



Introduction to Homeland Learning Resources

These resources will help you and your learners engage with the album Homeland (Chapter 1).

In the booklet accompanying the album, Seckou poses some questions:

What is Homeland? What does it mean to people? Where does it start? Where does it end? Is it a specific place? A village? A country? A continent? Planet earth with the vague unconscious memory of a time where all continents were only separated by natural borders? Or is it a feeling? A sense of belonging? A mysterious idea that there is something that connects us all?

Offering learners opportunities to ask questions about the world around them and to experience life beyond their everyday norm, is something that we feel particularly passionate about. By giving space to explore, discuss, listen and be creative using music and images that may be unfamiliar, we hope that learners will deepen their understanding of the world, of themselves and of each other.

Seckou has often said that it is travel that has enabled him to learn, unlearn and learn again. There is a privilege that comes from being free to witness a place first hand, and to shake the hands of the people who live there. We know that freedom to travel by choice is not available to everyone. We acknowledge too, the heartbreak, devastation and trauma that must come from being wrenched from your homeland and forced to travel or having to uproot for fear of safety.

The resources will allow learners to experience Seckou's music, his life as a musician and life in Senegal as well as support them to think about their own home and their homelands. Videos, photos, audio files and interviews with Seckou help to bring the learning to life. Some activities may need to be handled sensitively. You know the learners who you are working with, and we encourage you to respond and adapt as necessary.

We hope too, that the resources will be an invitation for learners who have their roots planted in West Africa, to share their music, their stories, their voices and their experiences, if they so wish.

The resources are not prescriptive. They have been organised as 'sessions' but they can be combined, split or adapted in any way you wish.

We have used the word 'learners' as an all-encompassing term. It refers to children, young people and all of us who are parents and/or educators, recognising that any of us is likely to come away having learned something new.

We would love to share some of the creative work that emerges. Please feel free to send audio files, videos or artwork to admin@seckoumusic.com and we will upload what we can to our website.

Enjoy!

From all of us at Seckou Music

Seckou, Jackie, Chelima, Ollie and Esther