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- Kimmel, Eric A. and Janet Stevens. *Anansi and the Talking Melon.* Holiday House, Inc., New York, NY;1996.

TEACHER'S GUIDE

Julia McMeans, M.Ed.
Curriculum Specialist, Schlessinger Media

Families Around The World Video Series includes these 24 programs:

- MY FAMILY FROM BRAZIL
- MY FAMILY FROM BURKINA FASO
- MY FAMILY FROM CHILE
- MY FAMILY FROM CHINA
- MY FAMILY FROM COSTA RICA
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TEACHER'S GUIDE

Families Around the World™

My Family from Burkina Faso

Grades K–4

From Asia to Africa, city to suburb, or rural farm to tropical rain forest, the presence of the family is common to all people and present in every culture throughout the world. Studying families from different places helps us to learn and appreciate both the similarities and differences between ourselves and others. Also, through exposure to cultures that are unfamiliar to them, children can learn to be accepting of people, lifestyles and traditions that may be very different from their own. The family — that special group of adults and children who care for, love, protect, and help each other — is both explored and celebrated in *Families Around the World.*

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Program Summary

In *My Family from Burkina Faso,* students will meet 12-year-old Charly, his mother and his seven brothers and sisters who all live in the tiny village of Sabou. Charly's father has died, and Charly, as the eldest boy, has taken on many adult responsibilities to assist both his mother and his grandfather. Students will see Charly fetching water from the village well and transporting it by donkey back to his home, and will watch as he assists his mother in the preparation of Dolo, a staple food in the villager's diet. All is not work for young Charly, however, as he and his village friends take part in a daily competitive game of football (soccer) right next to the sacred Crocodile Lake, and perform the comical *young shoots dance* at a harvest festival.

Geographical Information

Located in West Africa, Burkina Faso (formerly known as Upper Volta) is a landlocked country which is roughly 275, 200 square kilometers. It is made up of thirty provinces, is the poorest country on the African continent, and is one of the most densely populated. The official language of Burkina Faso is French, although most people also speak Moré. Climatically, Burkina Faso has hot, wet summers and warm, dry winters. Recurring drought is a persistent problem. Burkina Faso is home to a variety of animals including crocodiles, buffalo, antelope, lions, hippopotamuses and elephants, although these animals are not as prevalent here as they are in other West African countries. The country's capital is Ouagadougou, and its main exports are cotton and gold.

Village life in Burkina Faso is very different from life in the towns and cities. There is normally no electricity and usually only one public phone which is shared by villagers. Most villagers rely on what they can produce to sustain themselves and their families.

Pre-viewing Discussion

Using a web, brainstorm with your students to determine who they consider to be members of their family. Share with your students that families come in all shapes and sizes and that a family is a group of adults and children who care for, love, protect and help each other. Use the following questions to help students access their thoughts and ideas about families.

- Who do you care for, love and help?
- Who cares for, loves and helps you?
- Does a family member have to be a person who lives with you?

After this discussion, ask students to draw a family portrait which includes all the people who they consider to be members of their family.

Follow-up Discussion

After viewing the program with your class, discuss the similarities and differences between their families and Charly's. Refer students back to the original definition of a family: *A group of adults and children who care for, love, protect, and help each other.* Ask them to provide examples from the video that demonstrate how this particular family expresses love, shows care and provides help for each other.

Follow-up Activities

- Write a thank you letter to a family member which acknowledges and thanks him or her for the love, care and support he or she gives you.
- Using a Venn diagram, ask students to compare and contrast Charly's family and social life with their own.
- Prepare an informational presentation on the game of soccer. Make sure that you include detailed instructions on how to play the game and what equipment is required. Your presentation should include some illustrations that aid understanding of the game.
- Write a dialogue between two of the crocodiles that live in the sacred Crocodile Lake in Charly's village. What observations might these crocodiles make about Charly and his friends?
- Create a map of the African continent. Your map should include all African countries, their capitals, a map key, and a compass rose.
- Read a selection of African folktales. Have students write and illustrate original folktales in the style of an African folktale. Collect all stories and create a class book.
- Pretend that Charly is your pen pal. Have students write him a letter describing how your life is different from his. Make sure that you include questions for Charly.
- Ask students if they have ever prepared a meal with family members. Encourage them to write down the basic steps for the preparation of the meals. Include who they made them with and when they were served. Combine all recipes to create a class cookbook of traditional family recipes.

Suggested Internet Resources

Periodically, Internet Resources are updated on our Web site at www.LibraryVideo.com

- **www.oxfam.org.uk/coolplanet/ontheline/explore/journey/burkina/bfindex.htm**
  This Web site contains a wide variety of information and photographs about Burkina Faso. You can even take a virtual tour!
- **csinburkinafaso.hitspot.net/**
  This website was created by a former teacher who spent time in Burkina Faso as a Peace Corps volunteer. This site contains information, lesson plans and activity ideas.
- **www.enchantedlearning.com/school/Africa/africamap.shtml**
  This site provides a variety of maps of Africa.
- **teacherlink.edu.usu.edu/tlresources/units/Byrnes-africa/aindex.htm**
  This site has an enormous amount of activities related to Africa.

Suggested Print Resources

- Aardema, Verna and Leo Dillon. *Why Mosquitoes Buzz in People's Ears: A West African Tale.* Penguin Putnam, New York, NY; 1978.
- Aardema, Verna and Lisa Desimini. *Anansi Does the Impossible.* Simon & Shuster, New York, NY; 1997.

(Continued)