Shango – the King Who Became the God of Thunder

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



Watch the video
youtu.be/YsoluTB0298

Name: _____ Class: _____ Date: _____

A · Before watching

1. “Power corrupts.” Do you agree? Explain in one sentence.

B · While watching

1. Who was Shango before he was worshipped as a god?

2. What skill did he learn – and what did he use it for?

3. What happened on the night the magic got out of control?

4. How did his followers retell his end – and what does “Oba Ko So” mean?

5. How is Shango worshipped today in Cuba and Brazil?

Useful words

lightning	Blitz	followers	Anhänger
thunder	Donner	to worship	verehren
palace	Palast	axe	Axt
guilt	Schuld	pride	Hochmut

C · Put the story in order

Number the events from 1 to 8 in the order they happen in the video.

	Lightning strikes his own palace.
	In the town of Koso his life as a mortal king ends.
	Shango becomes king of Oyo instead of his gentle brother Ajaka.
	Shango wanders alone through the forest, full of guilt.
	He marries the river goddesses Oya, Oshun and Oba.
	His followers call out “Oba Ko So” – he becomes an orisha.
	A sorcerer from Nupe teaches him to call down lightning.
	The people and his generals turn away from him.

D · Think and discuss

1. The video calls the story “a warning about power that knows no limits”. What does that mean?

2. Shango is feared and loved, just and violent at the same time. Why do people worship such a contradictory figure?

E · From king to orisha

Compare Shango as a mortal king with Shango as a god.

	Shango as king	Shango as orisha
What is his power based on?		
How do people feel about him?		
Which signs belong to him?		
Where is he known?		

F · Get creative

1. In your exercise book, research what a “thunderstone” is and why believers keep one (6–8 sentences).