

# Historical Princess Study Guide

## Njinga

### The Diplomatic Warrior

Name: Njinga (or Ana de Sousa Nzingha Mbande)

Born: 1583

Father: Ngola Kiluanji Kia Samba

Predecessor: Mbandi

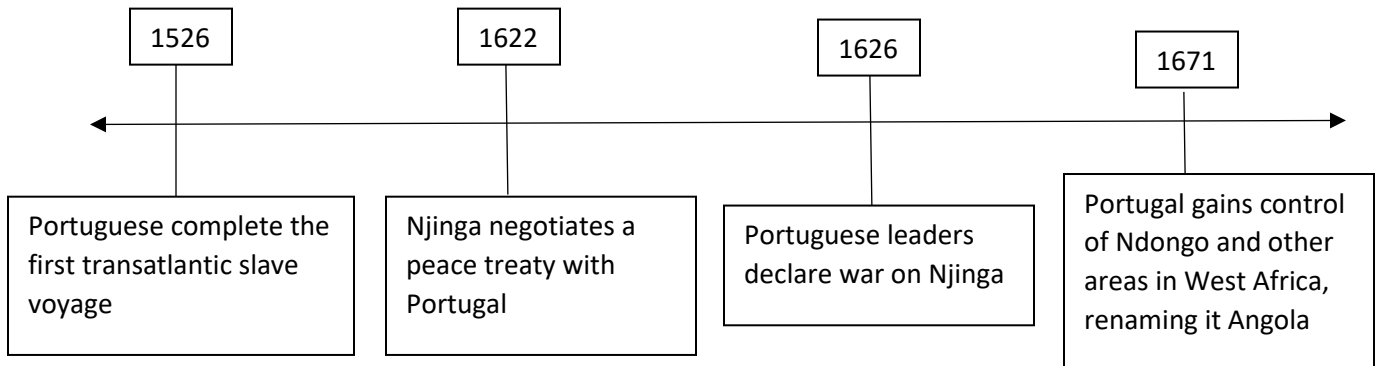
Queen of Ndongo: 1624

Queen of Matamba: 1629

Died: December 17, 1663



*Information above gathered from Wikipedia*



## Non-Fiction Book List

- Njinga the Warrior Queen by, Jane Havemeyer
- African Princess by, Joyce Hanson
- They Came in Chains; the Story of the Slave Ships by, Milton Meltzer

## Historical Fiction

- Nzigha, Warrior Queen of Matamba by, Pat McKissack
- The Pot of Wisdom; Ananse Stories by, Adwa Badoe

## Story Telling and Music

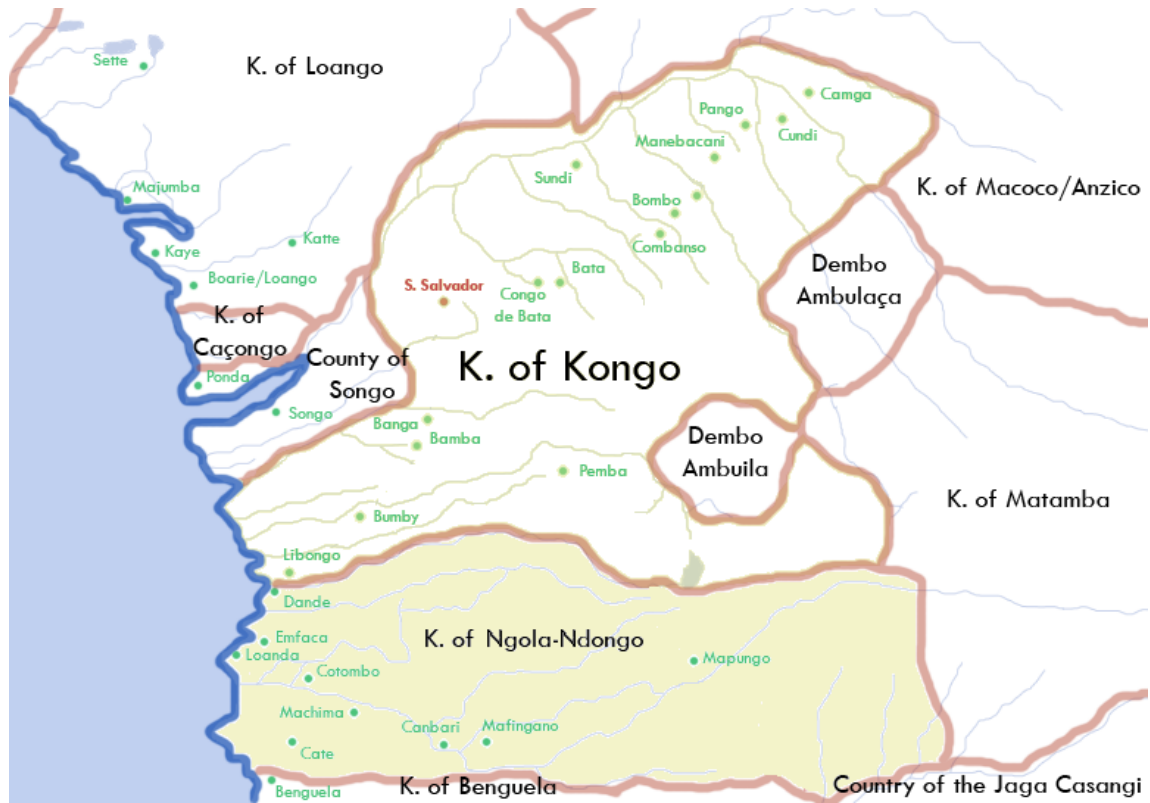
Oral literature (or orature) may be in prose or verse. The prose is often mythological or historical and can include tales of the trickster character. Storytellers in Africa sometimes use call-and-response techniques to tell their stories. Poetry, often sung, includes: narrative epic, occupational verse, ritual verse, praise poems of rulers and other prominent people. Praise singers, bards sometimes known as "griots", tell their stories with music. Also recited, often sung, are love songs, work songs, children's songs, along with epigrams, proverbs and riddles. These oral traditions exist in many languages including Fula, Swahili, Hausa, and Wolof.

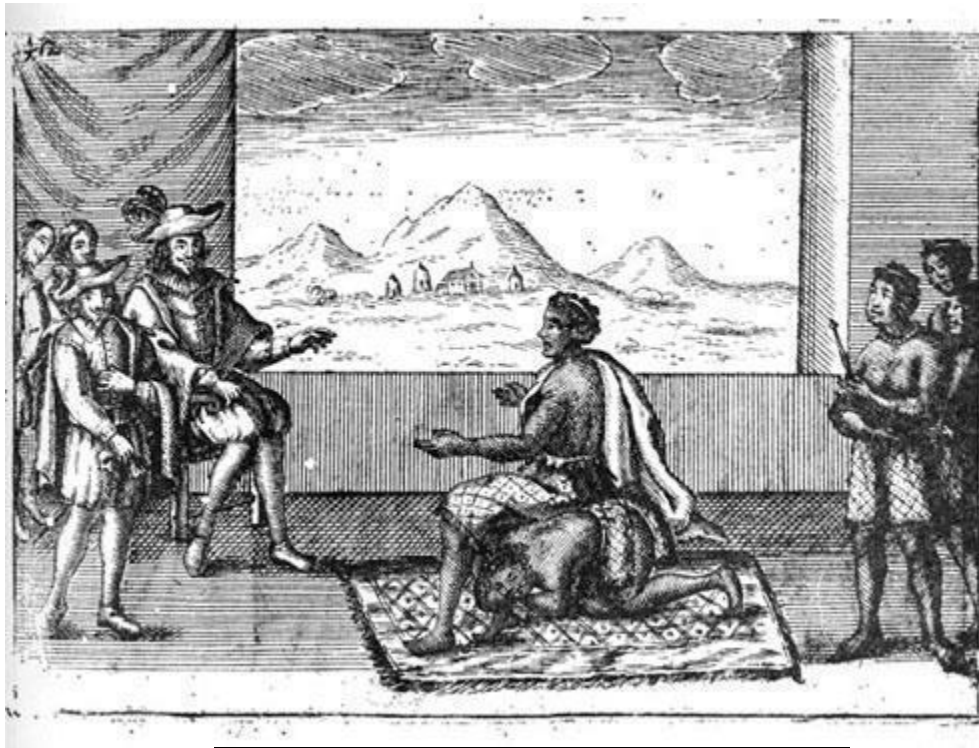
In Algeria, oral poetry was an important part of Berber traditions when the majority of the population was illiterate. These poems, called Isefra, were used for aspects of both religious and secular life. The religious poems included devotions, prophetic stories, and poems honoring saints. The secular poetry could be about celebrations like births and weddings, or accounts of heroic warriors [5]. As another example, in Mali, oral literature or folktales continue to be broadcast on the radio in the native language Booma.

There are commonly drums found in West African music. The main types of drums in Western Africa are the Djembe and the Talking Drum. Also an instrument named the Balafon is very often found in West African music, such as Yiri. There are String instruments found throughout the region. These include the Kora, Ngoni, Adjalin and the Xalim  
*Info found on Wikipedia*



# Maps





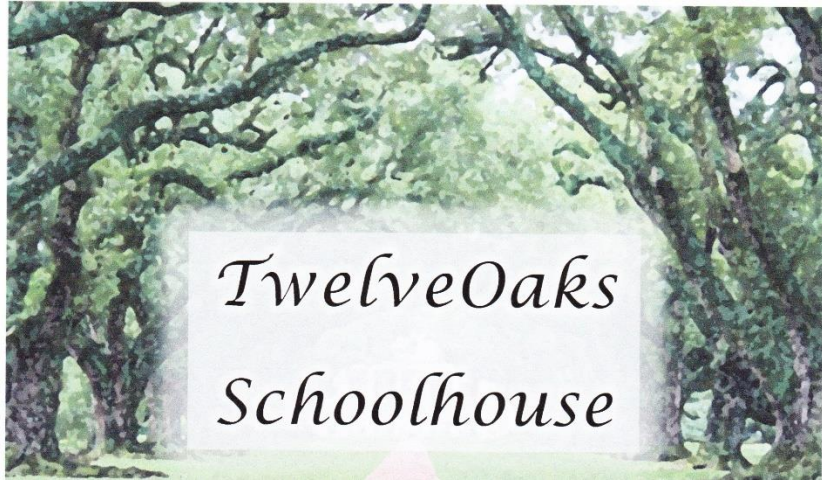
Njinga sits on the back of a servant while meeting with the Portuguese Governor of Luanda

### Discussion or Essay Questions

1. Describe the meeting of Njinga with the Portuguese Governor of Luanda.
2. Why did Njinga become baptized?
3. What mysterious circumstances happened to allow Njinga to become Queen of Ndongo? How did she become Queen of Matamba?
4. How did Njinga negotiate the return of her kidnapped sister?

### Activities

1. Make a more complete timeline of Njinga's life. Expand it as far back and forward in history as you like.
2. Read the stories of Ananse (The Pot of Wisdom), write a report.
3. Make your own Djembe (African drum). There are several examples on Pinterest.
4. Learn a few lines of Portuguese.



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*Kendra Bott*