

Africa's Influence on the World's Knowledge

European colonization of countries around the world led to an inaccurate positioning of the world's knowledge as anchored primarily in European traditions. As a result, Whiteness and all things produced by Europeans (art, music, science, mathematics, literature, dance, etc.) came to be viewed as superior to all other traditions. In the interest of commerce, colonizers gained power by portraying the humans they wished to control as lacking knowledge, expertise, ability, and beauty. As a result, a canon of White artists, authors, historians, scientists, mathematicians, inventors, etc. dominated curriculum in schools, filtering into educational practice today. The resources found at this link are provided as a small beginning, but an impetus to help educators broaden their own knowledge; create new curriculum to correct misinformation, omissions, and tokenization; and to continue learning not only about the contributions of African countries but the many missing and misrepresented histories that make up the mosaic that is our planet.

Confronting and dispelling African stereotypes and inaccuracies:

Africa is not a country:

- <http://www.aljazeera.com/programmes/upfront/2015/10/reality-check-africa-country-151003102911239.html>
- <http://www.theguardian.com/world/2014/jan/24/africa-clinton>
- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZmhqpS3oMpw> (excellent video clip; dispelling stereotypes and marginalization)
- http://www.ted.com/talks/chimamanda_adichie_the_danger_of_a_single_story?language=en (Danger of the Single Story)
- Adichie talking about *Americanah*: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2ijEqposkyk>

Africa has a story to tell and it's about time it's told by Africans (BBC)

- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=PZisaJGv9cI&feature=youtu.be>
- <http://traveller24.news24.com/MyTravels/VIRAL-The-Africa-the-media-never-shows-you-20150624>

Africa the media never shows you:

- <http://www.upworthy.com/young-africans-are-posting-images-of-their-lives-to-show-what-the-media-wont?c=ufb1>
- <http://www.vagabomb.com/This-is-the-Africa-the-Media-Never-Shows-You-and-It-Is-Beautiful/>

Misperceptions of African geography:

- <http://www.economist.com/blogs/dailychart/2010/11/cartography>
- <http://flowingdata.com/2010/10/18/true-size-of-africa/>
- <http://www.businessinsider.com/greenland-africa-comparison-2014-5>

Radi-Aid: Africa for Norway: Satire demonstrating the stereotyping of African nations:

- <http://www.africafornorway.no>
- <http://www.africafornorway.no/why>

This is Africa: <http://thisisafrica.me/the-world-does-not-aid-africa/>

Building a better understanding of Africa:

<http://www.npr.org/2012/06/29/155906577/can-we-build-a-better-understanding-of-africa>

Remaking accounts of African history:

- <https://africaforafrica.wordpress.com/2011/05/30/remaking-african-history/>
- http://www.mercatornet.com/harambee/view/how_to_rewrite_africas_history/12618

African contributions to the world's knowledge

African scholars teaching the world:

- <http://www.theperspective.org/africacontribution.html>
- <http://thisisafrica.me/africa-colonisation/>

Stolen histories (a range of resources):

http://www.africa.upenn.edu/Bibliography/African_Origins_Math.html

<http://www.okayafrica.com/news/african-women-poster-series-ruramai-rudo-musekiwa-south-africa-womens-day/#slide1>

Science, technology, and engineering:

- http://www.asbmb.org/asbmbtoday/asbmbtoday_article.aspx?id=32437
- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MkaG9LQ5ED0>
- http://www.africa.upenn.edu/K-12/African_Science.html

Mathematics:

- <http://www.taneter.org/math.html>
- <http://www.pps.k12.or.us/depts-c/mc-me/be-af-ma.pdf>
- <http://saharanvibe.blogspot.com/2008/04/did-mathematics-originate-from-africa.html>
- <http://www.africahistory.net/roneglash.htm>
- http://www.ted.com/talks/ron_eglash_on_african_fractals

Inventors and inventions:

- <http://atlantablackstar.com/2014/10/01/12-african-inventions-that-changed-the-world/>
- http://www.kumato.com/african_inventors.html
- <http://answersafrica.com/african-inventions.html>

African Art influencing the worlds' art:

- Smithsonian: <http://africa.si.edu>
- 50th anniversary of African Art exhibitions at Smithsonian:
<http://africa.si.edu/50years/>
<https://deyoung.famsf.org/deyoung/collections/african-art>

- <http://theculturetrip.com/africa/articles/10-contemporary-african-artists-you-should-know/>
- <http://www.infoplease.com/encyclopedia/entertainment/african-art-influence-western-art.html>
- http://www.metmuseum.org/toah/hd/aima/hd_aima.htm
- <http://interesting-africa-facts.com/African-Art/African-Art-Influence.shtml>

Agriculture:

- <http://www.blackpast.org/perspectives/deep-roots-across-atlantic-rice-and-race-africa-and-americas>
- <http://www.africanamericancharleston.com/gullah.html>
- <http://yale.edu/glc/gullah/index.htm>

History: <http://library.columbia.edu/locations/global/africa.html>

Working to end enslavement and commodification of human beings:

<http://blacktimetravel.com/olaudah-equianos-autobiography-was-instrumental-in-ending-the-slave-trade-in-europe/>

Learning from but appropriating from Africa

<http://www.discoveringafricanetwork.com/africanculture.html>

Gullah traditions in America:

<http://www.smithsonianmag.com/ist/?next=/arts-culture/holding-on-to-gullah-culture-185296/>

Origins of hair braiding:

<http://blackthen.com/from-africa-to-america-the-origin-of-african-american-hair-braiding/>

Diaspora Studies

Voices from the Haitian Dyaspora: <http://zinnedproject.org/materials/the-butterflys-way-voices-from-the-haitian-dyaspora-in-the-united-states/>

Afro-Ecuadorians: <http://www.telesurtv.net/english/news/Ecuador-to-Include-Afro-Ecuadorean-History-in-Textbooks--20151004-0014.html>

Afro-Brazilians: <http://blogs.indiewire.com/shadowandact/five-part-documentary-series-traces-pre-slavery-roots-of-afro-brazilians-contributions-africans-made-to-brazils-construction-20150912>

Diasporan histories:

http://www.understandingslavery.com/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=314&Itemid=226

Languages of the African Diaspora program:

<https://www.dnainfo.com/new-york/20160210/bed-stuy/new-language-classes-for-kids-teach-swahili-culture-of-african-diaspora>

CLASSROOM RESOURCES:

Books and other resources K-5: <http://www.stlucie.k12.fl.us/programs/african-american/LanguageArts-K-5.html>

Thinking about curriculum:

<http://exploringafrica.matrix.msu.edu/teachers/curriculum/m1/notes.php>

Children's Books about Africa: <http://africaaccessreview.org/>

Boston University Resources for Teachers: <http://www.bu.edu/africa/outreach/resources/>

Building your library about Africa: <http://www.bu.edu/africa/outreach/outreach-library/>

Indiana University (vast collection of teaching resources, lesson plans, background information): <http://www.indiana.edu/~libsalc/african/teacher.html>

Columbia University: http://africa.wisc.edu/?page_id=892#GeneralResources

Michigan State University: <http://africa.isp.msu.edu/outreach/k12.htm>

University of Pennsylvania: http://www.africa.upenn.edu/K-12/menu_EduAFAM.html

Authors, Scholars, Researchers and Publishers to Follow on twitter:

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