

### Suggested Print Resources

- Climo, Shirley and Angelo Tillery. *A Pride of Princesses: Princess Tales from Around the World*. HarperTrophy, New York, NY; 1999.
- Kaschula, Russell and Pat Ndukwe. *Xbosa*. Rosen Publishing Group, New York, NY; 1997.
- Lottridge, Celia Barker and Ian Wallace. *The Name of the Tree*. Douglas and McIntyre Publishing Group, Vancouver, BC; 2002.
- Raatma, Lucia. *South Africa*. Compass Point Books, Mankato, MN; 2001.



## My Xhosa Family from South Africa

Grades K–4

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### TEACHER'S GUIDE

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### Families Around The World Video Series

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includes these 24 programs:

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| • MY FAMILY FROM BRAZIL       | • MY FAMILY FROM GREENLAND   | • MY FAMILY FROM NEW YORK CITY      |
| • MY FAMILY FROM BURKINA FASO | • MY FAMILY FROM ICELAND     | • MY FAMILY FROM SERBIA-MONTENEGRO  |
| • MY FAMILY FROM CHILE        | • MY FAMILY FROM INDIA       | • MY FAMILY FROM SOUTH AFRICA       |
| • MY FAMILY FROM CHINA        | • MY FAMILY FROM ISRAEL      | • MY FAMILY FROM SOUTH KOREA        |
| • MY FAMILY FROM COSTA RICA   | • MY FAMILY FROM ITALY       | • MY FAMILY FROM VIETNAM            |
| • MY FAMILY FROM CUBA         | • MY FAMILY FROM JAPAN       | • MY INUIT FAMILY FROM CANADA       |
| • MY FAMILY FROM ENGLAND      | • MY FAMILY FROM JORDAN      | • MY XHOSA FAMILY FROM SOUTH AFRICA |
| • MY FAMILY FROM FRANCE       | • MY FAMILY FROM LAPLAND     |                                     |
|                               | • MY FAMILY FROM LOS ANGELES |                                     |

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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*.



## Program Summary

In *My Xhosa Family from South Africa*, students will meet 12-year-old Loumka and her large extended family. Loumka is a member of the Xhosa people and she and her family live in a one-room house in a small village. Loumka doesn't get to see her mother very often because she lives and works nearly 1,000 kilometers away, but she has her grandmothers, aunts and uncles to look after her. Loumka has a very special relationship with Nozamile, her grandfather's second wife, and Loumka considers her to be her second grandmother. Loumka loves learning her people's ways from Nozamile, who teaches her how to make a traditional corn drink, and also how to use white clay on her face to protect her skin from the heat of the sun. Nozamile has recently had a dream about an ancestor, and in keeping with Xhosa custom, the family will now have a celebration to honor that ancestor. Loumka is responsible for collecting the wood for the fire, and helping her sister prepare a rice and cabbage dish for the celebration. After dinner, the family will gather around the fire to dance and tell stories.

## Geographical Information

The Republic of South Africa is the southernmost country on the continent of Africa. It has a land area of approximately 1.2 million square kilometers, and is bordered by Namibia, Botswana, Zimbabwe, Mozambique and Swaziland. Its coastlines border the Indian and Atlantic Oceans. South Africa's climate is semi-arid and subtropical along the east coast. The country generally has sunny days and cool nights. South Africa is a very culturally diverse country evidenced by the eleven official languages that are spoken there. Some of these languages include English, Afrikaans, North Sotho and Tsonga. Although South Africa has been influenced by Western culture, South African culture, most notably music and literature, not only continues to flourish there, but is renowned all over the world. South Africa has a population of about 44 million. Pretoria is the Republic's capital city, although Cape Town acts as its legislative capital and Bloemfontein is the country's judicial capital.

The Xhosa People are part of a larger group of people called the Bantu. There are nearly 7.5 million Xhosa, many of whom live in the Eastern Cape province of South Africa.

## 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 Loumka'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

- We learn from Loumka that she is not very good at math, but that she gets special help from her uncle so that she can do better. Have your students think of a school subject that they would like to understand better and have them write about the things they do to try to improve.
- Have students read a selection of Xhosa folktales. Younger students may illustrate their favorite stories, and older students can create dramatic presentations of their favorite stories.
- Create a family flag. Using a 12 inch by 12 inch piece of fabric (possibly cut from old sheets) have students design and create flags that represent their families. Students should select colors, shapes, patterns and symbols that represent the different aspects of their families. Students can present their flags to the class, and explain what the different parts of their flags represent.
- Loumka's mother lives and works very far away from home. Have students imagine what it might be like to have a parent or close relative live and work so far away from home. What would be the most difficult part of this?
- Loumka is always very excited and happy to see her grandmother, Nozamile. Have students think of relatives whom they are always happy and excited to see. Using poster board, have students draw illustrations of all of the things they like to do or have done with these special people. If possible, these relatives may be invited into the classroom to watch the children present their posters.

## Suggested Internet Resources

Periodically, Internet Resources are updated on our Web site at [www.LibraryVideo.com](http://www.LibraryVideo.com)

- [www.sacred-texts.com/afr/xft](http://www.sacred-texts.com/afr/xft)  
This site has a good selection of Xhosa folktales.
- [teacherlink.ed.usu.edu/tlresources/units/byrnes-africa/aindex.htm](http://teacherlink.ed.usu.edu/tlresources/units/byrnes-africa/aindex.htm)  
This Web site provides a very comprehensive selection of lessons relating to Africa.
- [www.peacecorps.gov/kids/world/africa/southafrica.html](http://www.peacecorps.gov/kids/world/africa/southafrica.html)  
This Web site provides lots of facts and information about South Africa, including a section specifically about village life, all in a child-friendly way.
- [www.timeforkids.com/tfk/specials/goplaces/0,12405,384364,00.html](http://www.timeforkids.com/tfk/specials/goplaces/0,12405,384364,00.html)  
This child-friendly Web site allows children to listen to South African languages, visit interesting sites and make post cards.