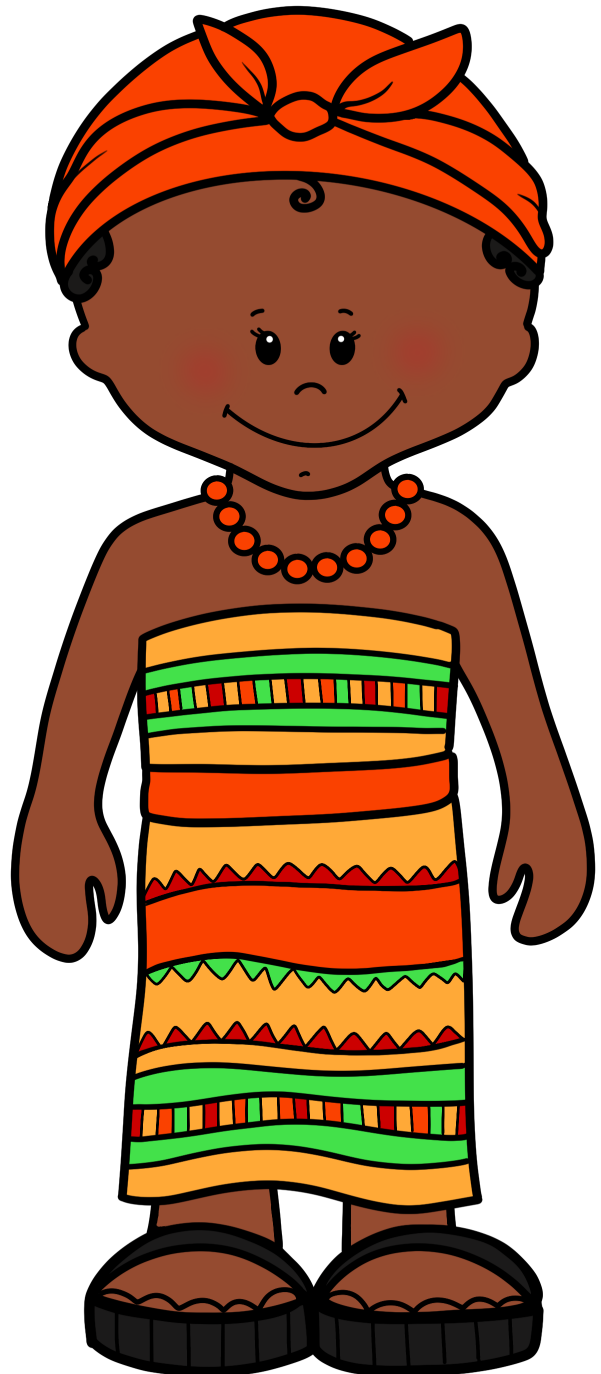


GHANA

Lapbook



Ghana Lapbook

Where is Ghana?

Find Ghana on a map or globe and complete the “Where in the World Is Ghana?” book.

Flag

Ghana’s flag is a tricolor flag which means it’s the type that has three colored stripes, either horizontal or vertical. This is a very popular type of flag.

The top stripe is red which stands for the blood of people who fought for Ghana’s independence.

The middle stripe is gold which represents Ghana’s wealth.

The bottom stripe is green which stands for Ghana’s forests.

The flag has a black star in the middle which reminds people of Ghana’s freedom.

Fast Facts

Official Name:	Republic of Ghana
Date of Independence:	March 6, 1957
Type of Government:	constitutional democracy
Capital:	Accra
Languages:	English, although many people speak their local dialects, especially Twi
Main Religions:	Christianity, traditional beliefs, Islam
Size:	92,098 square miles (Ghana’s almost as big as the state of Oregon)
Climate:	Tropical
Average Temperature:	86 degrees Fahrenheit
Main Crops:	cacao, coffee, rice

Currency

The unit of currency in Ghana is the cedi. One hundred pesewas make up one cedi.

Climate

It's hot in Ghana all year round, but people still notice the changes of season. There is a very hot season from February to May, then a rainy season from June until August or September; and in December the harmattan (har-MATT-an) arrives. During this time of the year, the Sahara Desert to the north of Ghana causes the sky to become hazy and dusty, and it starts to feel much cooler.

Food

Vegetables and fruit are the main foods in Ghana. Ghanaians also eat beans and fish.

Fou-fou is a common food. Ghanaians make fou-fou by boiling and mashing yams, plantains, or cassava roots until they become a thick mixture, much like really thick mashed potatoes. They let it cool slightly then use their hands to shape the mixture into balls which they often eat with stews. Most Ghanaians eat food with their hands, using the fou-fou as a scoop.

Ghanaians usually make stew with beans. They may add tomatoes, spicy peppers, onions, and ginger. They may add a little meat or fish. People often add chopped peanuts to thicken and flavor the stew.

Most Ghanaian meals include fruit. You might find bananas, coconuts, and pineapples at the table. They also often fry or boil plantains which look like and taste like bananas.

Ghanaians do not eat sweets with most meals. They're usually reserved for special occasions and holidays.

Clothing and Jewelry

Ghanaians wear several styles of clothing. Some wear the same type of clothing as people in North America. Others wear traditional clothing.

Some Ghanaian women wear ntamas (nn-TAH-mahs). A ntama is a large piece of brightly colored cloth that they wrap around their bodies.

Ghanaians make most ntamas out of kente (KEN-tuh) cloth. Cloth and cloth designs are very important in Ghanaian culture. Making kente cloth is a tradition in some

villages.

On special occasions, such as the birth of a child or the death of a loved one, people wear particular colors or patterns because they have a special meaning.

Women are responsible for spinning cotton into thread. They dye the thread bright colors.

Men and boys are responsible for weaving the colorful threads into kente cloth. They weave kente cloth into narrow strips of about 5 inches wide. Then, they sew these strips together to make ntamas.

Beads are an important part of women's traditional dress in Ghana, and many Ghanaian families own beads that have been in the family for generations. The oldest Ghanaian beads were made in Europe and brought to Africa hundreds of years ago by traders, who exchanged them for valuable Ghanaian goods.

Sports and Games

Soccer is the most popular sport in Ghana where they call it football. Many people play soccer while many others watch and cheer for their favorite soccer teams. Ghana's national soccer team's called the Black Stars. Can you guess why?

Other popular sports in Ghana include boxing and swimming.

Ghanaian kids love playing Mancala, one of the world's oldest and most popular games. It's played on a hollowed-out wooden board and small objects like dried beans, pebbles, small seashells, or marbles. Ghanaians call this game oware (oh-WAHR-ay) which they play with 48 beans and 12 cups. Player drop small objects into the cups and pick them up. They follow a certain pattern. The player who collects the most objects wins.

Game: Drop-Peter-Drop

Players sit or squat in a circle. As the players chant "drop-Peter-drop", one player runs around the outside of the group with a stone, trying to drop it behind another player's back without the person's knowing. If someone senses that a stone is about to be dropped behind him or her, that person has to run as fast as possible

around the circle. If the player within the stone catches the runner, that person becomes “Peter,” and the game begins all over again.

Holidays and Celebrations

Ghanaians celebrate Independence Day on March 6 as Ghana won its independence from Great Britain on March 6, 1957. People participate in or watch parades and sing Ghana’s national anthem to celebrate the occasion.

Ghana celebrates many traditional celebrations which honor events such as weddings, births, and harvest. People wear their best clothes at these celebrations. Some people sing and play drums. Other people dance to the music.

A durbar (DURH-bath) is an important part of traditional celebrations. A durbar starts with a parade through a village. Leaders wear their best ntamas. Everyone else follows the leaders. They all go to the center of the village. There, villagers honor their highest-ranking leader.

Religion

Ghanaian people have great respect for their ancestors and they like to give thanks to them when something special happens, such as the arrival of a new baby in the family or a good harvest.

Christianity, which was introduced to Ghana by the Europeans, is also very popular, especially in the coastal regions.

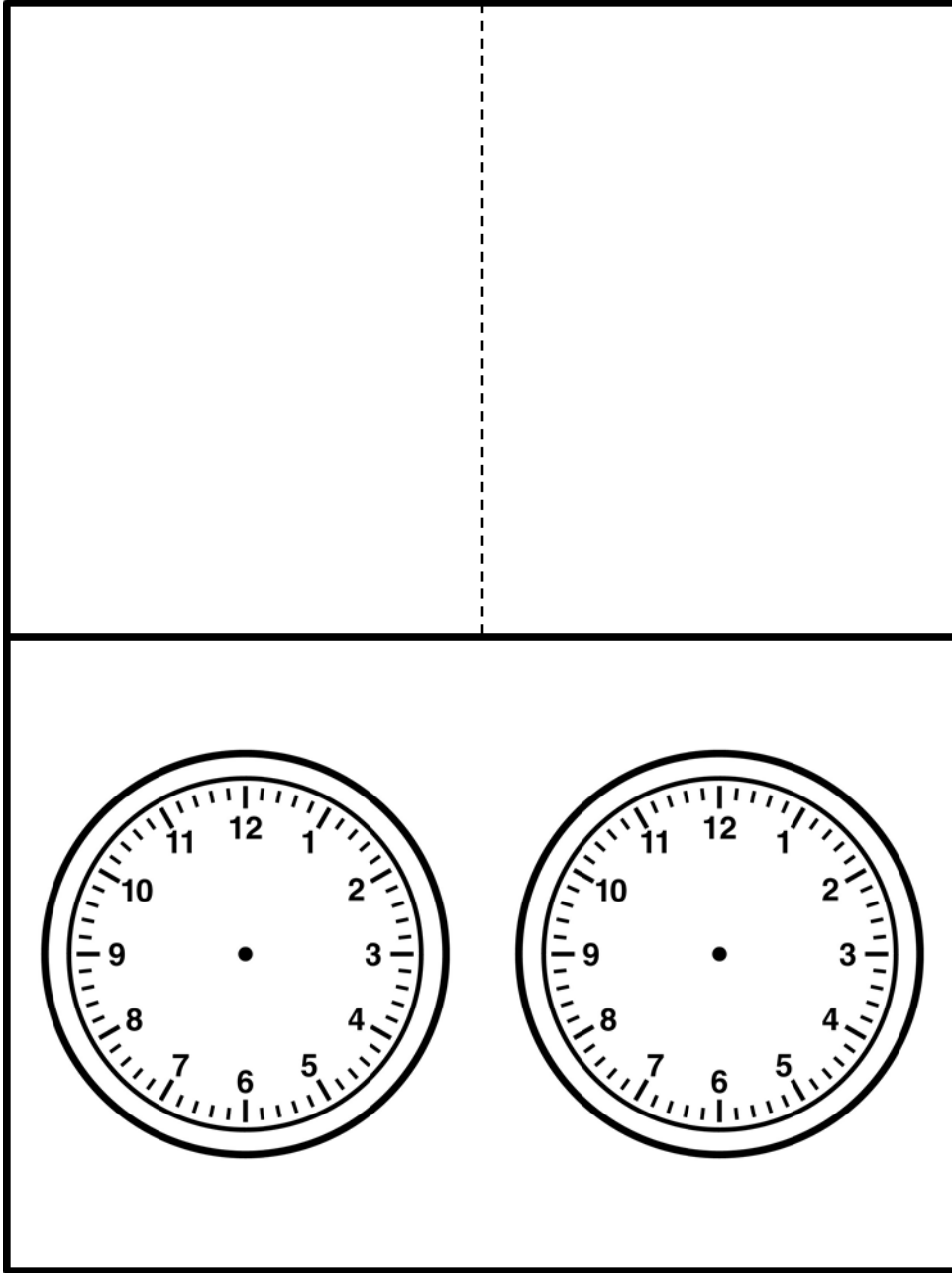
In the flat lands of northern Ghana, most people are Muslim.

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Cut book out as one piece. Fold in half. Open. Cut slit to form to flaps. Cut out cover pieces and paste them to the fronts of the flaps. In the blank, write the name of your city. Complete the clocks to show the current times (corresponding to the cities on the flaps).

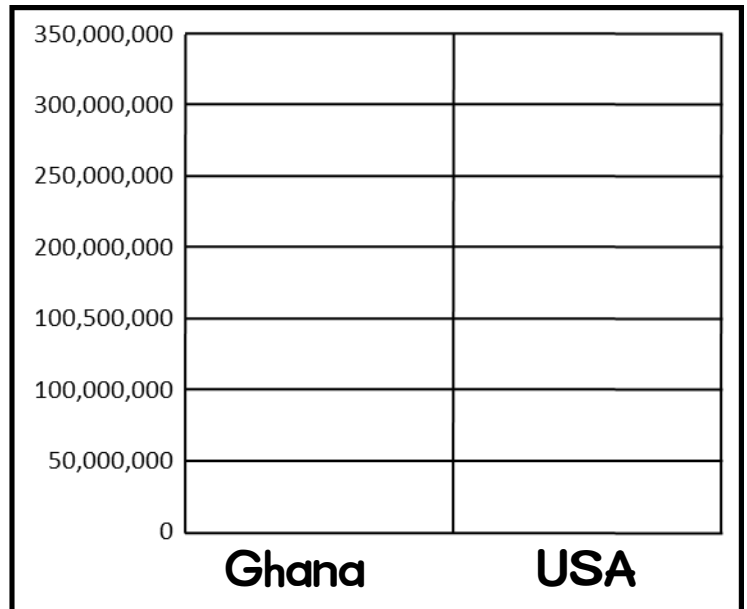
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**What
time is
it in
Accra?**

**What
time is
it in
_____?**

You can find the current country populations at [this website](#).



Population

Cut out book as one piece. Fold left side in. Fold right side in. Open book. Cut on dotted line to form four flaps. Refold book.

Currency

Size

Climate

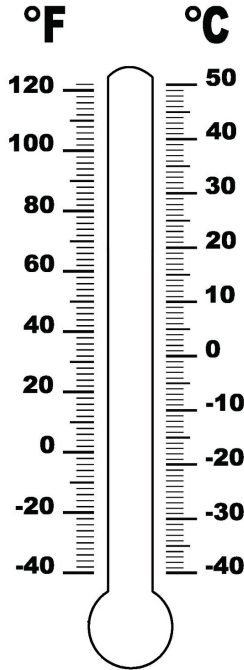
**Capital
City**

Ghana Fast Facts



Weather Comparison

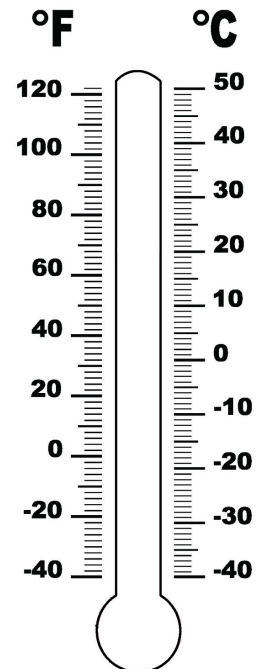
USA



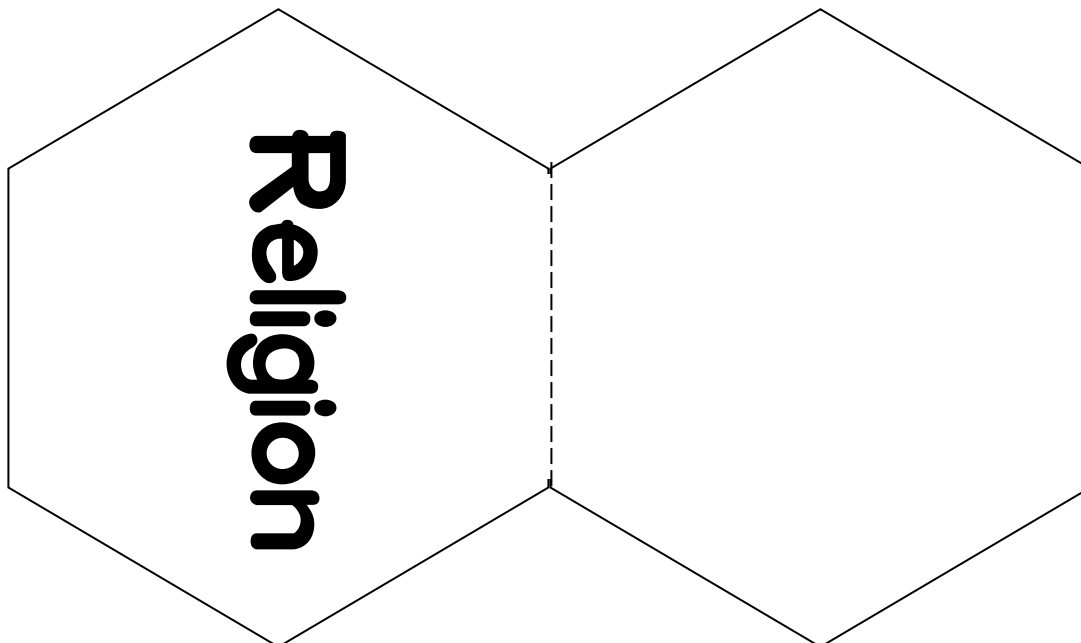
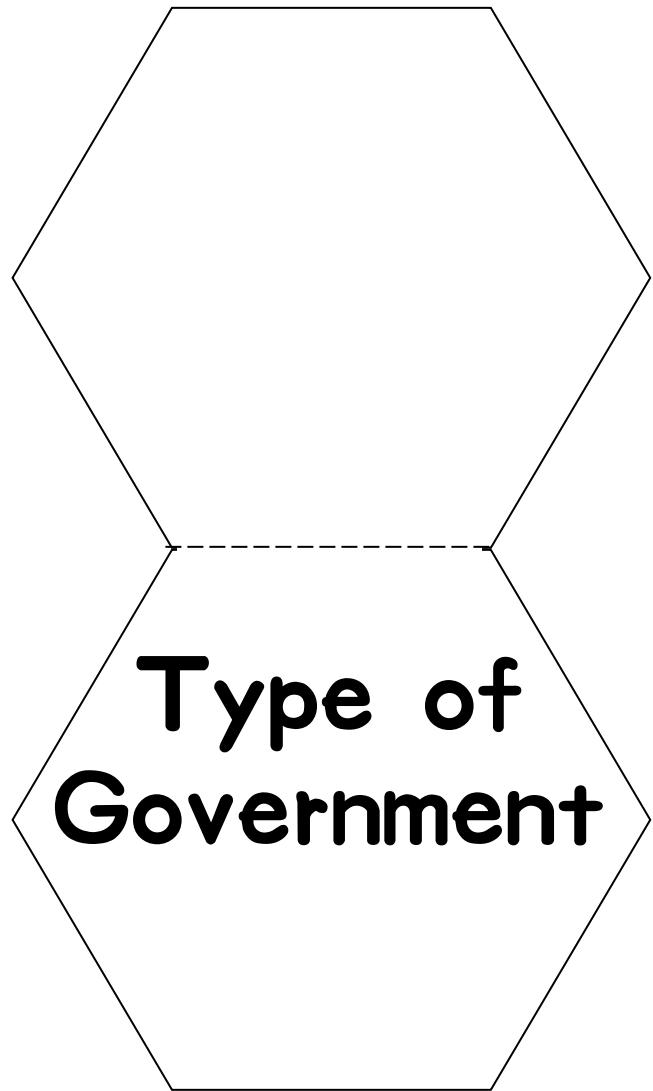
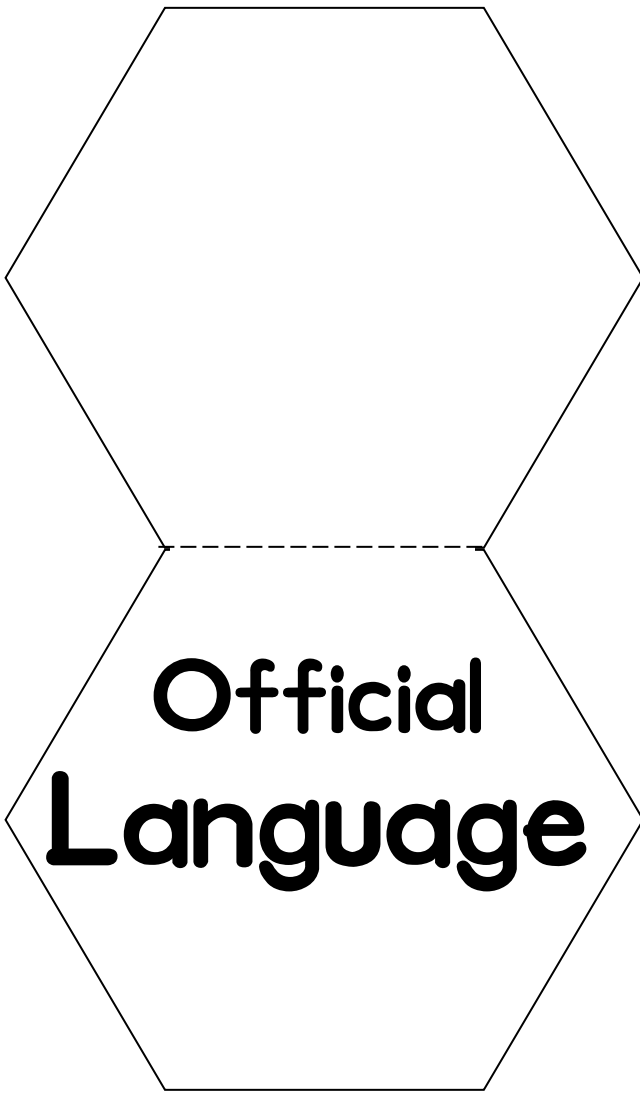
Weather Conditions

Ghana

Weather Conditions



Directions: Cut out each book as one piece. Fold in half.



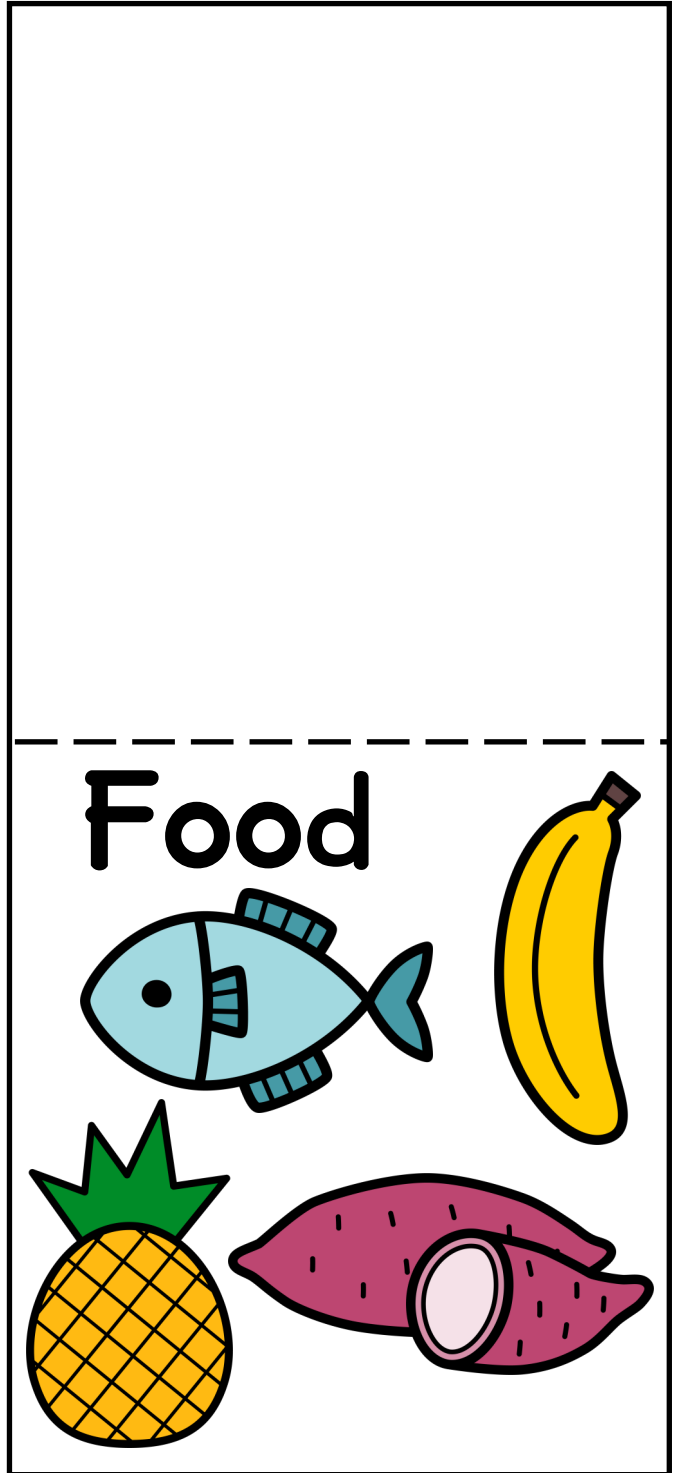
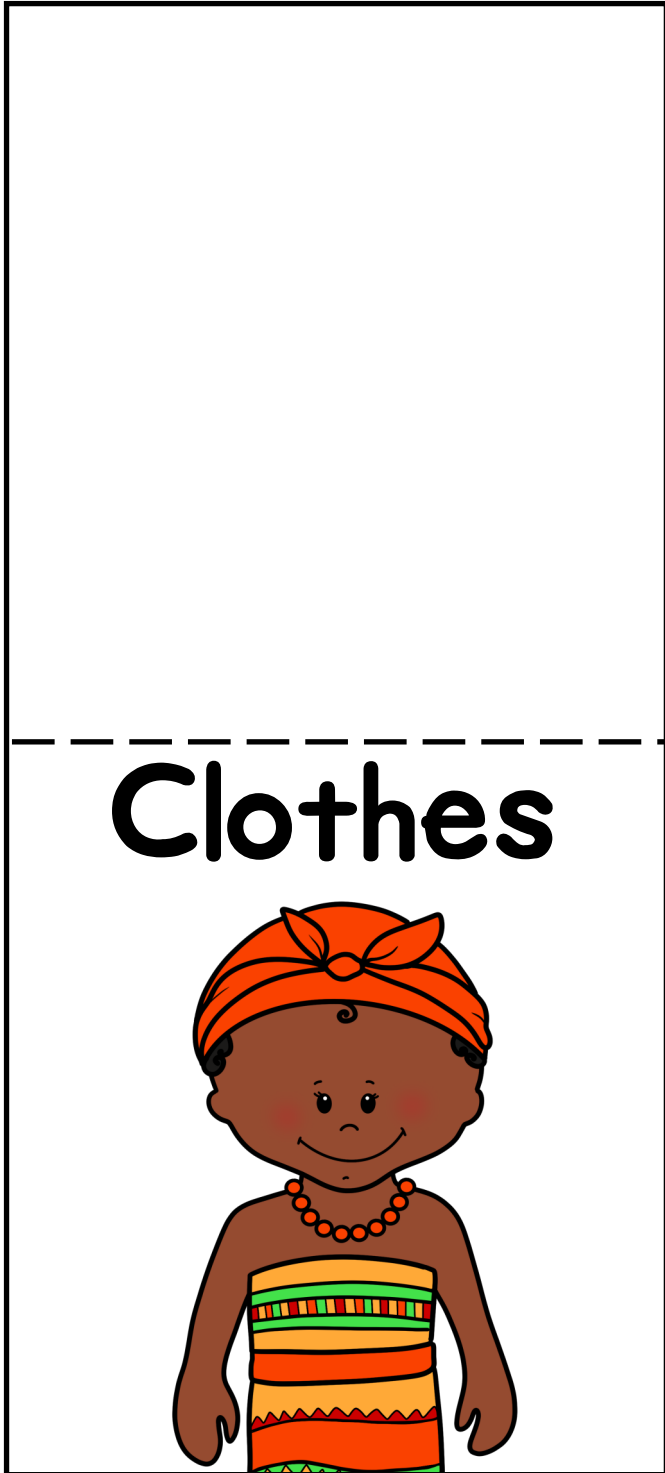
Cut books out. Fold on lines (matchbook style).

Main Crops

Sports



Cut books out. Fold in half.

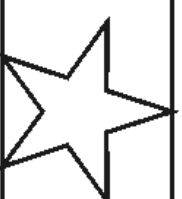


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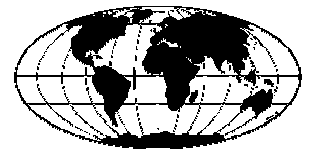
Flag of Ghana



Ghana

Is
Ghana?

Where
in
the
World. . .



What continent is Ghana on?

Find Ghana on the map and color it in.

Cut out shutter book and map on solid lines.
Fold shutter book on dotted lines so that words
are on cover. Glue map into book under shutters.

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