



People in Communities

Directions: Read about this African celebration. Then follow the directions on pages 9–14.

N'cwala: An African Thanksgiving

1 Many people all over the world celebrate the harvesting of crops at the end of the growing season. They give thanks for a good harvest by holding a celebration. The Ngoni (na GO nee) people in Zambia (ZAM bee a) hold a celebration called N'cwala (enk WA la).

2 N'cwala is a harvest celebration that includes food, dancing, and music. Musical instruments such as drums, flutes, bells, and rattles are played. The festival is a way of showing thanks for a good yearly crop. To honor their king, the Ngoni people give the first fruits and vegetables from the harvest to him.

The king of the Ngoni is called the Paramount Chief. He rules twelve local chiefs. During N'cwala, twelve groups of men perform warrior dances. The Paramount Chief decides which group is the best. The women from visiting villages also honor the Paramount Chief. They make beef stew for him.

3

The axatse is an African rattle.



The kora, African drum, and gourd shaker are traditional African musical instruments.



**Strategy 1** Locate Key Words in the Question**Directions:** Finding key words can help you understand a question. Follow these steps.

- Read the question.
- Look for and circle **key words** in the question.
- Turn the question into a statement: "I need to find out ____."

Learn

Read the question. Circle key words in the question. Then complete the sentence.

1. What kind of celebration is N'cwala?

- A a New Year's celebration
- B a spring festival
- C a harvest celebration
- D a birthday party

Circle key words.

I need to find out what kind of celebration N'cwala is.

Turn the question into a statement. Use the key words.

Try It

Read each question. Circle key words in each question. Then complete each sentence.

2. Which United States holiday is N'cwala most like?

- A Presidents' Day
- B Memorial Day
- C Labor Day
- D Thanksgiving

I need to find out _____

3. Where is N'cwala celebrated? Use details from the text to support your answer.

I need to find out _____



Strategy 2 Locate Key Words in the Text

Directions: Think about where you need to look for an answer. Follow these steps.

- Read the question.
- Look for and circle key words in the question.
- Look for and circle key words in the text that match key words in the question.
- Decide where to look for the answer.
 - To find the answer, you may have to **look in one place in the text.**
 - To find the answer, you may have to **look in several places in the text.**
 - To find the answer, you may have to **combine what you know with what the author tells you.**

Learn

Read the question. Circle key words in the question. Then complete the sentence.

1. What activities are part of N'cwala? Use details from the text to support your answer.

I found the answer in paragraph 2, sentences 1, 2, and 4; and paragraph 3, sentences 3, 4, and 6.

- Circle key words in the question.
- Circle key words in the text that match key words in the question.

- The question asks you to find out what activities are part of N'cwala.
- You will have to **look in several places in the text** for information.

Try It

Read each question. Circle key words in each question. Then complete each sentence.

2. Which United States holiday is N'cwala most like?

- A Presidents' Day
- B Memorial Day
- C Labor Day
- D Thanksgiving

I found the answer in _____

3. How is music part of N'cwala? Use details from the text to support your answer.

I found the answer in _____

**Strategy 3 Choose the Right Answer**

Directions: Sometimes a question asks you to choose the best answer. Follow these steps.

- Read the question.
- Read each answer choice.
- Cross out answer choices that you know are wrong.
- Mark your answer choice.
- Check your answer. Compare your answer to the text.

Learn

Cross out answer choices that you know are wrong. Mark your answer choice. Then check your answer.

1. Which United States holiday is N'cwala most like?

- A ~~Presidents' Day~~
- B ~~Memorial Day~~
- C ~~Labor Day~~
- D Thanksgiving

Cross out incorrect choices.

Choose answer D. Then compare the answer to the text.

Try It

Cross out answer choices that you know are wrong. Mark your answer choice. Then check your answer.

2. Who is an important leader of the Ngoni?

- A the governor
- B the president
- C the king
- D the mayor

3. Where do the Ngoni people live?

- A in the United States
- B in Mexico
- C in China
- D in Zambia



Strategy 4 Use Information from the Text

Directions: You can use details from the text to answer questions. Follow these steps.

- Read the question.
- Look for and circle key words in the question.
- Find details in the text that answer the question.
Make notes about the details.
- Reread the question and your notes. Cross out notes that do not match the question. Add details, if needed.

Learn

Use information from the text to answer the question.

1. Based on paragraph 2, which musical instruments are played during N'cwala? Use details from the text to support your answer.

My Notes: drums, flutes, bells, rattles, dancing

My Answer: During N'cwala, people play musical instruments such as drums, flutes, bells, and rattles.

- Circle key words in the question.
- The word *which* tells you to look for names of instruments.
- **Make notes** about musical instruments.

Reread the question. Cross out notes that do not match.

Answer the question in your own words.

Try It

Use information from the text to answer the question.

2. Based on paragraph 2, how do the Ngoni honor their king? Use details from the text to support your answer.

My Notes: _____

My Answer: _____



Strategy 5 Use Information from Graphics

Directions: You can use details from a photograph to answer a question. Follow these steps.

- Read the question.
- Look for and circle key words in the question.
- Use details from the photograph to answer the question.

Learn

Look at the photograph on page 8. Use information from the photograph to answer the question.

1. Which instrument is a lot like a banjo?

Circle key words in the question.

To find the answer, I will decide which instrument looks like a banjo and find its name.

Find the instrument that looks like a banjo on page 8. Follow the line from it to the word *kora*.

My Answer: The kora looks a lot like a banjo.

Try It

Look at the photograph on page 8. Use information from the photograph to answer the question.

2. What is the name of the smallest instrument?

To find the answer, I will _____

My Answer: _____



Strategy 6 Write Your Answer to Score High

Directions: A question may tell you to write an answer. Follow these steps to make sure your answer is correct, complete, and focused.

- Read the question.
- Make notes about details that answer the question.
- Reread the question and your notes. Add details, if needed.
- Use details from your notes to answer the question.
- Check your answer. Ask yourself:
 - Is my answer correct?
 - Is my answer complete?
 - Is my answer focused? Do all my details help answer the question?

Learn

Examine this example. It was completed by Seth, an imaginary student. Cross out incorrect information. What should he do to score higher?

1. How do the Ngoni honor their king during N'cwala?

Use details from the text to support your answer.

Seth circled key words in the question.

Seth's Notes: ~~play drums for him~~

Seth's Answer: The Ngoni honor their king by playing drums for him.

Seth's notes are not correct.

To score higher, Seth needs to replace "play drums for him" with "bring him the first fruits"
to make the answer correct.

Try It

Examine this example. It was completed by Alberto, an imaginary student. Cross out incorrect information. What should he do to score higher?

2. Name three ways that the Ngoni celebrate N'cwala. Use details from the text to support your answer.

Alberto's Notes: ~~play sports and games~~

Alberto's Answer: The Ngoni play sports and games when they celebrate N'cwala.

To score higher, Alberto needs to _____

