

BeingAfrican, LLC Curriculum-Lesson 23

Objectives

Upon completion of this lesson, students will be able to:

- 1. Learn some Bemba names and their meanings.**
 - 2. Understand some life situations Bemba names are deprived from.**
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The culture of Bemba names

Bemba people have the habit /culture of naming children relative to what is happening in their lives at the time. But some Bemba names are passed on from clans of great people or named after a family member who died or still living deemed to be great in the sight of the parents (with no meaning at all). Therefore most names tell a story in the history of naming the family.

Here are the names to illustrate this:

- o Chimwemwe - Meaning - Joy
- o Mapalo - Meaning the blessings of the Lord
- o Natasha - Giving thanks to God.

Examples of names passed on from clans, forefathers etc. no meaning, but hold royal importance because of being named after a great person or favourite uncle / auntie / grandfather or grandmama:

- Chanda
- Mubanga
- Mulenga
- Chisha
- Mumbi

Here are some common names often given with a religious reference to God-Lesa

Natasha	Giving thanks to God
Mapalo	God's Blessings
Mutende	Peace of God
Bupe	Gift from God
Malumbo	God's glory

Challenge Task: Find out the meanings/messages behind other ten (10) Bemba names you have heard among the people you know.

Also answer the questions below:

- o What does your surname mean?
- o Find out as many names of your extended family relatives as you can. Any Bemba ones??
- o What do they mean??

Word building-increase Bemba vocabulary

Learn Bemba names and their meanings. See illustration below and give own examples

Name	Meaning
Finshi	What is it?
Teka	Rule
Alichimfya	Victor

The culture of Bemba names

Here is a fun fact:

Bemba names carry meanings. Names usually refer to:

- 1. Circumstances**
- 2. Feelings**
- 3. Namesakes**

Names given based on different circumstances and experiences

Bemba	English
Shaishibe	What did I know?
Sekesha	Laugh some more
Londolola	Make it known or make it clear. Disclose
Sumina	Receive/Accept

Kapekape	The Lord's giving
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Names given based on feelings

Feelings	English
Luse	Mercy
Chimwemwe	Joy
Kutemwa	Love
Natasha / Kantashe	Gratitude
Chichetekelo / Bunte	Faith

Practise exercise

- What are the namesake Bemba names in your family?
- What do they mean?
- What does your surname mean