



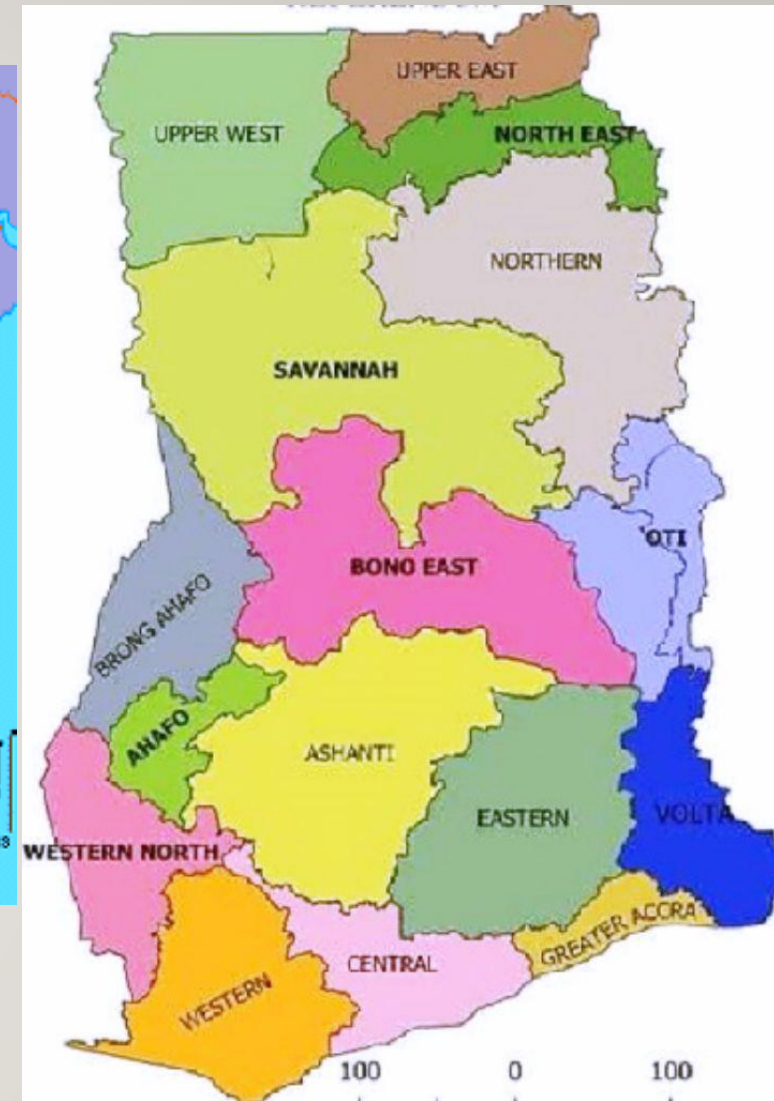
MY CROSS CULTURAL EXPERIENCE

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LOCATION

- I was born and raised in Ghana. West Africa





GHANA

- On the south of the Sahara is a peaceful and historical country called Ghana, a former British colony shares boundary to the west with Cote D'ivoire, to the east with Togo, to the north with Burkina
- The meaning of Ghana: Ghana was derived from the ancient Ghana empire. Ghana means the "warrior King"- From the old Ghana empire. Formerly known as Gold Coast – Capital was Cape Coast
- The colors in the flag are: Red signifies those who shed their blood for independence. Yellow signifies the minerals (e.g. Gold). Green signifies the vegetation cover (e.g. The forest) . The Black Star signifies Ghana as the star of Africa (Gateway to Africa)



SOCIETY AND CULTURE

There are over 100 ethnic groups living in Ghana. The largest are Akan, Moshi-Dagbani, Ewe, and Ga. The Ashanti tribe of the Akan are the largest tribe and one of the few societies in West Africa where lineage is traced through the mother and maternal ancestors.

Once famous for the luxury and wealth of their rulers, they are now more well known for their craft-work such as hand-carved stools, fertility dolls, and 'kente' cloth. Kente cloth is made cotton and is woven in bright, narrow strips with complex patterns.

HIERARCHY



- Ghanaian society is hierarchical. People are respected because of their age, experience, wealth and/or position. Older people are viewed as wise and are granted respect. In a group one can always see preferential treatment for the eldest member present. With respect comes responsibility and people expect the most senior person to make decisions that are in the best interest of the group.



MY CULTURE

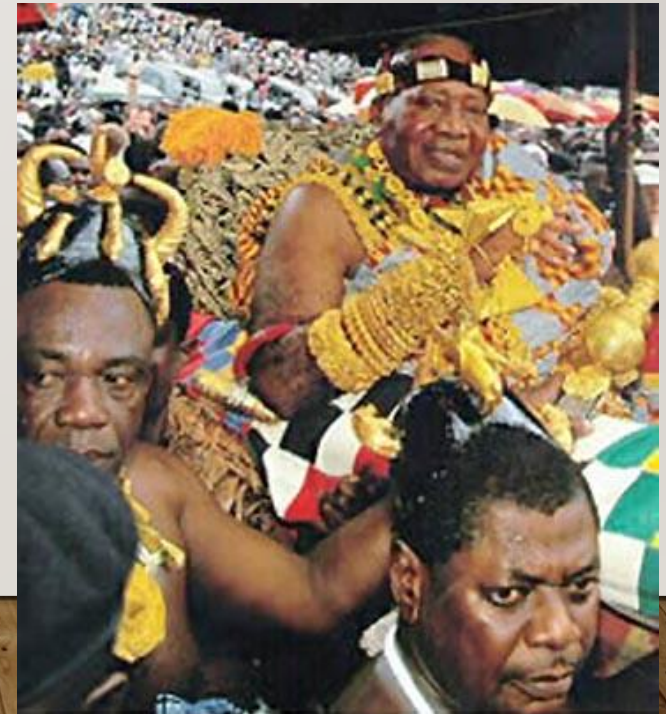
THE ASHANTI CULTURE BACKGROUND

- The Ashanti live in central Ghana in the Rain forests of West Africa approximately 150 miles away from the coast. The Ashanti are a major ethnic group of the Akans (Ashanti and Fanti) in Ghana. Asante is the largest and most powerful of a series of states formed in the forest region of southern Ghana by people known as the Akan. Among the factors leading the Akan to form states, perhaps the most important was that they were rich in gold.



THE ASHANTIS

- The Ashanti religion is a mixture of spiritual and supernatural powers. They believe that plants, animals, and trees have souls. They also believe in fairies, witches, and forest monsters. There are a variety of religious beliefs involving ancestors, higher gods, or abosom, and 'Nyame', the Supreme Being of Ashanti.



TRADITIONAL FESTIVALS





FESTIVALS

- The Akwasidae Festival is a magnificent Ashanti celebration centred on ancestral reverence, remembrance and acknowledgement of past kings and noble feats. It serves as a celebration of the Golden Stool and a cultural vibrancy that brings together the Asantehene, sub-kings and subjects at Manhyia palace in Kumasi.
- The Akwasidae celebration is an eventful spectacle, where the spiritual meets the physical. Ashanti culture centres on ancestral worship. In Akan “adae” means “place of rest”, and as such Akwasidae is when past kings are called upon to invoke their blessings on the people. Prior to Akwasidae, the preceding Saturday evening, known as Memeneda Dapaa, sees elderly women of the stool conveying totemic songs to the palace grounds. Drums and horns voice out harmonies and dancing goes on until the early hours of the morning, inviting the spirits of the dead. One place to learn more about the event is the Manhyia Museum



CLOTHING



DURING EVENTS,

- like wedding, naming ceremonies, Sunday church service traditional attire like kente is worn.
- Originally, the use of kente was reserved for Asante royalty and limited to special social and sacred functions. Even as production has increased and kente has become more accessible to those outside the royal court, it continues to be associated with wealth, high social status, and cultural sophistication.
- When there is a funeral, we wear all black.



MUSIC AND DANCE





ADOWA MUSIC AND DANCE

- The adowa is a popular dance that is widespread among the Akan and is performed during funerals and public social events. An adowa ensemble comprises a lead singer, a chorus and percussion/ drums.
- The Adowa dance is a sign of expression that allows performers to communicate their emotions and feelings through their hands and feet. There are different hand movements performed for each setting, people will communicate positive emotions at weddings or engagements and negative emotions at funerals.
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