

World Kiswahili Day: a 45-minute class plan



Every year on 7 July. Five simple steps for ages 4–9, using our free printables

Siku ya Kiswahili Duniani

Say: **SEE-koo yah kee-swah-HEE-lee doo-nee-AH-nee** · World Kiswahili Day

Kiswahili is the language's own name for itself. In English we usually say Swahili.

5 min

Karibu! Sing hello

Welcome everyone with **Karibu** (kah-REE-boo, welcome), then sing the Jambo song with its actions.

Uses: Jambo! welcome song sheet

10 min

Where is Kiswahili spoken?

Put the map on the board. Find the countries together, then Lake Victoria and Zanzibar. Does anyone in the class have family there?

Uses: Where Swahili is spoken map

10 min

Count in Kiswahili

Count claps and jumps from **moja** (MO-jah, one) to **kumi** (KOO-mee, ten). Start slowly, then speed up. Hear all ten at swahilichildrensbooks.com/swahili-numbers.

15 min

Make Kiswahili bunting

Each child colours a flag and practises its word. String the flags together and hang them up for the day.

Uses: Swahili word bunting

5 min

Kwaheri! Say goodbye

Finish with **Asante** (ah-SAHN-teh, thank you) and **Kwaheri** (kwah-HEH-ree, goodbye).

A week before: send home the parent letter, and invite any Swahili-speaking families to come in and share a song, a story or a word.