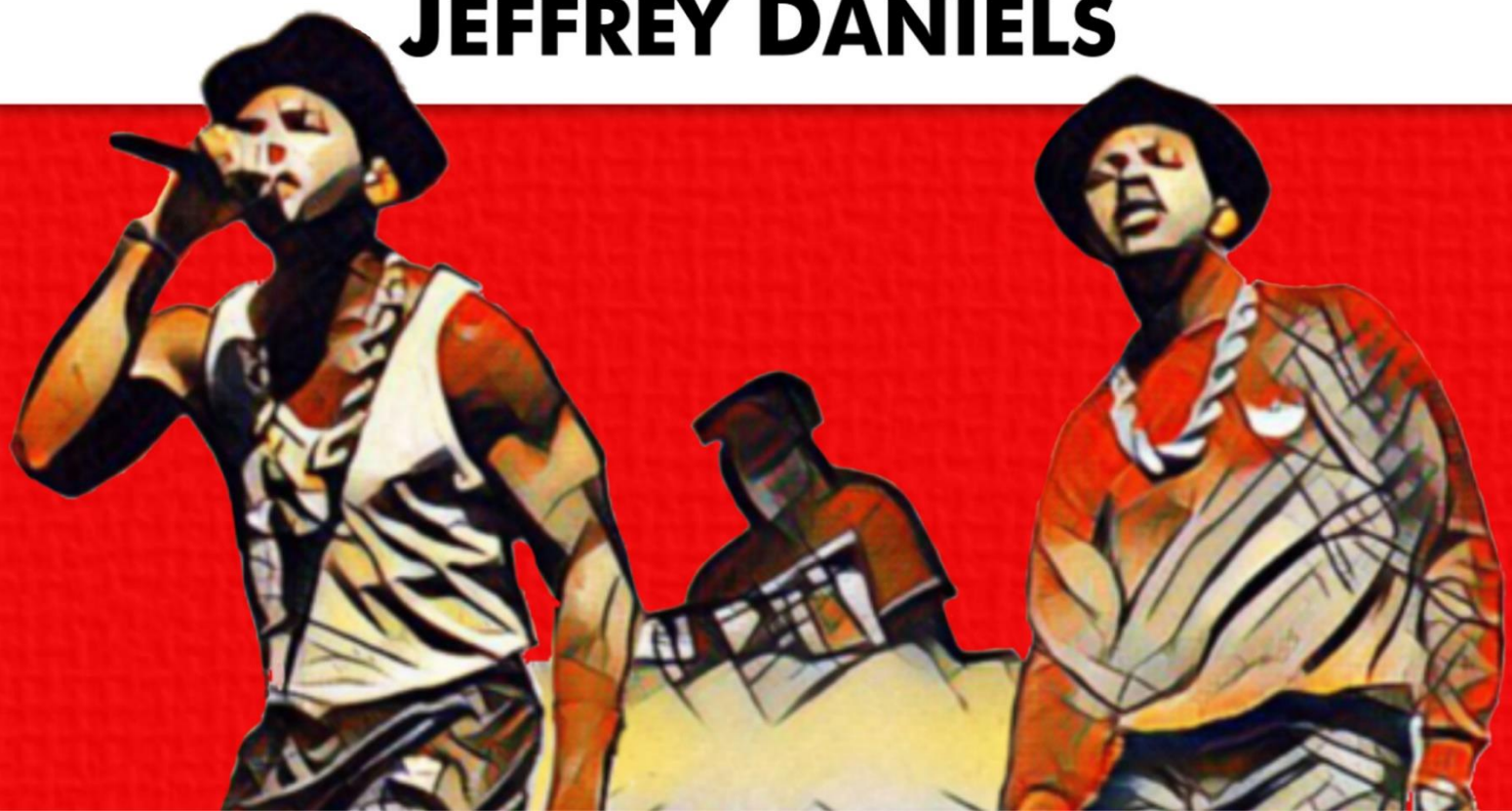




# ALPHABET OF BLACK CULTURES

**JEFFREY DANIELS**



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*For Mom and Dad*

African heritage connects people in many different lands. This collection is a friendly introduction to some of these diverse and evolving cultures.

Concepts presented may not be unique to one nation nor ubiquitous in one place. Pronunciations may also vary widely from location to location.

A more detailed notes section located at the back of the book expands on each word as a starting point for further exploration.



*This is a sample.*



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A

# Awale



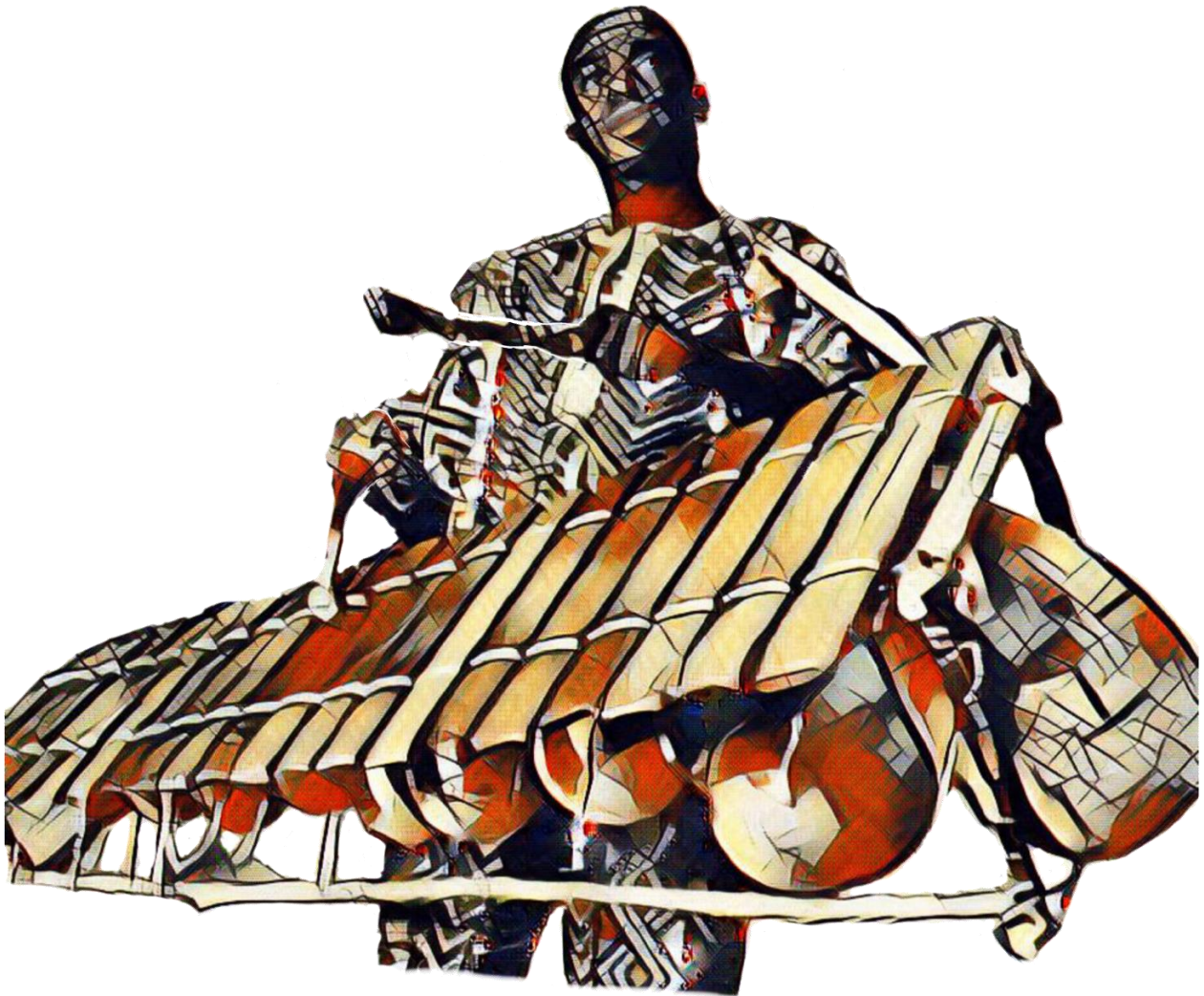
Awale is a strategy game played with stones in Ghana.

*This is a sample.*

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B

# Balafon



Balafon is a musical instrument played in Mali.

*This is a sample.*



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C

# Chukudu



Chukudu is a wooden scooter  
invented in Congo.

*This is a sample.*

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D

# Duku



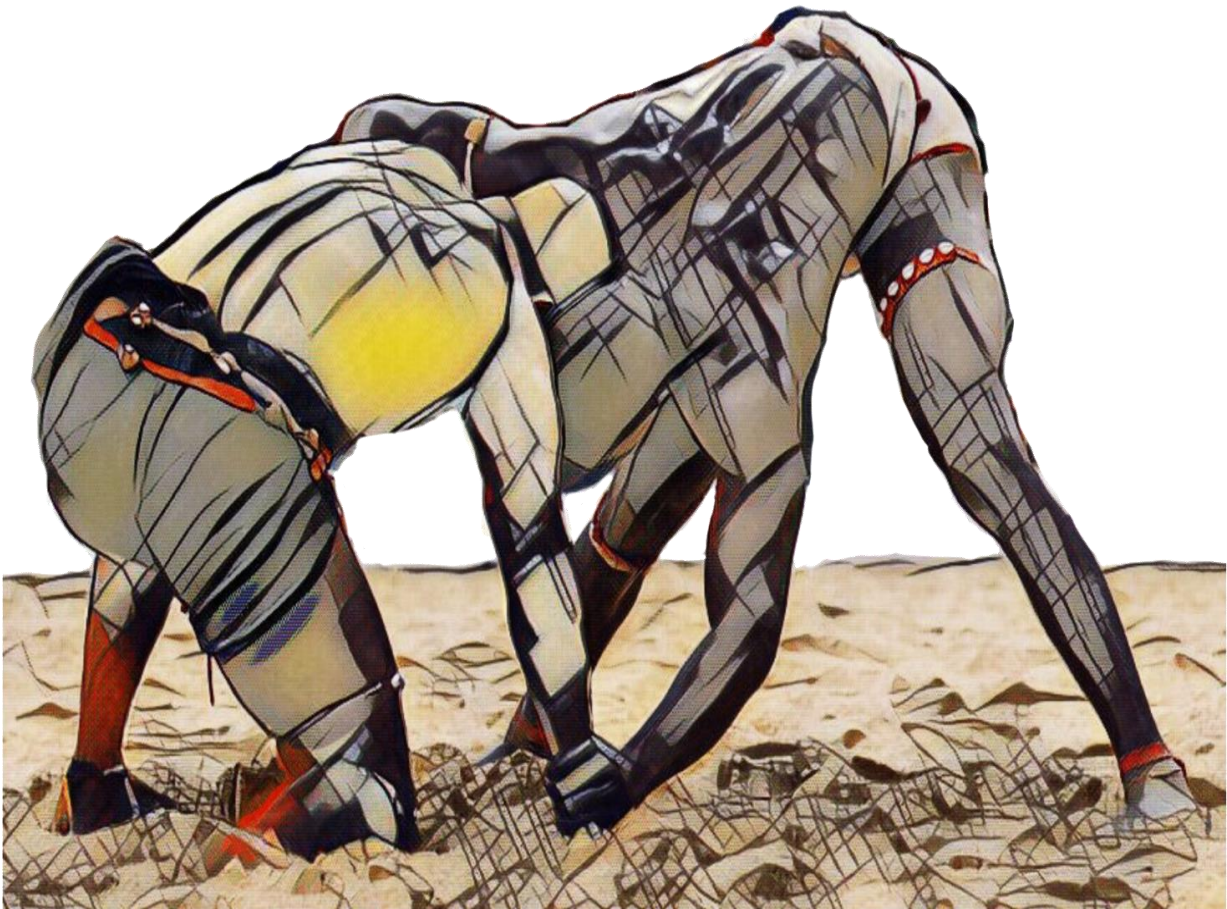
Duku is a head wrap worn  
by women in Malawi.

*This is a sample.*

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E

# Evala



Evala is a traditional sport  
of wrestling in Togo.

*This is a sample.*



## NOTES

**AWALE** and similar variations such as Ayo, Oware, Mancala, and Warri are strategy board games. Two players compete by placing small stones into designated pits to represent planting of seeds. Each player attempts to sow (or collect) more stones than an opponent. Awale is one of the oldest known games still widely played today.

**BALAFON** is a musical instrument similar to a xylophone. It is made of wood and hollowed gourds, and played with mallets. While associated with Mali, it is also popular in Ghana, Burkina Faso, and Ivory Coast. In some cultures the balafon is considered a sacred instrument and used only in ritual events such as a marriage celebration or tribal festival.



*Zulu ceremonial shield*

**CHUKUDU** is a two-wheeled vehicle useful for hauling cargo. It is handmade by a specialized craftsman with hard wood from eucalyptus trees. The driver propels a chukudu with one leg like a kick scooter. Invented during difficult economic times, chukudus are now celebrated as a testament to the resourcefulness of the Congolese people.

**DUKU** is one of many ornamental headscarves such as Gele (in Nigeria), Dhuku (in Zimbabwe), Doek (in Namibia), and Tukwi (in Botswana). They are colorful fashion accessories made of material that is firmer than regular cloth. Large and elaborate dukus are often worn for formal social occasions in Malawi.

**EVALA** is a traditional form of wrestling and a major spectator sport in Togo. Using strength and balance, each competitor attempts to push the opponent down from a standing position or out of a circular ring. Drawing international spectators, the greatest athletes are renowned for their cleverness and tenacity beyond brawn.





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Find all 26 letters and more in  
**Alphabet of Black Cultures**

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*This is a sample.*



## ALPHABET OF BLACK CULTURES

is a friendly introduction to the diverse and evolving cultures of a world connected by African heritage.

Learners of all ages are invited to explore the music, inventions, games, clothing, foods, customs, and more.

Jeffrey Daniels is an artist, writer, and educator based in Chicago.



SLEEPING ELEPHANT

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*This is a sample.*