



**THE DOOR
OF NO
RETURN**

nonfiction connections

RESOURCE CONTENTS

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 - 4 Informational Texts, 10 Engaging Activities
- Synthesize Texts with *The Door of No Return*
- Google Slides™ Links for Google Drive™
- Standards-Aligned Resources
- Answer Keys for Informational Texts

TEXTS & ACTIVITIES

Nonfiction Activity Set 1: Building Background Knowledge

- Informational Text: A Lasting Kingdom
- Parallel Worlds – Timeline Activity
- The Golden Stool – Mini-Infographic
- The World of the Asante – Glossary of Terms

Nonfiction Activity Set 2: Asante Kingdom Culture

- Informational Text: A Flourishing Culture
- Anansi the Spider – Asante Folktales
- Oware | A Game of Strategy – Asante Board Game
- Talking Drums – Anansi Music Tradition
- Adinkra Symbols – Anansi Visual Design
- Beyond the Book – Making Connections Across Texts

Nonfiction Activity Set 3: Asante Kingdom Economy

- Informational Text: A Rich Economy
- How Words We Use Matter – Importance of Language When Talking about Slavery
- The Door of No Return – Historical Ties
- Beyond the Book – Making Connections Across Texts

Nonfiction Activity Set 4: World Beyond the Asante Kingdom

- Informational Text: A World Beyond the Asante
- Accounts of the Middle Passage – Historical Ties
- Beyond the Book – Making Connections Across Texts

INFORMATIONAL TEXTS

A Lasting Kingdom

Informational Text

Name:

➤ 4 Nonfiction Readings

➤ Educational Text Features

➤ Glossary of Key Vocabulary

➤ 2-3 Pages Per Reading

Africa is a complex, beautiful continent rich with history. Today, Africa is home to fifty-four recognized countries with over 1,500 languages spoken. It also contains both the largest hot desert and longest river in the world. As the second-largest continent, its geography, climate, and cultures are quite diverse.¹ Geographically, Africa is broken up into five distinct regions: Northern, Southern, Central, Eastern, and Western. Each region hosts unique ecosystems and populations with vibrant histories. West Africa, in particular, has an extensive history of powerful empires.



Map of Present-Day West Africa

Early Empires

Growth, innovation, and the rise of empires characterizes West Africa's early history. The time when settlers first arrived in the region dates to approximately 12000 BCE. By 5000 BCE, settlers began to establish agricultural settlements and communities. With the emergence of the Iron Age around 1500 BCE, metalworking technology developed, and city-states began to form. These more complex civilizations engaged in extensive trade and travel. The expansion of the settlements led to the rise of empires. This next period of West Africa's history contains evidence of flourishing² empires, warring states, and eventually foreign invasions.



Wealth Beyond the Record Books

The image shows Mansa Musa, the tenth mansa or "emperor of the Mali Empire. He is shown with a gold nugget in his right hand and golden staff in the other. Mansa Musa is considered the richest person in history. Tales of his wealth originated with a trip to Egypt where onlookers described Musa's caravan as having tens of thousands of travelers and every camel carrying 300 pounds of gold.

INFORMATIONAL TEXTS

From approximately 800 CE to almost 1600 CE, the Ghana Empire, Mali Empire, and Songhai Empire ruled over a diverse population in West Africa. These three major empires dominated West Africa amidst a period of economic growth and extensive trade. Yet, many other empires – both large and small – also carved out their place in history. These smaller empires made their own important contributions and added to the complex history of the period in West Africa.

The Rise of the Asante

In the late 1600s, an ethnic³ subgroup of Akan-speaking people settled and flourished in the area of present-day Ghana. Small chiefdoms such as the Fante, Denkyira, Bono, Akwamu, and Asante all prospered, building wealth by cultivating fertile farmland, securing vast deposits of gold, and maintaining busy trade routes. Of them all, the Denkyira dominated the region, but the Oyoko clan of the Asante saw an opportunity to grow the Asante people's influence.



Map of Asante Kingdom c. 19th century

In 1701, an Asante chief, **Osei Tutu**, convened⁴ all the clan chiefs for a meeting. During the meeting, it was said a golden stool descended from the heavens into Osei Tutu's lap. The Golden Stool was claimed to embody the spirit of the Asante people. After the miraculous appearance of the Stool, the chiefs pledged their loyalty to Osei Tutu, making him the first paramount chief, or Asantehene. With the Asante clans united, Osei Tutu centralized the military, created a constitution, made gold dust the currency of the kingdom, and established an annual festival that celebrated the rise of the **Asante Kingdom**.

The Rule of the Asante

The Asante, unified and strengthened, looked to expand their sphere of influence by quickly waging war against the neighboring Denkyira. They were victorious, and after defeating the Denkyira, the Asante took control over trade routes to extend their reach and power throughout the region. For

➤ Appropriate Spacing to Allow for Annotation

➤ Common Core-Aligned

➤ Informational Texts and Science Standards

➤ Critical Thinking Opportunities

INFORMATIONAL TEXTS

Informational Text Analysis A
Name: _____

A Lasting Kingdom

Text Features Directions: Fill out the following organizer, identifying the key features of the informational text.

Feature: Did You Know?

What is it? Name/describe the feature.

How does this feature contribute to your understanding of the whole article?

Terms & Vocabulary Directions: Define the key terms below by using context clues from the text.

Osei Tutu	
Asante Kingdom	
Colonial Rule	

Main Idea & Details Directions: Fill out the graphic organizer below in order to determine the main idea of the text.

Title: _____

Key Detail 1:	Key Detail 2:	Key Detail 3:
---------------	---------------	---------------

Main Idea: What is the article mostly about?

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➤ Comprehension & Analysis Questions

➤ Format A – Text Features, Main Idea

➤ Format B – Analysis Questions

➤ Depth of Knowledge Prompts

INFORMATIONAL TEXTS

Informational Text Analysis B
Name:

A Lasting Kingdom

1. How does the author support the generalization that West Africa is a diverse, complex region with a rich history? Support with evidence from the text.

2. Why might the author include the "Wealth Beyond the Record Books" text feature? What idea or point does the feature emphasize or highlight? Support with textual evidence.

3. How did the Asante Kingdom rise to power? In what ways did they acquire and maintain control of various chiefdoms? Support with details from the text.

4. What one word do you think best characterizes the reign of the Asante Kingdom? Why does this one word capture the kingdom's rule? Explain and support with evidence from the text.

5. What led to the decline and eventual downfall of the Asante Kingdom? Explain at least two causes and support with details from the text.

6. Why might the author title the article "A Lasting Kingdom"? What history does this title emphasize? Explain with evidence from the text.

➤ 2 Formats to Allow for Differentiation

➤ Use for Centers or Rotation Model

➤ Pair with Novel – Cross-Text Connections

➤ Answer Key & Google Slides™ Links

ENGAGING ACTIVITIES

The Golden Stool

Mini-Infographic Activity

Name: _____

➤ 10 Extension Activities

➤ Variety of Materials – Engage Different Learning Modalities

➤ Foster Critically Thinking & Real-World Connections

➤ Rigorous Questions

The emergence of the Asante Kingdom is inextricably linked to the legend or oral tradition of the Golden Stool. Even today, it is the most important possession of the Asante. This activity will help build background knowledge on the Golden Stool's significance and its connection to the rise, fall, and continuation of the Asante.

The Golden Stool Mini-Infographic Activity Steps

- 1. Conduct research** on the Golden Stool – take notes on the following topics and complete the graphic organizer that follows:
 - Legend of the Stool – How did the Stool come to exist?
 - Importance – Why was the Stool important to the Asante Kingdom?
 - Appearance – What are the dimensions / materials of the Stool
 - Care – How have the Asante cared for the Stool? What rules or guidelines must be followed?
 - Events – What important events are connected to the Stool?
- 2. Infographic** – Fill out the mini-infographic about the Golden Stool based on your research.
- 3. Reflection** – Complete the final activity reflection.

Legend of the Golden Stool

Summarize
How did the Stool come to exist? What is the story of the Golden Stool?



Importance of the Golden Stool to the Asante Kingdom

Identify Importance / Symbolism
Explain 3 ways the Stool was important to the Asante Kingdom. What does the Stool represent to the Asante?



ENGAGING ACTIVITIES

The World of the Asante

Glossary of Terms

Name: _____

➤ Allows for Differentiation

➤ Standards-Aligned – Informational Texts

➤ Pair Activities with Informational Texts & Novel

➤ Rich, In-Depth Exploration of History

The Door of No Return is a rich and vibrant account of Asante history and culture. From references to clothing, language, folktales, foreign presence, and more, it can pose a challenge to readers unfamiliar with the references. To prepare for the novel reading, let's build background knowledge on Asante history and culture. Instead of wondering what characters are talking about, we will have a guide to help us understand. As you learn from *The Door of No Return* "Glossary of Terms" PowerPoint, complete the guided notes, tasks, and prompts below.

Overview of the Asante

Directions: Complete the notes below.

Who are the Asante?	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Asante are part of a large _____ group called the _____ An ethnic group shares a common _____ or _____ Reside in southern country of _____ in Africa
The Asante Kingdom	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Asante rose to power at the turn of the _____ (1701) First King, _____, brought together chiefdoms / groups At height of power, controlled area roughly the size of _____

Asante Language...

- Akan people speak _____ or _____
- Asante speak _____
- Twi _____ has 22 letters

← Draw the two Twi letters not in the English alphabet

Novel Insight

_____ = "pay attention" or "Do you hear me?"

_____ = "willing to listen" or "Yeah, I hear you!"

_____ is always the response to _____

Make a Connection

Describe the English and Twi alphabets below.

English Alphabet Description	Twi Alphabet Description

ENGAGING ACTIVITIES

Adinkra Symbols

Asante Culture & Adinkra

Name: _____

➤ Foster Rich Discussion

➤ Examination of History of Asante Kingdom & World Context

➤ Prompts Require Evidence-Based Responses

➤ Cross-Curricular Learning

Adinkra symbols express important lessons, sayings, and values through visual designs. They were and continue to be a revered part of Asante culture. The author of *The Door of No Return* includes adinkra symbols at the beginning of each chapter to foreshadow the novel's events. This activity will have you study, research, and apply adinkra symbols to a part of Kofi's story. You will select 5 adinkra symbols that represent Kofi's experiences for a segment of the novel. First, select the poems / chapter you will study.

Poems / Chapter = _____ (pages _____)

Now that you have selected a segment of the novel to deeply examine, summarize the story portion into five distinct segments. Explain the strongest emotion, lesson, or value you believe is associated with that segment. Complete the graphic organizer below.

Segment – Summarize the portion of the story.	Emotion / Lesson / Value – What emotion, lesson, or value connects with this segment of the story?
1.	
2.	
3.	
4.	
5.	

THOUGHTFUL ANALYSIS

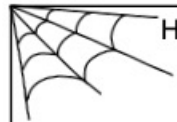
Beyond the Book...



Directions: You've engaged in thoughtful readings and activities about the Asante Kingdom and culture, You've also read about Kofi's experiences in the novel. Now, it's time to apply your new knowledge and insights about the nonfiction connections back to the novel, *The Door of No Return*.



Consider all you have learned about the Asante Kingdom and its culture. Apply your knowledge and insight of Asante culture to Kofi's situation. How does Kofi embrace and celebrate Asante culture?



How do Kofi's community and other Asante communities show the richness of Asante culture? How do we see these views influence Kofi's perspective and actions?



Consider global perspectives on culture. How might the the way Kofi's community views culture be influenced by larger, global forces? How then does this influence shape Kofi's beliefs and actions?

➤ Encourage
Critical Thinking

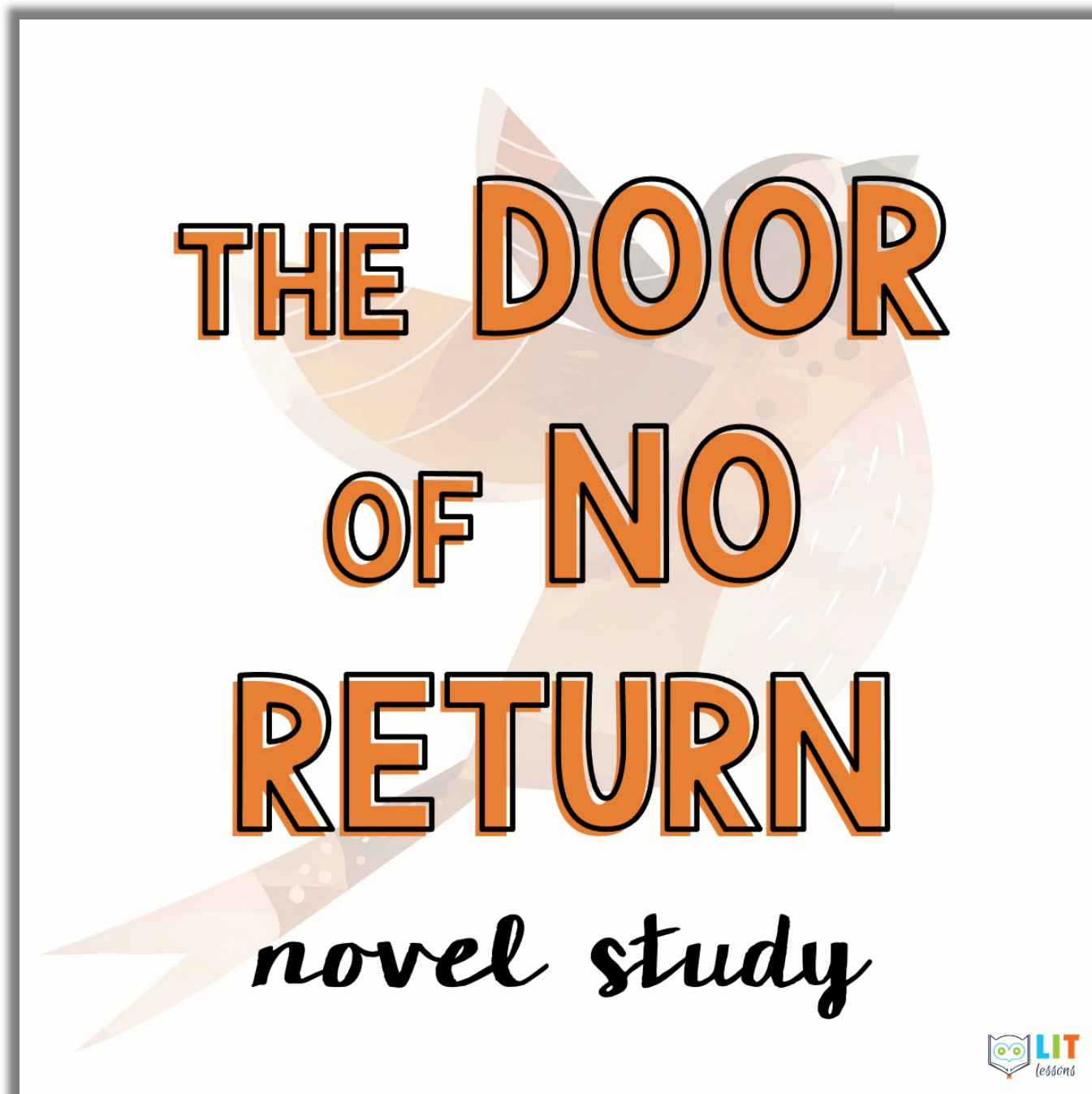
➤ Facilitate
Meaningful
Learning
Experiences

➤ Google Slides™
Links for Google
Drive™

➤ Make
Connection
Between Texts

BUNDLE & SAVE

This resource is part of a comprehensive unit on *The Door of No Return*! Click the cover below to preview all the resources available.



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