Recommended African Studies Resources for Teachers
Compiled recommendations from participants in the Summer Teacher Workshop, August 2012

1. Websites
   d. Local news sources for individual countries
   e. Facing History and Ourselves - http://www.facing.org/
      i. *Combats racism, antisemitism, and prejudice and nurtures democracy through education programs worldwide.*
      i. *The Council on Foreign Relations (CFR) is an independent, nonpartisan membership organization, think tank, and publisher dedicated to being a resource for its members, government officials, business executives, journalists, educators and students, civic and religious leaders, and other interested citizens in order to help them better understand the world and the foreign policy choices facing the United States and other countries.*

2. Books
   a. ABINA and the Important Men - http://www.abina.org/ (graphic novel, expanded case study)
   b. Things Fall Apart by Nigerian author Chinua Achebe
   c. Nervous Conditions by Zimbabwean author Tsitsi Dangarembga
   d. Reading National Geographic by Catherine Lutz and Jane Collins
      i. Students read the book or chapters of it, then go to library and look up related articles, ethnography, objective study of culture
   e. King Leopold’s Ghost by Adam Hochschild
   f. A Long Way Gone by Ishmael Beah (child soldier from Sierra Leone)
      i. Captures students interest immediately (three teachers at the workshop had read with their classes, reading excerpts is also an option); Some criticisms and historical inaccuracies are possible, which shows students not to rely on one author for any topic.
   g. Turning Points in African Democracy by Lindsay Whitfield and Abdul Mustapha
   h. History of Africa by Kevin Shillington (combination of the earlier time periods and more modern history)
      i. Africa since 1800 by Roland Oliver and Anthony Atmore (challenge for HS students, good base)
   j. Africa: A Biography of the Continent by John Reader
      i. Good for the beginning of the year, teaching students why to care about Africa
   k. Equiano the African: Biography of a Self-Made Man by Vincent Carretta
   l. A Narrative of the Life and Adventures of Venture, A Native of Africa by Venture Smith (1798)
   m. Hungry Planet: What the World Eats by Peter Menzel and Faith D’Aluisio
      i. http://catalog.socialstudies.com/ - poster sets and curriculum guides
   i. Sunjata is a major African oral epic which details the exploits of its eponymous hero who started life as a gluttonous and slow-witted child and went on to defeat his greatest adversary and establish himself as master of the growing Mali empire. The tale remains central to the culture of the Mande-speaking peoples. The *Penguin Classics* edition contains two very different renditions of the tale, which have been transcribed and then translated from live performances by African Griots or bards.

o. *Home and Exile* by Chinua Achebe


q. *Baking Cakes in Kigali* by Gaile Parkin (based in Rwanda)

3. Films/Media
   a. “Shaka Zulu” – TV mini-series from the 1980's
      i. Most influential leader of the Zulu Kingdom
   c. “Time for School” PBS TV Series
      i. *WIDE ANGLE’s* unprecedented, award-winning 12-year documentary project, *Time for School*, returns in 2009 with visits to seven classrooms in seven countries to offer a glimpse into the lives of seven extraordinary children who are struggling to get what nearly all American kids take for granted: a basic education. We started filming in 2002, watching as kids first entered school in Afghanistan, Benin, Brazil, India, Japan, Kenya and Romania, many despite great odds.
      i. *Frontline/World* reporter Marjorie McAfee travel to Mozambique to meet Feliciano dos Santos, Afro-pop bandleader by night, non-profit health and environmental activist by day.
   e. *The No. 1 Ladies’ Detective Agency* by Alexander McCall Smith
      i. HBS TV Series – “The No. 1 Ladies’ Detective Agency,” based off of the novel; first major film/tv project to be shot entirely on location in Botswana.
   f. National Geographic Series on Africa (1996), 8 hr series captured over 2 yrs of filming in 11 countries

4. Other
      i. “Sub Saharan Africa in the Classroom” – booklet by Barry Mowell
   c. “Body Rituals of the Nacirema” – fake anthropological article, turns out to be Americans that they are describing, good for teaching about who’s telling the story will affect the perspective
      i. [https://www.msu.edu/~jdowell/miner.html?pagewanted=al](https://www.msu.edu/~jdowell/miner.html?pagewanted=al)
      i. Useful topic as a starting point for African Urban Development discussions
   f. Primary Source – Watertown, MA
      i. Primary Source promotes history and humanities education by connecting educators to people and cultures throughout the world. In partnership with teachers, scholars, and the broader community, Primary Source provides learning opportunities and curriculum resources for K-12 educators. By introducing global content, Primary Source shapes the way teachers and students learn, so that their knowledge is deeper and their thinking is flexible and open to inquiry.
g. Activity: which has more value – gold or salt? (Start to look at natural resources)

h. Poster: BU African Studies Center – “Do Africans See Wildlife?”

i. Hutu Manifesto – only available for researchers in the Genocide Archive in Rwanda, Graduate Student Erin Mosely will forward a copy of the manifesto once she arrives in Rwanda next month!