

How to Create Your Own Travel Kit

For a travel kit, there are many possibilities. The Outreach Program at Boston University's African Studies Center has developed two different travel kits—the Kenyan Kids Kit and Ghana Culture Kit—for the Boston Children's Museum, both of which circulate nationally.

The strongest recommendation for a kit is that it has a focus: textiles and clothing from around the continent, for example, or a country study. Country studies fit better with elementary school curriculum and help disabuse kids of the 'Africa is a country' notion. However, acquisition of materials might be a problem.

Suggestions for what to include in your kit:

- Representative visuals of your topic so students can imagine themselves there. Avoid using atypical images or items to generalize about a population.
- A description of all items included as kids may find some items obscure.
- One or two language arts books. Fiction books preferably, as they help figuratively take the student into the new environment. For the most accurate and representative book suggestions, please see our website or visit africaaccess.org for winners of the esteemed Children's Africana Book Award (CABA).
- Materials that highlight commonalities between students and the country or culture(s) they are studying. For example, you might want to include in a clothing and textiles box: a school uniform, a t-shirt, and Western-style skirt and blouse or shirt and pants.
- A list of where to find other resources, such as a short list of topical videos and books.
- A teaching guide that provides the framework and perspective for the study.

If you would like assistance in creating your travel kit, please do not hesitate to contact us at africa@bu.edu.