Teacher's notes and answer key

Shango – the King Who Became the God of Thunder

Subjects: English · Religious Studies · History | recommended from age 14 (B1) | Video: 9:14 min

Answers B

1. The third Alaafin (king) of the Oyo Empire, from the line of Oranyan; the chiefs put him on the throne instead of his gentle brother Ajaka.

2. A sorcerer from Nupe taught him to swallow fire and spit it out as lightning; he used it to frighten rivals and to send storms onto the houses of those who opposed him.

3. The lightning struck his own palace; his wives and children died in the fire.

4. Instead of the mocking “Oba so” (the king has hanged himself), they said he went down into the earth on an iron chain and rose into the sky: “Oba Ko So” – “the king did not hang”.

5. In Cuban Santería as Saint Barbara, in Brazilian Candomblé as Xangô; colours red and white, the double axe, batá drums.

Answer C

Correct numbers from top to bottom: 4 – 7 – 1 – 6 – 2 – 8 – 3 – 5

Notes on D and E

E: King – army, wealth, lightning magic / fear, later rejection / – / Oyo. Orisha – lord of lightning and thunder / worship, trance dances / double axe (oshe), thunderstones, red and white, the ram, batá drums / three continents.

Content note and age

Recommended from age 14. IMPORTANT: the video tells how Shango's family dies in a fire and how he takes his own life. Please preview the video and handle the topic of suicide with care. Support: please make students aware of local helplines (in Germany e.g. TelefonSeelsorge 0800 111 0 111, in the UK Samaritans 116 123).

Sources of the retelling: Yoruba tradition of the Oyo Empire; today's diaspora religions.

The narrator's voice and the illustrations in the video are AI-generated; the script follows the established tradition. You are welcome to copy and share this worksheet for classroom use.

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