

## What Is Panwapa?

Panwapa is a floating island that travels the five oceans of the world. In the Tshiluba language, spoken in the Democratic Republic of the Congo in central Africa, the word "**Panwapa**" means "**here on this earth.**"

So Panwapa Island is here, but also everywhere, and its inhabitants are simply "of the earth" citizens of the global community.

As the imaginary location for Sesame Workshop and Merrill Lynch's groundbreaking international initiative, Panwapa has a fitting name. It's a place where children from all over the world can explore and grow.

## The Need

Children today are growing up in an increasingly interconnected world. Consider your own community and think of the many ways in which the outside world touches you. Perhaps you get news from around the world, or maybe there are more varieties of people and languages in your community than ever before. Music and popular culture are also often from another country. Plus, the Internet is fast becoming an essential tool for children and adults to communicate and connect within an ever-shifting global culture.

Technology is drawing people across the world closer together, creating opportunities, and bringing about change. This interconnectedness is also demanding that children develop greater awareness and skills to navigate and thrive in the world. Panwapa is a multimedia initiative that harnesses the efforts of international educators and media producers to help children gain the perspectives and competencies that form the basis of becoming global citizens. We believe that today, more than ever, learning how to be a global citizen is fundamental to a child's healthy development.

Panwapa's educational goals are built upon five cornerstones that educators have identified as central to global citizenship. As young children experience Panwapa, online, in video, and in print, they will encounter these ideas presented in ways that are appropriate for and relevant to them.

## **What Does it Mean for Children to be a Part of Panwapa?**

### **1) Panwapa Kids are Aware of the Wider World Around Them**

It's difficult even for adults to grasp just how big our world is, and how many different types of people live here. For young children, it's even harder. This understanding begins at home, with an appreciation of themselves and their own culture. Recognising the amazing variety of people in the world follows from identifying and valuing the roles of oneself and others in the family, local area, and community.

### **2) Panwapa Kids Appreciate Similarities and Value Differences Between Themselves and Others**

Once children have established a sense of who they are, they begin to recognise that other people are both different from and similar to them. Panwapa encourages children to appreciate the things we have in common and to embrace the differences. After all, diversity helps make the world a more interesting place to live!

### **3) Panwapa Kids Feel a Sense of Responsibility for Their Behaviours**

Every child is part of a community, whether a family, classroom, local area, or country. In understanding the role they play within their community, and how their actions may affect others, children learn to take pride in and be responsible for their behaviour. This prepares them to be considerate citizens of the world community.

### **4) Panwapa Kids are Active Participants in Their Community**

In such a big world, how can just one person make a difference? Very young children can learn the basics of community involvement in a number of ways, such as cleaning up their toys, helping to put out the rubbish, or watering plants. Older children can become involved by helping to beautify their local area, assisting the elderly, and donating their resources to those less fortunate. Involving children in activities that model respect for others and for the environment prepares them to be proactive in effecting change within a larger community.

### **5) Panwapa Kids Understand and Respond to Economic Disparities**

Young children are often well attuned to the concept of fair versus unfair, right versus wrong. They can understand that people share certain basic needs (water, food, shelter), but that not everyone has what they need to live safely and happily. This understanding can be expanded into an awareness of social injustices (poverty, discrimination) and the possibility of social change (organising a food drive, recycling, re-building, re-planting). Recognition of our responsibilities to others in the world is fundamental to responding to economic inequalities.

## **Panwapa Online Activities**

From the Panwapa main page ([www.panwapa.com](http://www.panwapa.com)) children can access a variety of online activities.

### **1) Panwapa World**

Panwapa World features an interactive globe that children explore to meet and visit Panwapa Kids from around the world. Activities include: creating your own Panwapa Kid, Home, and Flags; collecting Panwapa Cards; searching for Panwapa Kids based on similarities and differences; and playing Treasure Hunt games.

#### **Take a Tour**

There is a lot to explore in Panwapa World. Before joining, children can take a tour to see how this world works. The tour, hosted by a resident of Panwapa named Azibo and his Panwapa friends, introduces children to the many exciting activities and adventures that await every Panwapa Kid!

#### **Join Panwapa World**

Joining Panwapa World is easy, fun, and free!

- First, choose where the children live from the drop-down menu. The place you choose will automatically be used to create each child's Panwapa Name.
- Then, ask children to think of a secret password and type it into the space provided. Keep in mind that this password must be between four and ten characters long, and should be something easy for children to remember.
- Please write down or print each child's Panwapa Name and password, and keep it in a safe and easy to remember place. Children will need their Panwapa Name and password to log back into Panwapa World and revisit all of the fun activities they will do there. We will not be able to send any of this information to you later.

#### **Panwapa Kids**

After joining Panwapa World, children will design their Panwapa Kid. There are lots of different body colours, eyes, mouths, hairstyles, shoes and outfits to choose from. Encourage children to play with different combinations to see which one they like the best. Each child's Panwapa Kid might look and dress like children, like someone from another culture, or even like an astronaut or a dragon!

### **Panwapa Homes**

After children create a Panwapa Kid, it is time to build a Panwapa Home. Children can choose the shape, building materials, and surrounding landscape for their home. Encourage children to try clicking on the different choices to see which home and landscape they like the best. After making a home, children can go out and visit other Panwapa Kids at their homes. Exploring Panwapa World is exciting, and it's easy to return home after travelling around the world. Clicking on the My Home button will always take children back to their Panwapa Home.

### **Panwapa Flags**

The next step is to create a Panwapa Flag, by choosing one favourite item from each of six categories: food, animals, sports, musical instruments, activities, and crafts. The six items will be displayed on flags in front of the Panwapa Home, telling other Panwapa Kids about some of the child's favourite things. The items featured on these flags will also be displayed on their Panwapa Card.

### **Panwapa Cards**

Within Panwapa World, Panwapa Kids exchange Panwapa Cards with friends. Panwapa Cards feature the child's Panwapa name, picture, and flags. These cards also include a pre-scripted simple message chosen by the sender, such as: "We like some of the same things, and some different things!" and "I like your house. Please visit mine!" Children can collect one Panwapa Card from each Panwapa Kid. Children can also collect other sets of cards, as described below.

### **Panwapa Islander Cards**

These cards feature the characters from Panwapa Island: Azibo, Tungar, Koko, Baabra and her lambs, Athena, and Bill the Bug! Children receive a Panwapa Islander Card when one of these characters comes to visit their Panwapa Home.

### **Rare Animal Cards**

These cards feature rare, fascinating animals from all over the world. Children can collect these cards either through a chance encounter in the animal's native country, or as a reward for completing a Panwapa Kid card set.

### **World Cards**

These cards show the name of a place in the world, its flag, and its shape. Children will automatically receive a World Card the first time he or she visits a new place. Children can also win a World Card by completing a Treasure Hunt.

### **Wild Cards**

These cards are very desirable because they can be used to complete any card set. It's not so easy to get a Wild Card, though; they only show up occasionally as a special prize for completing a Treasure Hunt.

### **My Cards: Visitors**

By clicking on the **Visitors** button, children will see a listing of all the Panwapa Kids who have visited and left them a Panwapa Card. To see a Panwapa Card up close, click on a Panwapa Kid in the list. To visit that Panwapa Kid, just click on the **Go** button.

### **My Cards: Collections**

By receiving Panwapa Cards, children automatically begin to complete various card collections: World Cards, Rare Animal Cards, Panwapa Islander Cards, as well as sets of Panwapa Kids who have some, all, or even none of the same favourite things as children on their flags.

By clicking on the **Collections** button, children can view all of their card sets. Click on any set to view the cards in it, or choose to view all the Complete Sets. In some sets, children can flip the cards to reveal parts of a puzzle! The completed puzzle picture may reveal a Rare Animal. Click on the picture, and you can go and visit it.

### **My Home**

This each child's home base in Panwapa World, featuring their Panwapa Kid, Home, and Flags. It also tracks Panwapa Card activity, and allows children to modify their Panwapa Kid, Home, and Flags. Children can update these choices at anytime and as often as they want.

### **Search**

By clicking on the **Search** button, children can look for all of the Panwapa Kids who like particular items, as indicated on their Panwapa Flags. Search results are indicated by colour, the darker the shading, the more Panwapa Kids who match the child's search. Children can zoom in to visit the home of Panwapa Kids who match the searched item(s).

### **World View**

Clicking on any of the seven **World View** buttons allows children to reorganise the globe by either Panwapa Flag categories or countries. For instance, if children would like to view the world organised by sports, the globe will feature "land masses" representing the communities of Panwapa Kids who like tennis, basketball, biking and so on. This view of the world will remain the same until children change it by selecting another World View.

### **Treasure Hunt**

To play a Treasure Hunt, children follow a series of clues to find Panwapa Kids. One clue leads to another, taking children all over Panwapa World. Children can find Panwapa Kids that match the clue by using the Search tool, by changing the World View, or by using Panwapa Cards. Treasure Hunts will get more

challenging with each hunt children complete. When children complete a hunt, they will win a very special Panwapa Card.

### **Information Booths**

As children explore Panwapa World, they will encounter "information booths" in some countries that feature fascinating cultural and geographical highlights about those places. Information booths can be found in Japan, Mexico, China, Argentina, the United States, the United Kingdom, Jordan, Lebanon, Spain, India, and South Africa.

## **2) Hide and Seek with Koko**

Hide and Seek is a game set on Panwapa Island -- Koko hides, and children seek! Choose a language other than one you speak. Koko will give children clues, including the name of her hiding spot in the selected language.

## **3) Panwapa Movie Play-Along**

The Panwapa Movie Play-Along offers an opportunity for children to view short films about real children and their experiences in different parts of the world. The topics of the films focus on access to different resources, including safe water, food, and education. In watching these films, viewers are exposed to the idea that children from around the world have the same basic needs, but live in different economic conditions. Hosted by Bill the Bug, this interactive activity allows children to play along and find moments in each film that highlight something special about the Panwapa Kid's experience. Then children can answer a fun poll question related to the movie and compare their answers to those of other kids in Panwapa World.

## **4) Panwapa Videos**

Panwapa Videos feature the Panwapa opening song and four stories that introduce children to the Panwapa characters as they build their community on Panwapa Island. These fun, musical stories will provide you with numerous opportunities to discuss ideas related to the goals of global citizenship.

## **5) Printable Activities for Panwapa Kids**

From within the **For Caregivers section** of the website, you can read and download print materials with creative ideas to help children extend the Panwapa online experience into the real world.

### **Panwapa Magazine**

The Panwapa Magazine provides information and ideas for caregivers to help

children get the most out of the Panwapa experience. The magazine features fun games and simple, everyday activities that you can do with children one-on-one or in groups. The magazine also has a Kids' Section that can be given to one child, or copied for many children to use.

### **Panwapa Board Game: Adventure on Panwapa Island**

Adventure on Panwapa Island is a playful introduction to Panwapa Island that gives small groups of children opportunities to co-operate and have fun. One unique aspect of this game is that children are encouraged to make up their own game cards. The more they make up, the better the game.

### **Azibo and Koko's World Tour**

Azibo and Koko's World Tour is an entertaining activity that involves learning about other cultures, people, and places.

### **Games Around the World**

Games Around the World includes traditional games from around the globe and instructions on how to play them.

### **Circle Domino Game**

The Circle Domino Game is a game idea that includes building a sing-along circle with Panwapa domino game cards.

From the people behind



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