With teaching artist Sogbety Diomande leading the journey, students experience the traditional rhythms, dances, songs and instruments of Africa. Through exploration and experimentation with African percussion and rhythms, students practice self-control, collaboration and composition. Students learn the three basic sounds of the African djembe drum. Through discussion and demonstrations, students acquire an appreciation and understanding of African culture. They learn to perform basic dance movements as they explore traditional music and make connections between dance, drumming and the history and culture of Africa.

Objectives

1. Define the concepts of rhythm, tradition and culture.
2. Identify the connections between movement and music.
3. Understand how music and dance can be used as artistic communication.
4. Experience music and dance from a different culture.
Sogbety Diomande, a native of the Ivory Coast in West Africa, is a professional drummer and dancer who has been performing since he was a child. He has been a member of Ballet National de Cote d’Ivoire, Kotchegna Dance Company and has been featured with many troupes in NYC and around the US. Sogbety started his own troupe in 2005. His troupe performs at festivals and in colleges throughout the US. He spends most of his time working as a solo artist doing drum workshops, assemblies and lectures in schools, universities, community centers and juvenile correctional facilities. Sogbety is happy to share his culture with school groups all over Ohio so students can get a glimpse of life in a different land.

**Vocabulary**

**Culture:** The behaviors, beliefs and characteristics of a particular social, ethnic or age group

**Rhythm:** A strong, regular repeated pattern of movement or sound

**Tradition:** The handing down of statements, beliefs, customs and information from generation to generation, especially by word of mouth or by practice.

**About Sogbety Diomande**

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**Resources**

Great Performances: Free to Dance

[www.pbs.org/wnet/freetodance/index.html](http://www.pbs.org/wnet/freetodance/index.html)

ArtsEdge Videos

[www.youtube.com/user/ArtsEdge](http://www.youtube.com/user/ArtsEdge)

**About the Center for Arts-Inspired Learning**

Through a balance of demonstration and audience participation, the Center for Arts-Inspired Learning teaching artist performances and workshops introduce students to an art form, support various curricular areas, and inject excitement and wonder into the school day.