

Reflection Paper: Introduction to Ghana

Ghana means *Warrior King* in the Soninke language. Ghana is considered as the Republic of Ghana where it is located on the Gulf of Guinea and the Atlantic Ocean in Western Africa. Ivory Coast is to the west, Burkina Faso to the north, the Gulf of Guinea and the Atlantic Ocean border Ghana.

Climate

The climate in Ghana is considered tropical where the West African Monsoon heavily impacts the weather. The latitude is between 4-12 °N. The tropical lands along the Gulf of Guinea coast. The rainfall is influenced by the Inter-Tropical Convergence Zone where it shows the level of seasonal temperature.

According to the *UNDP*, “the rainfall seasons of Ghana are controlled by the movement of the tropical rain belt (also known as the Inter-Tropical Convergence Zone, ITCZ), which oscillates between the northern and southern tropics over the course of a year. Seasonal variations in temperature in Ghana are greatest in the north, with highest temperatures in the hot, dry season (AMJ) at 27-30°C, and lowest in JAS at 25-27°C.”

History

Ghana was known as the Gold Coast where it became the first British colony in the African continent to reach its independence in 1947. Ghana became a member of the Commonwealth of Nations which President Kwame Nkrumah was in charge of Ghana's independence to change Ghana into a republic. March 6 is Ghana's independence. Accra is Ghana's capital and largest city. Ghana came from an ancient kingdom where it is located 100 miles in the northwest of the modern republic.

Music

The music in Ghana has all forms of music due the geographic of Ghana where it lands in the west african location. Highlife became Ghana's first and the most popular music genre. Highlife used the melodic and developed the rhythmic structures to combine the Akan music where it played and engaged with an Western instrument. Jazzy horns and guitars characterized the highlife music which requires an uptempo and synth-driven sound.

Conclusion

On the article, *Introduction to Ghana*, it helps the audiences to understand the experience of Ghana. I found this article very interesting because it guides the readers to observe the African Drumming class better to knowledge what this course stood for in order to participate to gain more critical thinking skills.

Sources

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