

Chinobay

Teacher Resource Guide

Lotus Blossoms 2024



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About Chinobay

Chinobay is a musical talent hailing from Kampala, Uganda. Growing up surrounded by the melodies of local Buganda musicians, he transformed



traditional tunes into updated versions, mastering multiple instruments¹. Today, Chinobay is a songwriter, educator, and intercultural facilitator. His works showcase Africa's diverse richness and his upcoming album collaborates with musicians globally.

Born to two school teachers, Chinobay toured Europe in 1995, sharing Uganda's sounds. In 1999, UNICEF Ambassador Michel Sidibe heard Chinobay perform and invited him to advocate for

girls' education. His music became a powerful tool for change, addressing social issues and improving children's lives. Chinobay dedicated his life through art and education to make a positive impact.

¹ <https://chinobay.com/>

Instruments

Kalimba

The kalimba is a frequently used instrument in Africa. It can be played with many different styles which are impacted by characteristics such as its size and the type of wood used. Chinobay uses a Ugandan kalimba from the Eastern area, this kalimba is strongly linked to the nomadic groups who live there. These cultures use the kalimba as a musical channel to preserve their culture².



Chinobay's playing method seamlessly combines conventional styles with a self-developed method he has honed over the years. This blend of styles involves maintaining a constant beat and introducing other parts while staying true to the basic melody. As a result, the musical expression not only represents the kalimba's ancient roots but also carries the particular mark of Chinobay's emerging creative identity.

[Click here](#) to view an introduction to Kalimba video with Chinobay

² <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=woCwdAi3qew>

Tama Drum

The tama is an African talking drum originating from West Africa. It holds a special place in the musical traditions of Senegal and Gambia, both in traditional and modern music orchestras. Shaped like an hourglass, the tama is a distinctive drum, covered with string, that is positioned under the musician's armpit and played with a stick.

The tama has the unique ability to change pitch. The performer changes the pitch of the tama by compressing the outer strings of the drum with their arm.



This feature allows for a wide range of tones during play.

The tama drum is a favored instrument among griots [GREE-ohs], who are African storytellers. Griots use the tama to mimic the sound of languages such as Wolof, a language spoken by around 6 million people in Senegal and Gambia. In the musical context, the tama is not just played; it is believed to "talk," reflecting its ability to articulate complex and expressive sounds.³

³ <https://shorturl.at/kLWX6>

Dance of Hope

The Dance of Hope, Africa's most impactful arts education program, is a youth-based cultural touring ensemble from Uganda that has captivated audiences across the USA since 2018. It was founded in 2010 by Ugandan world musicians Chinobay and Bosco Segawa, the latter of whom overcame the challenges of being an orphan on the streets of Kampala. The ensemble carries a mission to inspire, empower, and connect people globally.⁴



Through drum beats, vibrant choreography, and harmonies the young cast performs stories, songs, and dances. Dance of Hope's journey began with Chinobay's emotional encounter at M-LISADA children's home, where he witnessed the resilience of children facing hardships. This experience led to the birth of Dance of Hope, which travels the world, sharing songs and stories

⁴ <https://danceofhope.com/about-us/>

while working to restore dignity and self-confidence in vulnerable communities.

Uganda

- Capital: Kampala
- Primary Languages:
 - English and Swahili
- Currency: Ugandan shilling (UGX)
- Population: 45,654,000



For more information about Uganda, visit:

- [Ugandan Geography](#)
- [Ugandan Cultural Life](#)

For more information about Chinobay, visit:

- Website: [Chinobay](#)
- Facebook: [Chinobay](#)
- Instagram: [Chinobay](#)

STEAM Activity

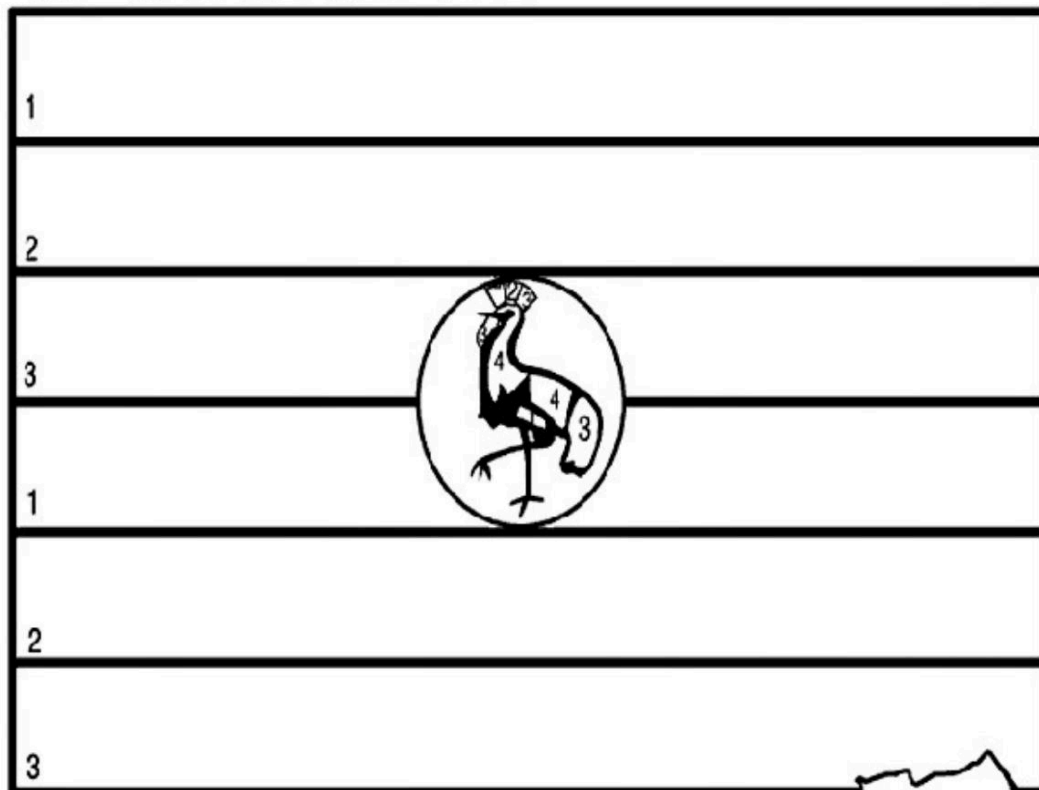
Makey Makey Kalimba Activity

Create your own Kalimba using basic materials and coding! Develop an understanding of circuits, using Makey Makey and STEM supplies. Create a simple code to link a physical device to computer generated sounds.

This activity will be available on the STEM to Them Bus for MCCSC 4th grade students.

https://docs.google.com/presentation/d/1ukAbHzAApKa_KOZdgMZ0jNHkyPN8tqeGV3l64z9ULuA/edit?usp=sharing

UGANDA flag & map



To color the flag of Uganda, use Crayola® Crayons, Colored Pencils or Markers. Color the shapes numbered 1 black, 2 yellow, 3 red, and 4 grey.

Did you know...?

Uganda is located in eastern Africa. On the flag is a red-crested crane which is the national symbol of Uganda. Some of Uganda's main industries are sugar, cotton, and cement.



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Special thanks to the **MCCSC STEAM/CS Team** for providing fun STEAM activities for our 2024 Lotus Blossoms study guides!

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