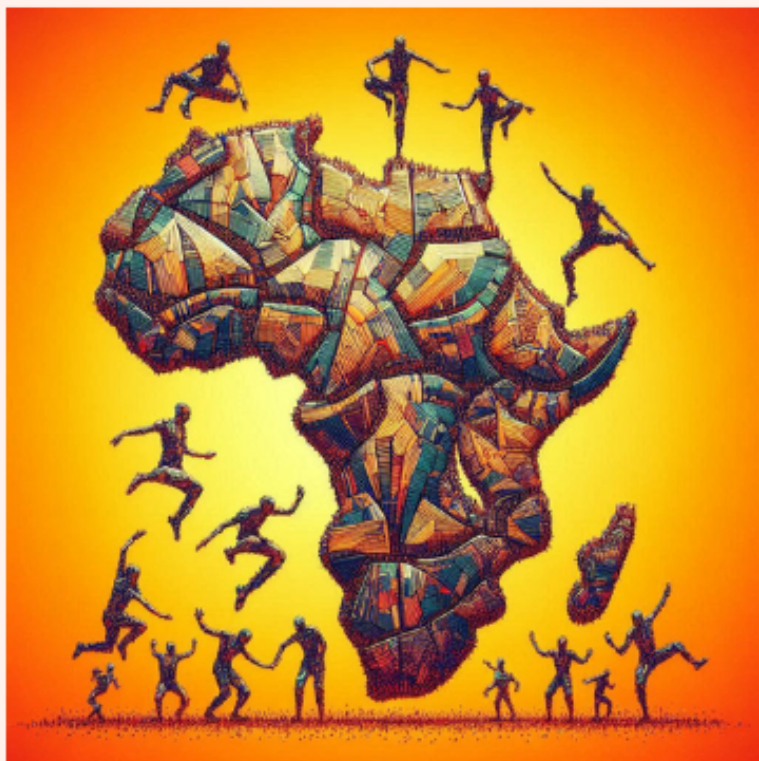


ZUZU ACROBATS INC PRESENTS

THEATRICAL SHOW

# TANZANITE ACROBATS

## STUDY GUIDE 2025



# Student Matinees



**Welcome!**

**In today's world, cultural awareness is increasingly recognized as a key skill for future success.**

**By attending a live performance by the Tanzanite Acrobats and using this study guide, you are embracing the arts as a vital and enriching part of education. We hope this experience ignites curiosity and creativity in your students.**

**Enjoy the performance!**

## Educational Goals

Engaging with the Tanzanite Acrobats performance and reflecting on it supports the achievement of several educational objectives, including:

**Critical Thinking**  
**Artistic Appreciation**  
**Perspective Building**  
**Audience Interaction**



**Participating in the activities helps develop:**  
**Informed Decision Making**  
**Encouraging choices that improve health and well-being.**

**Team Collaboration: Building Goal-setting, and problem-solving**  
**Cultural Understanding: Promoting appreciation of diverse cultures and tradition**

## About the Performance:

The Tanzanite Acrobats celebrate a rich tradition of African dance and acrobatics that spans thousands of years. Originating from Tanzania, these performers have dedicated extensive time and effort to preserving this heritage while incorporating modern influences.

Their performances are a dynamic blend of traditional African dance, acrobatic feats, and storytelling that reflect the cultural and artistic history of East Africa.

## Vocabulary

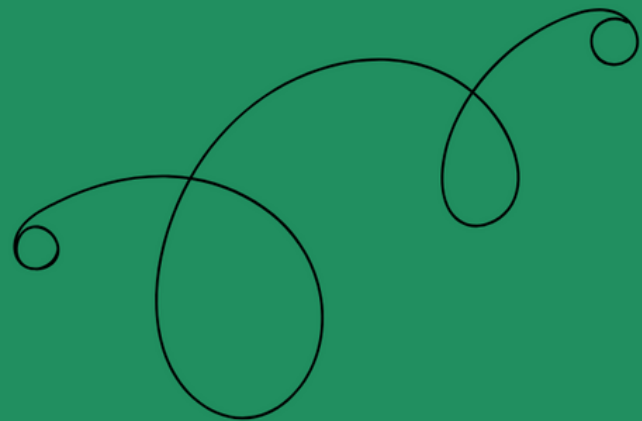
### Acrobatics:

The art of performing difficult physical feats like jumping, balancing, or tumbling.



## Choreography:

The sequence of steps and movements in dance or acrobatics, usually planned out beforehand.



## Coordination:

The ability to use different parts of the body together smoothly and efficiently.

## Storytelling:

The social and cultural activity of sharing stories, often with improvisation, theatrics, or embellishment.



## Key Themes

**Teamwork:** Many of the acts require the acrobats to work together, relying on trust and precise coordination to execute their feats.

**Cultural Tradition:** The dances and acrobatics performed have deep cultural roots and are passed down through generations, showing the Tanzanian spirit and heritage.

**Physical Mastery:** The performers undergo rigorous training to perfect their craft, developing extraordinary balance, strength, and agility.



## Further Exploration

Encourage students to dive deeper into the Tanzanite Acrobats' performances by exploring their website or viewing clips online. After watching, guide them through the following questions:



What skills do the acrobats need to perfect their routines?

How long do you think they practice to perform at such a high level?

How do teamwork and cooperation play a role in their acrobatic performances?

What cultural elements do you observe in their music, costumes, and the stories they tell through their movements?



## Cultural Context

### Quick Facts: Tanzania & East Africa

Tanzania is located in East Africa, bordering Kenya, Uganda, and the Indian Ocean.

**Population:** Over 60 million people live in Tanzania.

**Languages:** Swahili is the national language, but over 120 languages are spoken.

**Famous Landmarks:** Mount Kilimanjaro, Serengeti National Park, and Zanzibar are iconic.

**Wildlife:** Tanzania is home to some of Africa's most diverse wildlife, including lions, elephants, and giraffes.



## The Performance

During a Tanzanite Acrobats performance, you may witness a variety of exciting acts, including:

Fast Pyramid Building

Chair Balancing



Contortion

Hat Juggling

Ladder Climbing

Tumbling

African Dance:

Silambwasi (nature dance), Gumboot (mining dance), Kalunguyeye (hedgehog dance).

## Further Exploration

Encourage students to delve into the cultural significance of dance and ask the following questions:



**When do you dance?**

**Did someone teach you how to dance?**

**In Swahili word ngoma means drum, dance and music in traditional culture.**

**This is because ngoma means “life” and we see drumming, dancing and playing music as part of the same celebration of life.**

**Ngoma is used to educate society.**

**These parts of celebration have been passed down from elders and form a tradition like acrobatics which gives Swahili culture its identity.**

## **TRUE - FALSE - Post-Show Discussion Questions**

**(1) TRUE or FALSE – The Tanzanite Acrobats' performances are a form of traditional African storytelling.**

**TRUE. The Tanzanite Acrobats blend dance, acrobatics, and storytelling to communicate cultural narratives, keeping African traditions alive through their performances.**

**(2) TRUE or FALSE – Acrobatic performances only require physical strength and flexibility.**

**FALSE. While strength and flexibility are important, acrobats also need coordination, teamwork, and balance to perform safely and effectively.**

**(3) TRUE or FALSE – Teamwork plays a minimal role in acrobatics.**

**FALSE. Teamwork is essential in acrobatics, especially in acts like pyramids and chair balancing, where performers rely on each other for balance and timing**

**(4) TRUE or FALSE – The Tanzanite Acrobats can only perform acrobatics. FALSE. In addition to acrobatics, they excelled in general education. Their academic success enabled them to handle the business aspects of their careers. Without their education and life skills, the Tanzanite Acrobats wouldn't have achieved global fame.**

**(5) TRUE or FALSE – Acrobats only need to practice a few hours a week to perform at a high level.**

**FALSE. Acrobats undergo intense, regular training to develop the physical and mental skills necessary for their performances, often practicing many hours each week.**

**(6) TRUE or FALSE – Tanzanian culture has no influence on the performances of the Tanzanite Acrobats.**

**FALSE. Tanzanian culture plays a central role in the Tanzanite Acrobats' performances, as they showcase traditional African dance and stories through their acts.**

## **Bibliography**

**For Early Readers (Ages 5-8):**

**"Africa is Not a Country" by Margy Burns Knight**

**This picture book introduces young readers to various African countries, including Tanzania, with engaging illustrations and brief facts.**

**"We All Went on Safari: A Counting Journey through Tanzania" by Laurie Krebs**

**This colorful picture book takes children on a safari through Tanzania while teaching numbers and animals in both English and Swahili.**

**For Middle Readers (Ages 9-12):**

**"Planting the Trees of Kenya: The Story of Wangari Maathai" by Claire A. Nivola**

**Although focused on Kenya, this story about environmentalist Wangari Maathai introduces kids to East African geography and ecosystems similar to Tanzania.**

**"Safari Journal: The Adventures in Tanzania"  
by Hudson Talbott**

**This fictional travel journal gives young readers a glimpse into Tanzania's wildlife and culture through a boy's safari adventures.**

**For Young Teens (Ages 13-15):**

**"Facing the Lion: Growing Up Maasai on the  
African Savanna" by Joseph Lemasolai  
Lekuton**

**This memoir offers an insightful look at life in a Maasai community, similar to the cultures in Tanzania.**

**"Serengeti: A Story of Survival" by Tom  
McCarthy**

**This non-fiction book focuses on the Serengeti National Park in Tanzania, covering its wildlife and conservation efforts.**