

## Teaching Guide -The Akebu People

### Instructions for Leaders or Teachers

- Study all the material yourself before sharing it with others.
- Introduce the people group to the children.
- Listen to the audio information that describes the people group.
- Listen to any additional information provided.
- Do these things in the order listed. Some points can be skipped over if not usable.
- Use a map of globe to locate the area where the people group lives.
- Have children do map work that is age appropriate.
- Talk about the location of the Akebu people group in relation to the equator.
- Ask “Do the Akebu people live close to the equator?” If the answer is “Yes”, this indicates a hot/tropical climate.
- Ask, “Do the Akebu people live in a mountain area?” If the answer is “Yes”, this will indicate a colder/cooler climate.
- Have the children name the countries surrounding the country where the Akebu people group live.
- Look at the map included and see if the country has any access to an ocean or a river which would allow transport of goods.
- Talk about the ways the Akebu people group provide for basic human needs:
  - Food
  - Clothing
  - Shelter
  - Human relationships
  - Compare the answers with the way your own people provide these needs.
    - Are these customs of the Akebu people different from the way you live?
    - Talk about the importance of color and the meaning of color.
    - Talk about festivals and music.

- Talk about the animals that live in this country where the Akebu people live. Are the animals helpful to the people? Are the animals a danger to the people?
- What are the main spiritual beliefs of the Akebu people?
  - Have any of these people placed their faith in Jesus Christ?
    - Is there a church where these people may gather together to worship and study?
    - Do any Christians in this group face persecution, (treatment in a harsh or cruel way) for their beliefs?
- Ask your group of children if the Akebu people have any part of God's Word (The Bible), translated into their own language?
- Ask if they have any other Christian material?
  - Bible stories
  - Christian radio
  - Christian music
  - Christian drama
  - Christian audiocassettes
- Pray for the Akebu people group using the prayer points you have heard. Are the children able to think of other things for which to pray?
- Are there people groups in your country who are still waiting to hear the message of God's love for all peoples? Pray for them too!
- Are there children or adults in your group who might like to train as Bible Translators? A Bible Translator put the words of the Bible into the words of a different language.
- Review the names and countries of other people groups you have already studied.
- If a craft or color page is included this week and is useful for your group of children to work on, do it now.



# A

## Akebu

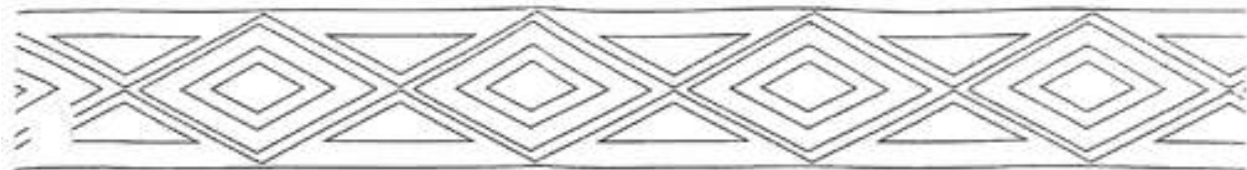
(AH-kay-boo)

The day begins just before dawn for Akebu school children in Togo. Boys and girls fetch water from the well before breakfast. They help with cooking chores and wash and dress younger brothers and sisters.

On the red dirt road to school the air feels hot and heavy. Insects buzz. A colorful bird whoops in a steamy forest nearby. The children giggle and dawdle and then race each other the rest of the way.

Now lessons are about to begin. Everyone is serious about learning. Some students worked very hard to earn their own school fees by selling vegetables or soap in the outdoor market.

*The Akebu people do not have the Bible in their own language.*



## THE AKEBU PEOPLE

**Continent: Africa**

**Country: Togo**

**Geographical Information:**

**The Akebu people live in the country of Togo. It is on the continent of Africa.**

- Togo is a long narrow country.
- Togo has a short coastline along the Atlantic Ocean.

**Can you find the country of Togo on the map of Africa?**

- The Akebu people live in a rainforest. God created rain forests. Rain forests are very thick, warm, wet forests. They provide homes for millions of plants and animals.
- Rainforests are important to our world. They produce much of the oxygen we need to breathe in our air. All people and animals need to breathe oxygen. Rainforests also supply food, medicine and clean water.
- Togo has many wild animals. It has monkeys, lizards and birds and many kinds of poisonous snakes. Wild elephants, warthogs, hippopotami, leopards and lions also live in Togo.
- One type of interesting wild animal found in Togo are Hippos. Hippopotamus are large plant-eating mammals. They live in swampy areas and alongside rivers on the continent of Africa. You will learn more about Hippos later in this lesson.

**Facts about the Akebu People:**

- The Akebu people live in the south western part of Togo. This region is the largest rainforest in Togo.
- French is the official language of Togo. Even if some Akebu people speak and understand French they still prefer to speak their own language.
- The Akebu people are very proud of their language. They want to use it in many different ways. They want to have books in their language. They want to use the language in their schools.

- Much of the clothing worn in Togo is used clothing from North America. For special occasions clothes are made from very colorful fabric. Most people have only one new outfit a year.
- Corn (mais), is a very important food in Togo. It is often ground up and made into a mush. This mush is eaten with a sauce.
- Very large yams are also eaten with a sauce made from vegetables.
- Sometimes a meat sauce will be used made from goat, sheep, chicken or bush meat. The most common bush meat is agouti. An agouti is a furry animal about the size of a small dog.
- The Akebu people believe in a supreme God but they also pay attention to many false gods. They believe these false gods are very powerful.
- There are very few Christians among the Akebu people.

### **You can pray for the Akebu people.**

- Pray that you might help share God's Message with the Akebu people. You can help these people by praying for them.
- Pray that other African Christians will share the message of God's love, (the Bible), with the Akebu people.
- Pray that God will allow the Akebu people to hear and accept God's message of love.

## Togo Animal Studies

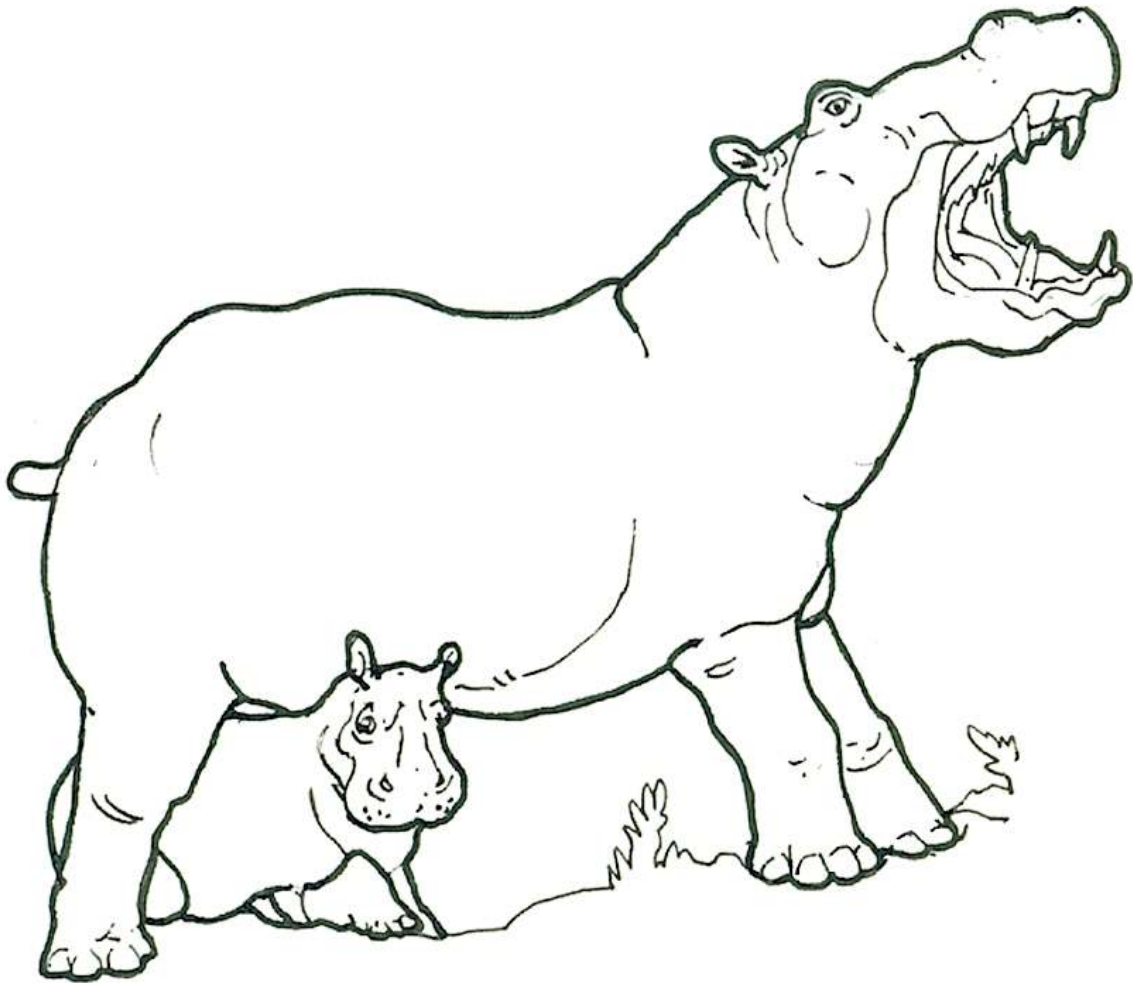
### Hippopotamus

**The Hippopotamus is a large plant-eating mammal. Hippos live in swampy areas and alongside rivers of Africa. The name means “River Horse”. If you visited Togo you might see only the nose and eyes of one poking up from the water.**

- These large animals spend most of the day resting in water. This keeps them cool and protects their skin from sunburn.
- The skin of a hippo also secretes a thick, oily, pink sweat to keep their skin in good condition.
- Hippos can stay under water for up to 10 minutes. They close their nostrils and hold their breath and swim or walk along the bottom of the water.
- Hippos are most active at night. They come out of the water to eat grass along the banks of rivers and swamps.
- A hippo has an almost hairless body and a huge mouth which can open 1.2m (4ft) wide.
- Mother hippos fiercely protect their young. They kill more African people each year than any other animal.
- Baby hippos weigh between 28-50 kg (60-110 pounds) when they are born.
- Baby hippos can swim a few minutes after they are born. A hippo can live 40 years.
- Hippos have large tusk-like teeth which are dangerous weapons when they fight each other or crocodiles. They also use the tusks to turn over boats traveling on the water.



## Coloring Page



**Mother Hippo and Baby**

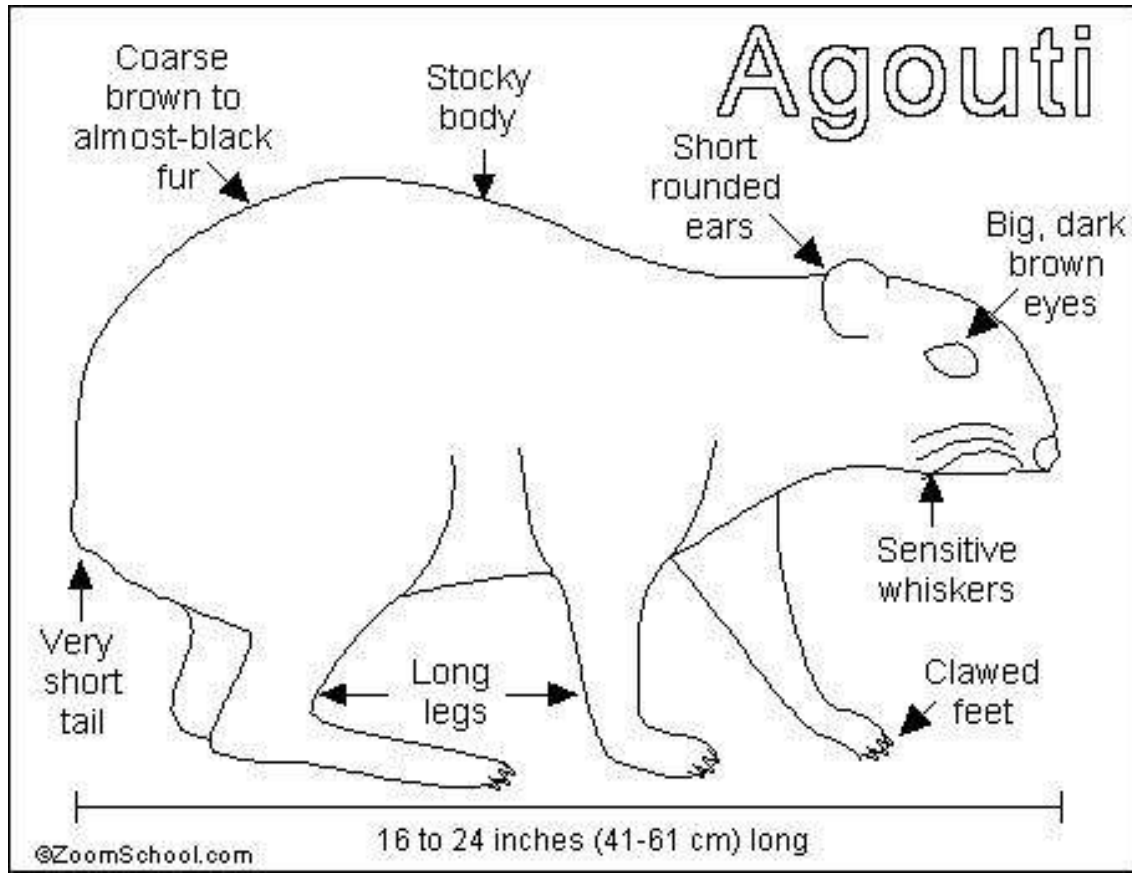
## Agouti

**The Agouti are plant-eating rodents that live in rainforests. They can run very fast.**

- God has given Agoutis' coarse body hair. It varies in color, from brown to almost black. This helps keep them hidden on the forest floor where they live. If they sense danger from other animals or people, they stop moving and are very still. That makes them very difficult to see.
- The Agoutis have a very short tail. They have small rounded ears. Their size may be from 16 to 24 inches (41-61 cm) long. They have long legs that allow them to run fast. They have clawed feet, sensitive whiskers and big, dark brown eyes.
- Agoutis are plant eaters. They eat things like fruit, nuts, seeds, leaves and roots they find on the rainforest floor. They help scatter the seeds so more plants will grow.
- Female agoutis give birth to one or two babies. Even newborns can see at birth. About one hour after birth the babies can eat leaves and already know to be absolutely still when in danger.



## Coloring Page



**Agouti**

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