Government of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago

# MINISTRY OF EDUCATION

# Infants Activity Pack

**Week 10-Term 1**

# African History Month –Africa to the World



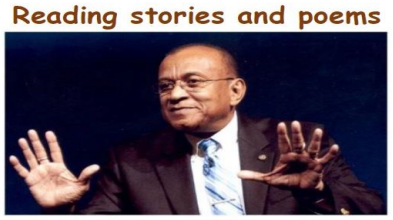
November is African History Month in Trinidad and Tobago! African History Month is sometimes called Black History Month. This month celebrates the contributions of persons of African/Black origin to the world including Trinidad and Tobago.

## In Trinidad and Tobago the month is celebrated in many ways:

### Attending performances



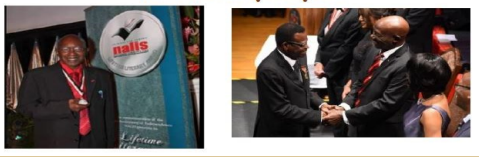
### Reading stories and poems



### Displaying art work



### Highlighting the contribution of African people




## Did you know?

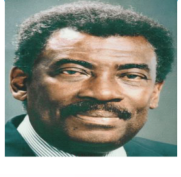
In the United States, Canada, Guyana, Antigua/Barbuda African History Month is celebrated in February and in October in the United Kingdom.

BLACK HISTORY MONTH

### Contributions of people of African Descent

Most of the people of African descent came to this country as enslaved persons to work on sugar cane plantations against their will. These slaves were freed one hundred and eight-three (183) years ago and left the plantations with very little. Over the years however, they have made several contributions that have been **recognised, loved and appreciated** by people of this country and the world. Here are just a few of our **national heroes**:

**Medicine**



Professor Courtenay Bartholomew was a medical doctor, scientist and doctor who helped people diagnosed with HIV/Aids and Cancer.

**Playwright and Short Story Writer**

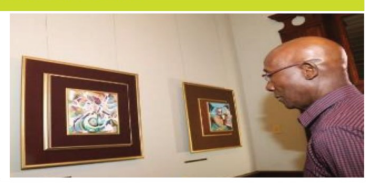


Earl Lovelace is best known for the novel The Dragon Can't Dance. This book was written in five languages. He has won many awards for his work.

**Educator, Visual Artist and Musical Director**







Patricia "Pat" Bishop

**Visual Artist and Poet**





Mr. Leroy Clarke is known for his colourful, African inspired artwork.



Rapso

Lutalo Masimba better known as Brother Resistance was known for singing Rapso which is a mixture of soca and poetry. Rapso uses a lot of musical instruments such as the African drums and steel pan.

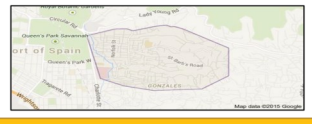
## African Heritage

Let us look at the heritage Africans have contributed to our country.

**Community**

Have you ever heard of **Free Town**? Free Town was an area where Africans freed from slavery in the 1800's, started a community.

Free Town is now **Belmont and Morvant in Port of Spain,** where many of you live.




**Belmont**




**Morvant**

## Did you know?

The local music group **Free Town Collective** is named after that area. Ask your brother or sister or parents to play one of their songs for you or you can use the link to their song "Feel the love" at https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=SFc1Pn7SHXs

The enslaved Africans were not allowed to keep their culture. The Africans however, found ways to keep their culture alive. Let us look at some of their practices that continue today in **music, dance, clothing, food and art.**

### Musical Instruments



Rattles called chac-chac

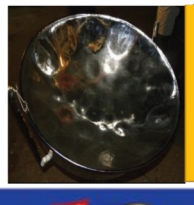


Kalimba and Rain Stick





Drums



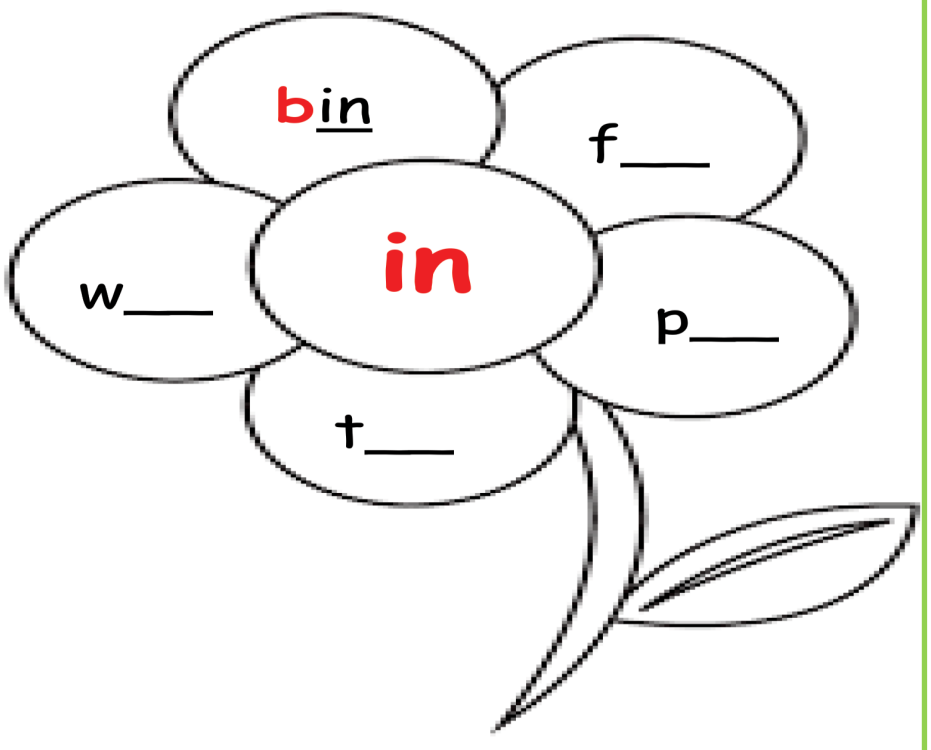
## Did you know?

The **steel pan** is the national instrument of Trinidad and Tobago. In the years after slavery the African drums were banned. People then beat bamboo together (tamboo-bamboo). This was also banned and then the steel pan was developed by the 1930's.

## Infant 1

### Word Family — in

Write '**in**' in the blank spaces. Read the words.
Colour the flower.

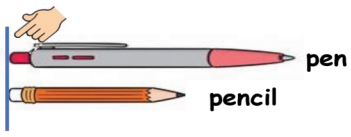



Read the sentences.

A pin is in the tin. I see the bin.

### Longer or Shorter?

How do we know which object is **longer** or **shorter**?
Place them side by side to measure their lengths. Start at the same point.



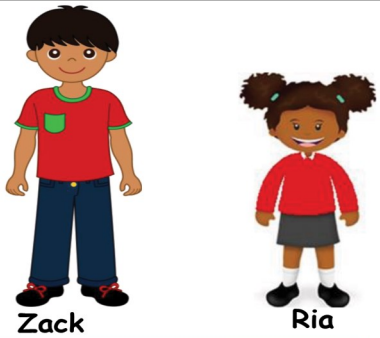

The pen is **longer** than the pencil.

Which object is **longer**? Complete the sentence.




The _____ is **longer** than the _____.

Complete the sentence below.




_____ is **shorter** than _____.

Circle the **taller** drum.



### Sight words

| Say the word | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| | he | she | me |
| Spell it! | h-e ⇩ he | s-h-e ⇩ she | m-e ⇩ me |
| Colour it! | he | she | me |
| Trace it! | he | she | me |
| Circle it! | he we ha he he | shy she she say she | me the me men me |

### Let's Add

When we **add** we **join** groups of objects **together**.
We **count** to get the **total number** of objects.
Example:

Nala has 2 mangoes.
She gets 3 more mangoes.
How many mangoes does Nala have **in total**?

Answer: 5 mangoes.

Count all the mangoes to get the total number.




2 and 3 make 5

Solve the problems. Use the pictures to help you get the answers.

One bunch has 4 balloons.
One bunch has 3 balloons.
How many balloons are there **in total**?

Answer: _____ **balloons**




4 and 3 make _____

Mr. Ben sold 2 ice cream cones.
He then sold 6 ice cream cones.
How many ice cream cones were sold **together**?

Answer: _____ **ice cream cones**



2 and 6 make _____

Omari had $5.
Daddy game him $4 more.
How much money does Omari have **in total**?

Answer: $ _____



5 and 4 make _____

Infant 2

## Long 'o'

The letter "e" at the end of a word changes the short sound of the vowel, which comes before it, to a long sound.

For example: nose  stove 

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| bone | cone | hose |
| pone | rope | rose |

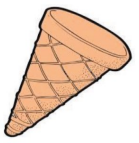
In the blank spaces, write the word from the box above, that matches the pictures.





_____ _____ _____

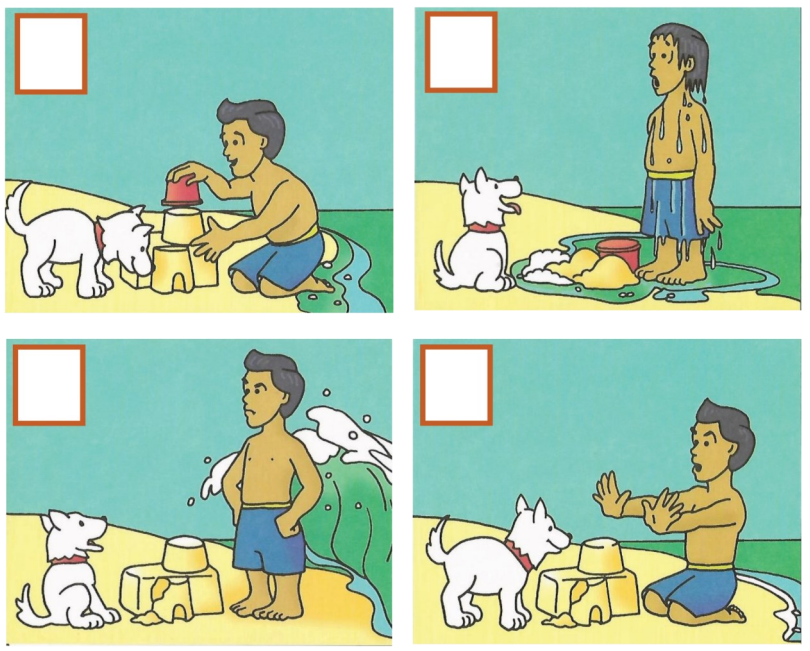




_____ _____ _____

## Sequencing

Look at the pictures. Write **1, 2, 3** or **4** in the boxes to put the story in order.



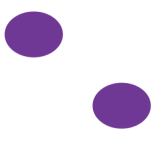
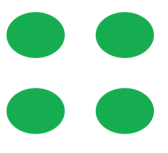
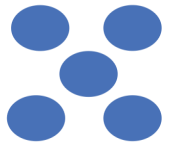
Tell the story to someone.

**Read the questions and say the answers.**

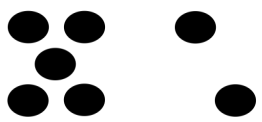
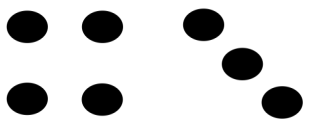
1. Why was the man angry?
2. Do you think the man was still angry at the end?
3. Give a reason for your answer.

## Dot Patterns

**We can show numbers by using dots.**

| 2 two | 3 three | 4 four | 5 five | 6 six |
|---|---|---|---|---|
|  |  |  |  |  |

**Combine the dots patterns seen above to show the following numbers in different ways. The first one is done for you.**

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| 7 seven |  |  |
| 10 ten | | |
| 9 nine | | |

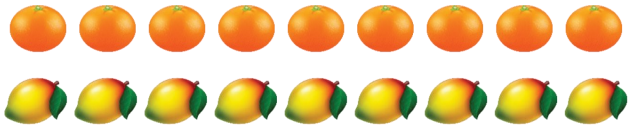
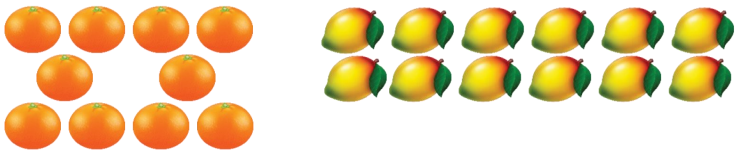
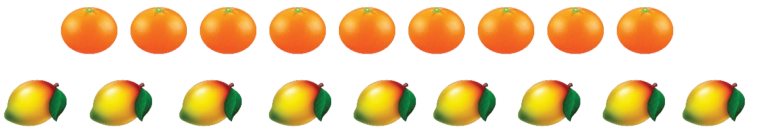
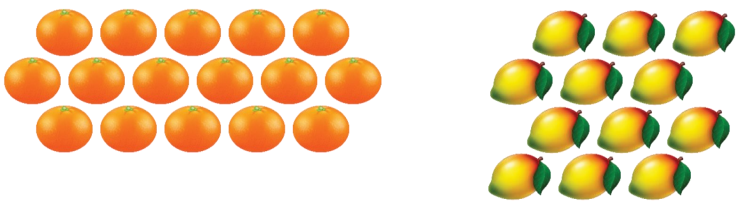
## Conservation of Number

Write **A**, **B** or **C** to describe the number of oranges and mangoes given the following:

A – There are more oranges than mangoes

B – There are more mangoes than oranges

C – The number of oranges and mangoes is the same

| | |
|---|---|
|  | |
|  | |
|  | |
|  | |

# BLACK HISTORY MONTH

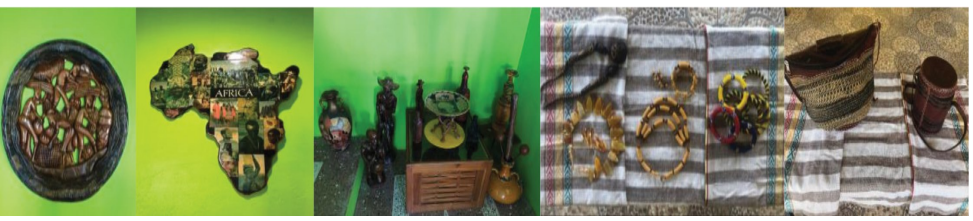
## African inspired dances



## Clothing from African countries-Kenya, Ghana and Ethiopia



## Craft



## Food

Let us look at some African foods enjoyed by many:

| | |
|---|---|
|  Callaloo is a popular dish. It is made with dasheen leaves and okroes/okras. |  The Moruga hill rice was brought to Trinidad by freed Africans (Merikins), who fought in the War of 1812. They were given land in Trinidad. |
|  Okro (okra) has its origin in Africa. It may be eaten alone or included in dishes, such as, callaloo, cou cou, okro rice, fried okro. |  Benne balls are of African origin. The word 'benne' means sesame seed. It is made with molasses, toasted sesame seeds, honey or sugar. Benne balls are popular in Tobago. |

## Culture

Do you like reading stories? I hope so. **Anansi** is a folktale character. A folktale is a story passed on by word of mouth.

Have you ever read a story about Anansi? Anansi is a hero. He is a clever and smart.

*Who is Anansi?*
*Is he a spider?*
*Or is he a man?*
*He was taken from his home in Ghana*
*And brought to the Caribbean*
*Anansi Ananse*
*Clever as can be*
*He helped the enslaved Africans*
*To fight the wicked slavery.*

*Come with me*
*And you will see*
*How Ananse protects us still*
*In T&T.*



Once upon a long, long time ago, there was the powerful Asante Empire on the beautiful continent of Africa. Some of the people who lived there were from the Akan family. They loved to tell stories. These stories were passed from the oldest in the family to the youngest, generation after generation. Today this place with all the stories is called Ghana.

The stories of the Akan are very special because they contain their songs, music, history and culture. Across the Asante Empire, the best storytellers were loved and respected. That is because the stories of the Akan protected their ancient traditions.

Ananse was the best storyteller of them all. Ananse can transform from a man into a spider. Some say Ananse is a divine being because he is the son of the Sky God Nyame! Ananse is mischievous and playful, but clever and wise. Legend says he is the holder of all the stories and wisdom in the world.

When the people of the Asante kingdom were taken by force from their homes and brought to the Caribbean, they feared Ananse and all their stories would be lost in the vast ocean. But clever Ananse survived. He showed the Akan how to outsmart the cruel people who had captured them. The evil slave masters called Ananse lazy and a trickster. They did not realise that Ananse had played a trick on them, disguising his wisdom and stories until all enslaved Africans were free.

Today Ananse stories are still enjoyed by children in T&T and all over the world. So, the next time you see a spider, remember the wisdom of Ananse and be proud of your African heritage. Who knows, maybe the spider on the wall is the spirit of Ananse, protecting you still!

Dara E. Healy

## Activity

Colour the picture of the **Sankofa (sahn-koh-fah)**. **Sankofa** is an African word from Ghana. The bird looking back means that you should never forget the past.



Thank you **NALIS** for your continued support of each week's Infants Activity Pack. Thanks also to the following persons who also shared their personal photos: **Dara E. Healy, Mr. Roy Henry (handiwork), Nbelese Dance Company, Matura Secondary School, Pragtige Creative Movement, Kieron Dwayne Sargeant, Sky Academy, Zellee Copeland-Williams (clothing jewellery, art and artefacts) and Serene Joseph-Hamlet.**