

Sport and Culture

Introduction:

There are many Africans and Caribbeans who become immigrants in other parts of the world through sports. Many students go to North America on sports scholarships, and some black athletes are "bought" by European and North American teams, meaning they are paid money to leave their own countries and become citizens of those countries.

Many actors too have moved from Africa and the Caribbean, or were born to parents and grandparents who moved from there to other continents. Some of these actors are famous today. In this module we are going to explore their roots and their families' paths out of Africa and the Caribbean.

Here is a list of activities you will work on:

- KWL Chart
- Reading
- Listening / Video
- Summary

KWL chart

K	W	L
What I know about...	What I want to know about	What I learned about ...

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Reading

African immigration to Canada

In many team sports, it is now possible for sports teams and clubs to buy and sell players to and from other countries. Many countries have immigration laws that make it easy for top athletes to gain citizenship and become nationals of their countries. Footballers, and players of rugby, baseball, ice-hockey and basketball are traded between countries for large amounts of money. In order to agree to give up their homes and often their nationalities for a new ones, these athletes often demand very high salaries.

Many of these migrant athletes come from Africa. In the first half of the 21st Century, there was a large increase in the number of athletes leaving Africa for Europe and North America. At the Africa Cup of Nations soccer tournament hosted by Ghana and Nigeria in 2000 for example, over half the players were signed to a European football club, and left their countries. When the African Cup

of Nations was hosted in Mali in 2002, over 65% of the players were signed to a European club. In Tunisia, at the Africa Cup of Nations in 2004, over 67% of the players were signed to European clubs (Football for Development).

However, sometimes athletes that come from poorer countries, or from countries that do not do well in the sport they play, will trade nationalities just to get a chance to play for a country that is going to the Olympics or other big international tournaments.

One example of a migrant athlete is Patrice Evra. He was born in Dakar, the capital city of Senegal. His father who was of Guinean descent was a diplomat and his mother was of Cape Verdean origin. By birth itself, Evra was eligible to play for three countries - Senegal, Guinea and Cape Verde. He played for Manchester United and France.

Actors with African origins

There are also many actors who either immigrated from Africa and the Caribbean to Europe and North America, or whose parents or grandparents made the journey. The next section talks about 5 celebrity actors of African descent who are doing really well!



Chiwetel Ejiofor

English actor Chiwetel Ejiofor was born to Nigerian immigrant parents. He is famous for acting as Solomon Northup in [12 Years a Slave](#), for which he received Academy Award and Golden Globe Award nominations, along with the BAFTA Award for Best Actor (Wikipedia)



Idris Elba

An only child, Idrissa Akuna Elba was born and raised in London, England. His father, Winston, is from Sierra Leone and worked at Ford Dagenham; his mother, Eve, is from Ghana and had a clerical duty. Elba has acted in *Thor* and will star as Nelson Mandela in the *Mandela: Long Walk to Freedom* (Wikipedia)



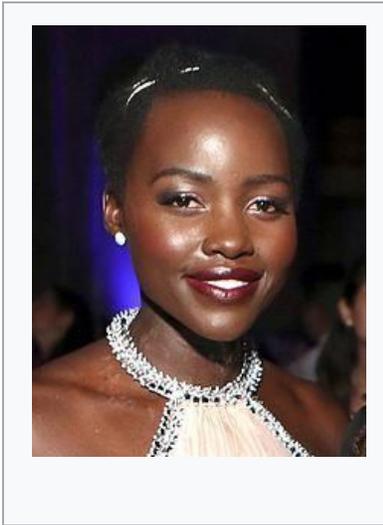
John Boyega

John Boyega is a British actor, known for playing Finn in *Star Wars: The Force Awakens*. He was born in London, UK to British Nigerian parents (Wikipedia).



Danai Gurira

Danai Gurira was born in Grinnell, Iowa to parents from Zimbabwe, when her father was teaching Chemistry at Grinnell College. When she was 5, the family moved back to Zimbabwe. She is best known for her role in the TV series *The Walking Dead* (Wikipedia).



Lupita Amondi Nyong'o

Lupita Nyong'o is a Kenyan-Mexican actress. She was born in [Mexico](#) to Kenyan parents and raised in [Kenya](#). She has acted in *12 Years A Slave* for which she won an Academy Award, and *The Queen of Katwe* (Wikipedia).

References

<http://www.movingpeoplechangingplaces.org/identities-cultures/sporting-diasporas.html>

http://www.footballfordevelopment.net/uploads/tx_drblob/storage/Poli_migration-of-African-football-players_01.pdf