

Karibu means 'welcome!'



Practise your Swahili

Hakuna Matata! No worries, said the song in the Lion King film. And there are few worries involved in learning a little Swahili as a fun part of finding out about Kagera and its people.

Watch a clip of the Hakuna Matata song or maybe a clip of 'Baba Yetu' (Our Father), from Lion King 2, to hear and introduce some Swahili.



There are several useful 'Teach yourself basic Swahili' clips on 'You-tube'. One of the most useful things to remember is 'say every letter'.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

Africa is the second-largest continent in the world and home to over 50 nations with a combined total population twice the size of the United States. It is a vast and diverse continent of waterfalls, deserts, rain forests and grasslands. The languages of Africa are also diverse, with 800-1,000 different languages spoken among the people.

One of the most common languages is Swahili or Kiswahili, which is the proper name. Swahili is an Arabic word meaning "of the coast" or "people of the coast." It is one of 80 Bantu (African) languages, and is the national language of Tanzania, Kenya and Uganda but also spoken in Burundi, Rwanda and Zaire, and other parts of central and eastern Africa.

Swahili was not a written language until after the arrival of British colonists. The British influence may explain why the pronunciation of the vowels and consonants found in Swahili and the Kiswahili alphabet is similar to English. The Kiswahili alphabet consists of 24 letters, lacking the letters Q and X.

Children in the Kagera region may speak Hangassa as their home language, with Swahili as their second language. In Ngara Anglican Primary School, English is used for teaching and is therefore the children's third language. English is used in Tanzanian Secondary schools so pupils at NAPS get a head start with the language.



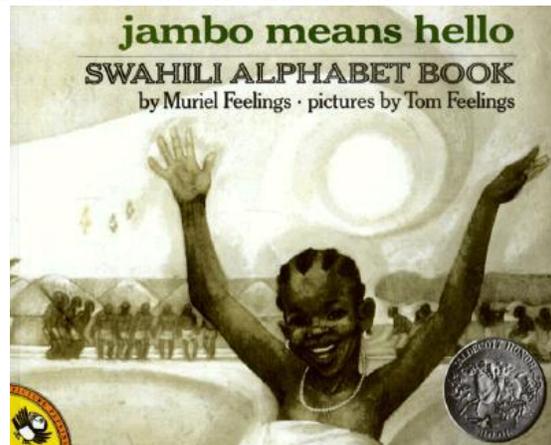
Introduction

1. Greet each child with "Jambo" or with "Karibu", meaning hello or welcome (sometimes 'come in'). Ask the children what was being said and what language was being used. Who do we know who speaks Swahili? Recap on Kagera Day and the children of NAPS school.
2. Swahili is spoken on the continent of Africa. That's quite far from where we live. Can anyone tell us where we live and show us on the globe? Can anyone show us where Africa is located? And where is Tanzania?
3. Swahili is spoken in many parts of central and eastern Africa. In 4 countries it is the national or official language but in many others it is the lingua franca – common language for business, a bit like English is in many countries of the world. 30 million people speak Swahili (5-10 million have it as their native tongue).

Ideas for activities

4. Use **Jambo Means Hello: Swahili Alphabet Book**. Today we are going to learn some words in Swahili. Listen to the Swahili alphabet, notice if it is like ours or different. Listen to how the words sound and what the words mean.

Imagine we are traveling to Africa. We are going to be making a word-sharing 'quilt' for our friends. We will each be able to contribute one word to our quilt. This will help them know something about us, just as we know more about them after learning about the Swahili alphabet. Think of a word which will tell children in Tanzania about our lives here in England. You may want to find some possible words in advance and ask children to select.



Look up words in Swahili and then create a 'quilt' square, on card about 20 cm square, with the words in both languages and a picture of what the word is about. Put all the pictures together to make a word-quilt as a display on the wall.

Furaha Means Happy! A Book of Swahili Words – is another book which would be useful for this activity but it is a story set in Kenya.

5. **Show 'Safari' brochures.** Safari is a Swahili word. What is a Safari? Look at the words for the teams from the Kagera day. These are all animal names.

Did we learn any other words in Swahili, words that would be useful if we were visiting Tanzania? What were they? When would we use them? What else

would be useful to know? Where could we get a 'phrase book'? Why do people buy these?

Ndiyo – yes

Hapana – no

Samahani – pardon

Asante sana – thank you very much

Jambo – hallo (reply: sijambo – no worries / fine)

Kwaheri / kwaherini – goodbye (to one) / goodbye (to many)

6. Sing together in Swahili We learnt some songs on Kagera Day. Can we still sing them?

- Bwana Awabariki – May God bless you (the song is performed several times on You-tube)
- Mwamba ni Yesu – the rock is Jesus

Another popular song which is easy to learn, and appears a lot on You-tube, is 'Yesu ni wangu' or 'Jesus is mine'. A song from 'Sing with the World' (GIA Music) which you can try is 'Mungu ni Mwema' God is good.

Try singing in different ways with clapping, movement and drumming. Talk about which song would be a good one to perform at the local church or in assembly.

Find and play a copy of the Tanzanian National anthem. This song is sung every day in Tanzanian schools. There are two songs in use – one is a version of the South African 'Nkosi Sikelele Afrika'. Children can be seen singing at school assembly on You-tube.

7. Counting in Swahili

You probably learnt your numbers on the Kagera Day. Practise saying numbers one to ten again, counting with African objects, if possible. What numbers come next? How far can you count? Try playing board games with dice and use Swahili numbers to play! Or play throwing and catching using Swahili numbers.

One -Moja	Six- Sita
Two- Mbili	Seven - Saba
Three - Tatu	Eight - Nane
Four -Nne	Nine - Tisa
Five - Tano	Ten - Kumi

Two books could be useful for practice:

Moja means One / We all went on Safari

8. Practising Some Useful Phrases

Here is a typical list of Swahili words for a tourist to learn. What words and phrases might be useful if you were visiting either the Cathedral at Murgwanza or the children at NAPS?

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Jambo!: Hello, welcome! Also, **Karibu Tanzania!**: Welcome to Tanzania!

Hakuna matata!: No problem.

Asante Sana: Thank you very much.

Jina lako ni nani?: What is your name?

Jina langu ni David: My name is David.

Ninatoka England: I am from England;

Mimi ni mwanafunzi: I am a student.

Unakwenda wapi?: Where are you going to?

Safari njema: Have a good trip; **Fika salama**: Arrive safely.

Bei gani?: What is the price?

Ninataka ...: I want ...

Ninapenda Tanzania: I like Tanzania.

Lala salama: Sleep well.

Tutaonana kesho: We will see each other tomorrow.

Mpaka baadaye: Until later; **Kwaheri!**: Goodbye.

Twende: Let's go!

Sijui: I don't know; **Sielewi**: I don't understand.

Kuna baridi huku: It is cold here; **Kuna joto sana huku**: It is very hot.

Siwezi kusema Kiswahili!: I can't speak Swahili!

A set of useful short videos on You-tube can help with pronunciation of numbers and key phrases.

<https://sites.google.com/site/childrenscollegellc/home/swahili-resources>