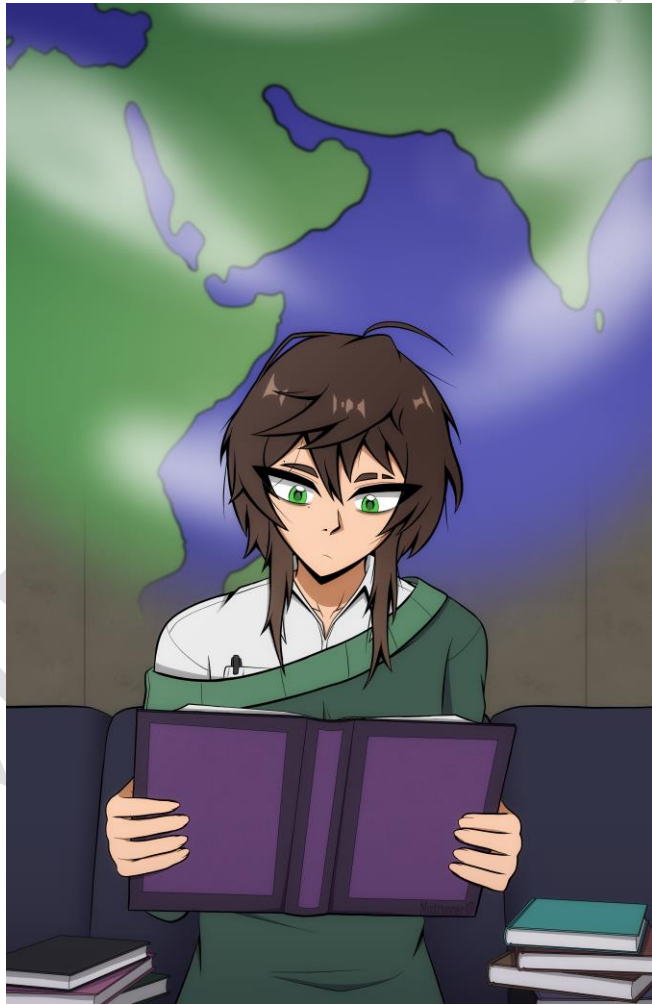


# Self-Education: World Cultures Part 1



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## About the Self-Education Units

Self-education is a major benefit of homeschooling. Parents often learn alongside our children, but we sometimes want to take it further and dig deeper. That's where our self-education units come in!

In the World Cultures units, you will explore cultures and people groups around the world while reading a piece of literature from each continent/region. Every week, you will be reading an article, watching several videos, cooking traditional foods, enjoying beautifully written poetry and literature, and watching movies to help you get immersed in different cultures as you study. Each of our Self-Education units will be similarly structured, to help you build a routine and stay consistent with your education!

Self-Education: World Cultures, Part 1 will include the continents of Africa, the Middle East, and Asia. This unit will take 10 weeks to complete as written, but feel free to take it slower if necessary.

You will need a notebook – nothing fancy; any spiral-bound notebook will do. This will become your journal. I include prompts every week to guide you and give you a way to process and think about what you are learning. There is also copywork included each week, but I encourage you to jot down any quotes that stand out to you as you read!

In addition to journaling, I've included quizzes for each continent. These are completely optional, but testing yourself and seeing what you've learned can be fun.

I hope you enjoy furthering your education and showing your children that learning never stops!

# Booklist

These are the books that are scheduled as part of the curriculum. I highly recommend purchasing books that are used more than a few weeks. It will save you much aggravation to not have to deal with library availability, fees, and such.

The books below are also listed at the Build Your Library website, with links to purchase.

## Required Books:

*National Geographic People of the World: Cultures and Traditions, Ancestry and Identity* by Catherine Herbert Howell (spine)

*The Girl with the Louding Voice* by Abi Dare (week 1)

*The Lemon Tree: An Arab, A Jew, and the Heart of the Middle East* by Sandy Tolan (week 4)

*The Complete Persepolis* by Marjane Satrapi (week 6)

*Convenience Store Woman* by Sayaka Murata (week 8)

*Independence* by Chitra Banerjee Divakaruni (week 9)

## Helpful Links:

<https://www.geoguessr.com/l/wor> - these are fun geography games that you might enjoy as you study! They also have printable maps – there is no mapwork included in this guide as we are focusing more on culture, but if you can always add that in as you study.

<https://www.poetryinternational.com/en/poets-poems/poems> - this site is a treasure trove of international poetry that we'll be exploring as we complete this course.

## Documentaries and Movies:

[A United Kingdom](#) (week 1)

... (week 2)

... (week 3)

... (week 4)

... (week 5)

... (week 6)

... (week 7)

... (week 8)

... (week 9)

... (week 10)

***If you are a voracious reader, see the appendix for a list of optional books!***

SAMPLE WEEK

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# Self-Education: World Cultures

## Week 1

	Day 1	Day 2	Day 3	Day 4	Day 5
<b>Geography and Cultures:</b> <i>National Geographic People of the World</i>	Introduction – About this Book		South Africa: Pg. 21 – 26		South Africa: Pg. 26 – 31
<b>Literature:</b> <i>The Girl with the Louding Voice</i>	Prologue – Chapter 4	Chapters 5 – 8	Chapters 9 – 11	Chapters 12 – 15	Chapters 16 – 20
<b>Activity:</b>	Article and Journaling: “Culture, Ethnicity, and Race”	Language Map and Optional Reading	Poetry: Mbuyiseni Oswald Mtshali	Cooking Activity: Make Bobotie	Journal Reflection
<b>Media:</b>		<a href="#">Geography Now: South Africa</a>			<a href="#">A United Kingdom</a>

# Week 1

## Day 1:

### Geography and Cultures:

*National Geographic People of the World* – read the Introduction – About This Book

Key Idea/Topic – Ethnicity and Culture, Genetic Diversity, and how to read this book.

### Literature:

*The Girl with the Louding Voice* – read the Prologue – Chapter 4

### To Think About:

- How does Adunni feel about marriage? What does she want for her life?
- How do her friend Enitan and her father view marriage? What do the conversations Adunni has with each of them tell you about the cultural views of marriage among the Yoruba?
- What do you think Adunni means when she says she wants to have a louding voice?

### Copywork:

*“Your schooling is your voice, child. It will be speaking for you even if you didn’t open your mouth to talk. It will be speaking till the day God is calling you come.”*

*That day, I tell myself that even if I am not getting anything in this life, I will go to school. I will finish my primary and secondary and university schooling and become teacher because I don’t just want to be having any kind of voice...*

*I want a louding voice.*

### Activity:

Read this article from Shoes Off: Stories about Asian Australian Culture:

<https://www.shoesoff.net/content/culture-ethnicity-race>

Then watch this video:

[Race, Ethnicity, and the Cultural Landscape | Crash Course Geography #29](#)

Journaling: What is the difference between culture, ethnicity, and race? In your journal, answer the following questions: What is culture? What is ethnicity? What is race? Then tell how you would refer to yourself if you were asked to explain your heritage.

## Day 2:

### Literature:

*The Girl with the Louding Voice* – read chapters 5 – 8

Content warning: rape

### To Think About:

- How did Enitan try to convince Adunni to be happy about her impending marriage? What good things did she list?
- How do you think women were viewed in this society based on the wedding ceremony?
- How does Morufu view his wives? Why did he marry Adunni?

### Activity:

Check out this map to explore the different languages spoken across the continent:

<https://exploringafrica.matrix.msu.edu/map-1-african-languages/>

### Media:

Watch [Geography Now: South Africa](#)

## Day 3:

### Geography and Cultures:

*National Geographic People of the World* – read chapter 1 pages 21 – 26

Key Idea/Topic – Sub-Saharan Africa: Southern African Cultures – Afrikaners and San

### Literature:

*The Girl with the Louding Voice* – read chapters 9 – 11

### To Think About:

- How do Morufu's other wives treat Adunni? Why do you think she and Khadija get along so well?
- How did Adunni describe married life to her friends? Why do you think they didn't believe her?
- How did Kike surprise Adunni? Why do you think she did it?

### Activity:

Read some of the poetry by South African poet Mbuyiseni Oswald Mtshali. You can read about the poet and some of his poetry here:

[https://www.poetryinternational.com/en/poets-poems/poets/poet/102-23498\\_Mtshali](https://www.poetryinternational.com/en/poets-poems/poets/poet/102-23498_Mtshali)

## Day 4:

### Literature:

*The Girl with the Louding Voice* – read chapters 12 – 15

### To Think About:

- How did Kike explain her mother’s cruelty to Adunni? Do you think that excuses her behavior? Why or why not?
- Why is Kike resigned to her impending marriage? What does she want to become in life? What does Adunni want to become? Why does she see it as an impossibility?
- How did Kadija ensure that she would have a boy baby? How did Adunni react when she found out?
- What did they insist must be done to save Khadija and her baby?
- Why do you think Bamidele brought Khadija to the river just to leave her there? What do you think he whispered in her ear?

### Activity:

As we tour the world through culture and stories, we’ll also try out some of the delicious cuisine! Whenever possible, I’m going to aim to include a recipe for the national dish of a country or region being studied.

This week, you can try making Bobotie – the national dish of South Africa!

- Here is a recipe to try: <https://tasteoftheplace.com/bobotie/>
- You can also watch a video here: [Fatima Sydow’s Bobotie](#)

### Media:

Optional: If you have access to the streaming service MAX, I recommend watching Anthony Bourdain’s Parts Unknown Season 2 episode 6: South Africa

## Day 5:

### Geography and Culture:

*National Geographic People of the World* – read chapter 1 pages 26 – 31

Key Idea/Topic – Our Human Birthplace, South African Cultures: Shona, Tswana, and Zulu

### Literature:

*The Girl with the Louding Voice* – read chapters 16 – 20



**To Think About:**

- What happened when Adunni tried to go back to find Bamidele? Why do you think being called a thief put her in more danger than Bamidele when she accused him of murdering Khadija?
- Why did Adunni decide to run away? What danger did she believe she was in? What do you think would have happened if she had chosen to stay at her father's house?

**Activity:**

Journaling – Today you should reflect on what you learned this week. Answer the questions on the Reflection Journal Activity found on page 4 of this guide.

**Media:**

It's movie night! Every week, I'm going to include a movie recommendation to enjoy! This week's movie is: [A United Kingdom \(2017\)](#) – this is a movie set in 1940s London and Botswana. It's based on a true story about a forbidden love between the King of Botswana and a white woman. I found this movie to be beautifully told and very moving.

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SAMPLE WEEK