Boggia, narrates the program. Iddi educates audiences on exciting African, and specifically Ghanaian, culture. Through his program Sorro-Bindi, students learn about Ghanaian culture, not only through its music and dance, but through incredible storytelling.



ARTS FOR LEARNING CT  
1 EVERGREEN AVENUE  
3<sup>RD</sup> FLOOR  
HAMDEN, CT 06518



Arts for  
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Connecticut



# About the Artist & Program Preparations

## ABOUT THE ARTIST

Originally from northern Ghana, Iddi has studied extensively in his home country, where he graduated with honors from the University of Ghana, School of Performing Arts, and in Israel, where he worked closely with the African Studies Department at the University of Tel Aviv. In Israel, he also served as a dance instructor for the Karev Foundation and the Ashod Center for the Mentally Challenged. Iddi has since moved to the U.S. and earned a degree in choreography from UCLA. Iddi uses his choreography to engage his audience and focus on global social issues.

## PRE/POST PROGRAMS

**PRE PROGRAM** • Have a short geography lesson on Africa, focusing specifically on Ghana. Investigate the culture and history, as well as the physical geography. • Discuss whether or not dance can carry meaning, and how it accomplishes this. It may also be good to explore how dance displays, and conveys, one's culture.

**POST PROGRAM** • Discuss how news of important events is announced in the U.S. and how that differs, or compares, with how news is announced in Ghana. • Make a list of popular dances in the U.S. and discuss how they compare with the dances seen in the performance. Do the dances hold special significance in daily life, for example?

## CITIES & TOWNS IN GHANA

In Ghana just like in the United States, there are cities with big buildings built with concrete, paved streets, and supermarkets where people buy their groceries. In these cities there is electricity, and kids play computer games, watch television, go to school by bus and carry their books in their backpacks. They have regular school buildings with tables and chairs in their classrooms. However, there are also small villages where the houses are built with mud and where there are no supermarkets. People in these villages grow their own food in their backyards. In some of these villages there is no electricity so the kids play drums, sing, dance, tell stories, and play games to keep themselves occupied. In some villages, kids walk a couple of miles each day to school and carry their books on their heads because they have no backpacks. This is truly and economically diverse nation.

## CURRICULAR LINKS

### Language Arts

**Speaking and Listening:** Comprehension and Collaboration, 1-3; Presentation of Knowledge and Ideas, 4-6.  
**Language Standard:** Knowledge of Language, 3; Vocabulary Acquisition and Use, 4-6; Conventions of Standard English, 1-2

**VOCABULARY AND CONCEPTS** **The Talking Drum:** Used to announce important events, this drum is used as a means of communication, as well as a musical instrument. **Atsimevu:** The largest drum in the Ghanaian Gahu drum orchestra. It is also the lead drum responsible for providing rhythmic instruction to the other instruments and dancers. **Kpanlogo:** Similar to the conga drum, this drum's head is held together with an intricate system of pegs and rope. Kpanlogo is also the name of a recreational Ghanaian dance. **Axaste:** A beaded rattle constructed from a hollowed gourd. **Gankogui:** A connected pair of bells (one high pitched and one low) played with a wooden stick.



Website:  
<http://www.aflct.org>



Contact:  
203.230.8101



Email:  
[info@aflct.org](mailto:info@aflct.org)