



RAINFOREST WORKSHOP

A multi-disciplinary day of excellence Music/Global
Citizenship/Geography PHSE/RE for key stage 1 & 2

For millennia the Baka have lived deep in the forests in Central Africa surviving through a deep awareness and understanding of their natural world. They find everything they need from the forest around them. Living in a world of natural sounds everyone grows to be good at listening and taking part in music making. Sharing and co-operation are essential for survival. Today, with the outside world encroaching on their forest, their culture and way of life are under threat.

Su Hart, a trained teacher and singer, has visited the Baka many times since 1992 and built her firsthand experiences into an input for schools around National Curriculum guidelines.

The workshop sessions have children and teachers actively participating with confidence. Through learning about the life of the Baka they develop their own skills whilst gaining an understanding of the diversity of cultures.





GENERAL GUIDELINES FOR A FULL BAKA DAY

Slide show and/or DVD presentation (approx 1 hour with questions) exploring the context of life in the forest, how to find food, medicine, build houses, learn about myths, religion, from first hand stories etc. Illustrated with recordings and objects from the forest.

Practical sessions

Where large numbers are involved, 3 separate practical sessions can be run in the day, (approx 45-100 students per session) Each group learns different songs, games or dances so that they can perform to each other at the end of the day.

Su teaches listening skills through play, clapping rhythms maintaining parts independently of other groups, call and response songs and chants learned from the Baka children. Also myth songs. Co-operative games, songs with dances. (Simple forest costumes can be made for the dance) In summer it is possible to work outside making musical instruments & Baka shelters.

Recommendations

"Su truly inspires and gets great results from the children here, especially some of the most challenging ones. The rain forest and all the issues surrounding it come alive. They learn an enormous amount and are having so much fun it doesn't seem like work." **Karen Miller, Salusbury Rd School, N.London**

"Su gets everyone involved, instantly capturing their interest and imagination. Boys, as well as girls, have been singing the songs ever since the workshop and there has been very high quality follow up work. She covers so many core values, I thoroughly recommend her" **John Taylor Head teacher, Hannam Abbots School, Bristol**

"I engaged Su Hart for 22 days in Infant, Junior and Special needs schools in the City of York. The feedback was unanimously very positive, staff found her teaching ability inspirational, children enjoyed learning so much and want her back!" **Gordon Pearce, Performing Arts Adviser, City of York Education.**

"Su is one of the most gifted teachers, singers and trainers I have ever come across (and I have worked with hundreds!) and very valued as our Circle Time music consultant. She has the ability to lift any group of children to a new level of potential. People's spirits are lifted and they achieve a vision they would never have dreamt of." **Jenny Mosley, Circle Time**

"We still play the millipede dance game at school, Me and my friend Kimberley wish you were still here, or we could come to the forest with you next time, the Baka sound friendly but we wouldn't like the food!" **Sophie Cox, age 9, Heath Primary Ipswich**



Su is experienced in working with whole school, year groups, individual classes or teacher training.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

www.baka.co.uk See films at www.1heart.org/video

email su@baka.co.uk phone +44 1225 331636

SUPPORTING MATERIALS

HEART OF THE FOREST

(HN CD1378) Field recordings, the soundtrack of forest life. From children's song and water drumming to sweet mesmerising music on forest-made instruments to chants and animal calling women's songs ("yelli").



SPIRIT OF THE FOREST

(HN CD1377) Based on acoustic jams in the forest with guitar and violin added. Often used with dance and movement. The sister album to Heart of the Forest.



GATI BONGO (MAHA CD23)

Contemporary guitar based songs written by the Baka at Gbiné and with traditional Baka singing and rhythms. Recorded using solar panel and computer in the forest. Very uplifting.



THE JOY OF SINGING

(MAHA CD19) For teachers, a collection of tried and tested follow-up songs including 3 Baka songs, recorded in parts with booklet of written music and ideas for follow-up and development. Suitable for all ages.



BAKA BEYOND THE FOREST

(MAHA CD28) Music inspired by the Baka women. Yelli singing in a modern context. Dancable!



BAKA IN THE FOREST

(MAHA CD29) Magical night time recordings as the women call the forest animals. Chill out to the forests sounds.



BAKA DVD

A collection of short films of Baka music, projects (such as the building of the music house), life in the forest and other GME projects. Length, approx 1hr.

