

# LEARNING ACTIVITIES: ©Gaye Adegbalola

## SONG #6 ~~ THE THANK YOU SONG

### FLAVOR: DELTA STYLE BLUES WITH SLIDE GUITAR

- At the end of the song, "thank you" is said in different languages in this order: French, Japanese, Spanish, Swahili, Mandarin (one Chinese dialect), German, Italian, Russian, Hebrew, and Arabic. See if you can call out the kind of language/dialect after each "thank you."

- Now try to say "thank you" with the song. Some of the pronunciations might not be perfect. However, it is important that everyone try to say the words as best they can instead of not saying them at all.

Several of the pronunciations are here:

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=OMXu5SobkvM&feature=related>

The words on the CD are as follows:

merci beaucoup = French  
arigato = Japanese  
muchas gracias = Spanish  
asante sana = Swahili/Kiswahili  
xie xie = Mandarin (one Chinese dialect)  
danke schon = German  
tante grazie = Italian  
spasibo = Russian  
toda raba = Hebrew  
shukran = Arabic

- Find a map of the world or a globe. First, find one each country for each language mentioned in the song. Some languages are spoken in many different countries -- especially Spanish and Swahili. See if you can find several countries that speak these two languages.

- See if you can find the flag of each country. The colors and design of the flag usually represent something special about the country. For example, the flag of the United States has 13 stripes to represent the first 13 colonies. It has 50 stars to represent the 50 states. Select some of the flags that you like and see if you can find what the flag represents. <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=d1rahaLQNSM&feature=related>

- In the song, many "compliments" are paid. Compliments are given when you show kindness, praise or congratulate someone. Many times a compliment can make someone else feel good about him/herself. It is important to see the beauty and

goodness in people instead of finding fault. Try to be positive and uplifting with your words. Look around you and see who you can give a compliment to. See if you can compliment someone at least 3 times a day. It is good to make people feel good.

- When someone does something special for you, it is really nice to write a thank you note or card. Do this for someone you'd like to give a special thank you to. It could be a parent, a relative, a teacher or maybe a friend. You can draw your own card or write a note.

- In the middle of this song, the singer "scats" -- that means she is singing without using real words; it is more than just humming. You try to make sounds similar to a musical instrument. Scat along with the singer; you don't have to imitate the singer, you can create your own musical sounds. Now try to scat with different syllables; for example using a "b" to make some "ba-ba-ba-ba-ba" sounds. Now try with an "l" for some "la-la-la-la-la" sounds or maybe some "lee-lee-lee-lee" sounds. See how many crazy sounds you can make by sounding like different instruments. It's really fun to be as creative as possible & still be musical.

### **SPECIAL LINKS:**

- **RORY BLOCK TEACHES ROBERT JOHNSON'S CROSSROADS BLUES**

Rory is one of the best present day slide players. Here she is teaching a song by perhaps the greatest delta blues player, Robert Johnson. She also shows how to play slide guitar.

[http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=iF5TDcNcxMk&feature=results\\_video&playnext=1&list=PLFFA8383769878923](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=iF5TDcNcxMk&feature=results_video&playnext=1&list=PLFFA8383769878923)

- **ELLA FITZGERALD & ROY ELDRIDGE SCATTING**

Ella is perhaps the greatest jazz singer ever and definitely the best "scatter" ever. Roy Eldridge, a famous jazz trumpet player, is scatting with her.

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TX-KDnKcCzk&feature=related>

### **SPECIAL VOCABULARY WORD: THE DELTA**

In geography, when looking at land, the delta is the flat area at the mouth of some rivers where the main part of the river splits into several smaller branches. The best known delta in the United States is the delta of the Mississippi River. Delta style guitar playing was developed in this area of the country.