



Yoruba Language School

Managed by Yoruba Foundation Calgary



Introduction

- Yoruba is one of the three major languages in Nigeria.
- The language is spoken not only in Nigeria but in most of the West African Countries – and even in the Caribbean and South American nations.
- The language is globally recognized and it is one of the major African languages with significant contribution to Oxford Dictionary – **7 Contributed in 2024.**
- The Yoruba Language School (YLS) Calgary was established in 2004 with the help of one of our community members who is now a grandmother.



Objective of the Language School

- Values and cultural preservation through teaching and understanding of the language.
- Exposure to language and culture enthusiasts across the globe – we have people of western origin going to Nigerian universities to learn about the language and the culture.
- Address cultural and intercultural dynamics.
- Root and identity – essential tool for immigrants to navigate new environment



Meeting & Location

- The School started at the Nigeria Canadian Association of Calgary House in the NE
- Started by meeting twice a month for a total of 6 hours (3 hours/class).
- Later moved to the Genesis Centre in the NE
- Meeting rescheduled to 2nd & 4th Saturdays of the month
 - Class ran between 11:00am – 2.00pm
 - Lunch served to students from 12 – 12:30
- Currently, the school is fully online
 - Genesis Centre used for in-person cultural activities such as dancing, drumming, craft making etc.
 - Guest speakers invited for mentorship and coaching on public speaking



Curriculum and Teaching Resources

- Current curriculum aligns mostly with that for Grades 1 – 6 in Nigeria.
- Modifications made to ensure suitability for the Canadian environment.
- Books ordered from US & Nigerian publishers – some with bilingual writings.
- Each student has at least three books to practice.
- Grading basis – Attendance; Class participation; Homework; and End of Session Review

Resources

- 1 Principal
- 3 Teachers (We have three classes based on student's level of language proficiency)
- 3 Parent Volunteers (IT support, in-class support, and in person activity coordination)
- 1 Coordinator (YFC Vice President)
- Bi-annual meetings between parents, teachers, volunteers to discuss progress & challenges

YEAR 1 CURRICULUM (LEVEL 1)

- WEEK 1 ORIENTATION
- WEEK 2 Kika A- G ati akopo (learning of letters using visuals and posters)
- WEEK 3 Reading of numbers 1-10. Kika noomba Okan de Ewa (using textbook and aids/posters in class)
- WEEK 4 Reading of numbers 11-20. Kika noomba Okanla de Ogun (using textbook and aids/posters in class)
- WEEK 5 Revisiting alphabets and numbers and form words & sentences with them in English and Yoruba.
- WEEK 6 Knowing of 6 shapes in Yoruba
- WEEK 7 Dealing with 6 different colours and forming sentences with them in Yoruba
- WEEK 8 BREAK
- WEEK 9 Revisiting alphabets, numbers, shapes, and colours
- WEEK 10 MIDTERM TEST
- WEEK 11 Learn basic greeting words and other basic letter words in Yoruba
- WEEK 12 Parts of the body and clothes (naming at least 4 parts and forming sentences with it)
- WEEK 13 Revisiting parts of the body, clothes and greetings in Yoruba (elderly)
- WEEK 14 Learning about 5 kinds of fruits and food in Yoruba
- WEEK 15 Learning about 5 kinds of Animals in Yoruba
- WEEK 16 Revisiting fruits, food and animals
- WEEK 17 Practicing songs for GALA NIGHT
- WEEK 18 Learn days and months of the year
- WEEK 19 Talk about Family and the home (people in the home, and work we do at home)
- WEEK 19 Learn and revisit days and months of the year & discuss FAMILY
- WEEK 20 Learn words in shopping
- WEEK 21 Talking about weather (types of weather) in Yoruba
- WEEK EXAM



Alphabet in English - Àlúfábẹ̀tì Ní Ède Gẹ̀ẹ̀sì

A B C D E F G H I J K L
M N O P Q R S T U V W
X Y Z

Alphabet in Yoruba – Álúfábéètì ní Ède

Yc

A B D E Ė F G Gb H I J

K L M N O Ȯ P R S Ş T

U W Y



Ìrànḷowọ̀ Ìpè Pronunciation Aid

A - Add

E- Able

G - Give

I - Ill

L - Leap

O - Oh

R - Reed

T- Tea

Y - Yield

B- Bee

E - Egg

GB - Pronounced

together

J - Jeep

M - Me

Ọ - Or

S - See

U - Uood

D- Deep

F- Fee

H - Heap

K - Kee

N - Need

P - Pronounce k and p

together

Ş - She

W - Weep



Examples of Alphabets in Yoruba

Apéré Alufabeti ni Yóruba

A - Aja - Dog

Adura - Prayer

B- Bata - Shoe

Baba - Father

D- Dada- Dreadlock Dodo-Plantain

E- Eyin - Teeth

Ejo- Snake

Ẹ - Eyin - Egg

Ẹkaasan - Good Afternoon/ Ẹku ile -

F- Fila - Hat

G- Gele- Hat /Headgear

Gigi - Mirror

GB - Gbaguda - Cassava

H- Hun - Sew

I - Igi- Tree





YLS Challenges

- Success stories are boring without challenges – ours is no exception!
- We live in a fast-paced world, so getting people to spare their time is tough!
- Students already had some other extra-curricula commitments – attendance impacted
 - Somewhat resolved by moving the class to online – We have students from across the globe
 - Our IT volunteers did great by getting a not-for-profit/educational right for Google Meet.
- Attention during online classes – How do you judge if the students are actively listening?
 - Introduction of fun activities like kahoot!, and other learning engagement tools
- The Language is purely heteronymical/homographical in nature. Early enrolment/introduction is essential for good understanding.
- Inadequacy and inaccuracy of online resources.



Success

- We have gone beyond curriculum instructions to introduction of several activities that help facilitate learning and motivate students' interests
- **6 Students (with 2 teachers) went on excursion to Oyotunji Village in South Carolina in July 2023 – See images on the next slides**
- Field trip is now part of our academic calendar plan – twice a year
- Cooking classes organized to train the students on one of the most popular Yoruba dishes
- Safety Training Course – Stay Alone Course for children (32 Students benefited so far)
- Participation and representation of Yoruba Culture during Nigerian/African & other Social cultural events – showcased class learnings, values, and traditional dances.



Looking Ahead

- Our hope is to continue to update the curriculum and expand the classes.
- Update the learning tools for ease of understanding.
- Leverage AI and other technologies for teaching.
- Collaboration with experts in the field of AI to further enhance quality of online resources.
- Organize formal trainings for teachers and volunteers to further enhance their teaching skills.
- Expand the learning materials library.
- Update cultural artefacts and resources.
- Organize more field trips to Yoruba historical sites and monuments.

Oyotunji Field Trip





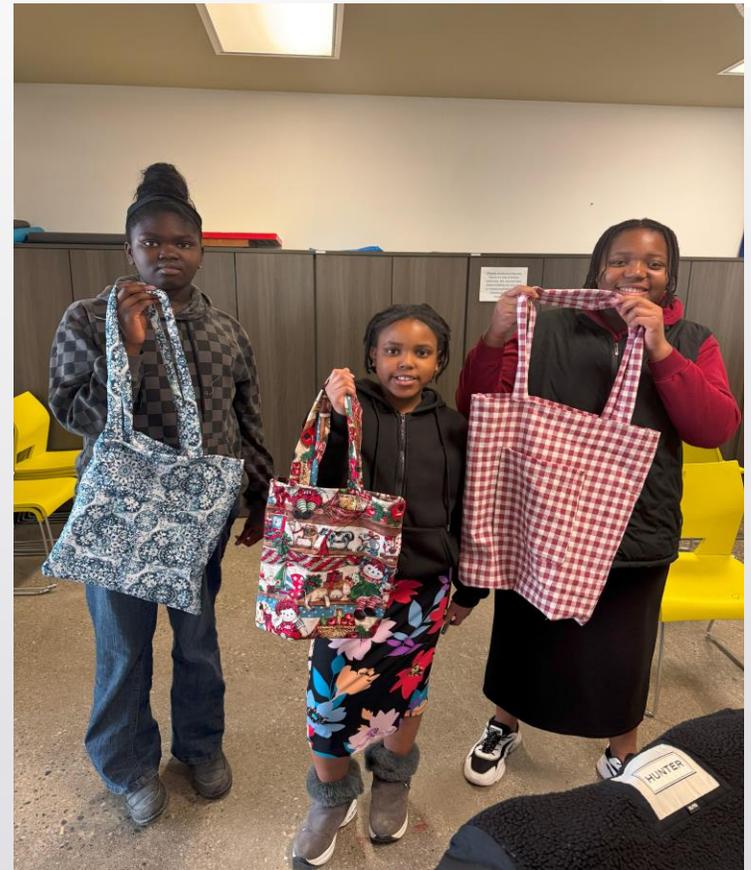
Oyotunji Field Trip



FREEDOM 7
ALONG THE COMBAHEE
Continued from 1845
Union gunboats landed 300 soldiers along the river, and one force came ashore here at Combahee Ferry. Soldiers took at Combahee Ferry, and destroyed livestock and supplies rice at nearby plantations, barns, and than 700 enslaved men, women, and children were taken to freedom in event in wartime S.C. Some freedmen soon enlisted in the U.S. Army.



Sewing Class



Cooking Class





Thank you for your attention