



NEWS RELEASE

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Digital Resources from Discovery Education Help Classrooms Explore Africa Today

Unique partnership offers groundbreaking film and engaging lesson plans free to educators

Silver Spring, Md. (May 7, 2009) – The [Africa Society of the National Summit on Africa](#), the [United States Agency for International Development](#) and the [Discovery Channel Global Education Partnership](#) have partnered with [Discovery Education](#) to make the film *Africa Today* available for free for classroom use by teachers and students at www.ExploreAfricaToday.com.

Capturing the journey and experiences of six teachers and students from Los Angeles who travel to Uganda to engage in a cultural exchange with African teachers and students, *Africa Today* documents frank and open discussions regarding stereotypes and preconceived notions about both cultures. Teachers and students from both continents learn how their counterparts handle cell phones in the classroom, discover familiar slang terms through exchanges between Ugandan and American students, and hear Ugandan and American students discuss their favorite types of music, highlighting connections to their respective cultures.

To help teachers maximize this resource, Discovery Education has created a series of companion lesson plans correlated to topics presented in *Africa Today*. Suitable for use in high school classrooms, these lesson plans aid educators teaching topics such as arts and culture, media and politics, science and technology, and the environment.

Africa Today also is available through [Discovery Education streaming](#), the K-12 video-on-demand solution shown to increase student achievement. In addition, the film is being distributed to teachers and students in Africa to share knowledge and understanding of cultural differences and similarities.

“*Africa Today* brings this beautiful, complicated and misunderstood continent to life for students and teachers alike,” said Jocelyn Chadwick, Discovery Education Director of Curriculum Development. “Together, this video and the accompanying lesson plans create a fantastic program that can engage students on a host of relevant cultural topics.”

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Africa Today debuted in December 2008 at a premiere event hosted by The World Bank InfoShop in Washington, D.C. The film was produced by the Discovery Channel Global Education Partnership, a public charity that brings together partners from the private and public sectors in support of international, grassroots education projects that serve populations left out of the information age, in collaboration with The Africa Society, whose mission is to educate America about Africa, for the USAID-funded *Teach Africa*TM program. The multi-phased *Teach Africa*TM program orients superintendents and principals, trains teachers, and educates students about the rich culture and history of Africa and the importance of its inclusion in American education.

For more information about Discovery Education *streaming*, or any other products and services from Discovery Education, please visit www.discoveryeducation.com or call 800-323-9084.

About Discovery Education

Discovery Communications (NASDAQ: DISCA, DISCB, DISCK) revolutionized television with Discovery Channel and is now transforming classrooms through Discovery Education. Powered by the number one nonfiction media company in the world, Discovery Education combines scientifically proven, standards-based digital media and a dynamic user community in order to empower teachers to improve student achievement. Already, more than half of all U.S. schools access Discovery Education digital services. Explore the future of education at www.discoveryeducation.com.

About The Africa Society of the National Summit on Africa

The mission of The Africa Society is to be the premiere entity that engages and educates Americans about Africa and to create, through partnerships, a better understanding of its peoples, diverse cultures, histories, and economies.

About Discovery Channel Global Education Partnership

The Discovery Channel Global Education Partnership is a nonprofit organization that is committed to using the positive power of video to provide information and support community development in under-resourced schools and communities around the world.

About USAID

USAID is an independent federal government agency that receives overall foreign policy guidance from the Secretary of State. The Agency supports long-term and equitable economic growth and advances U.S. foreign policy objectives by supporting economic growth, agriculture and trade; global health; and democracy, conflict prevention and humanitarian assistance in Sub-Saharan Africa, Asia and the Near East, Latin America and the Caribbean, and Europe and Eurasia.

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