



Baganda People

Creators of the Organized Kingdom

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The Baganda is one of the largest tribes in Uganda. They are located on the northern and western shores of Lake Victoria in the east African nation of Uganda. The total population is about 3 million. The south of Baganda is the present country of Tanzania and the Kingdom of Baganda was by the far the largest of the former kingdoms. They speak a bantu language known as Luganda.



The Language

Luganda is a member of the Niger-Congo family of languages. Luganda is the primary language of Uganda since the 1960's when it was added along side of English which young children were being taught. Luganda is tonal, like many other African languages. This means that a word may have the same spelling but a different meaning based off of its pitch.

Ganda alphabet

A a	B b	C c	D d	E e	F f	G g	I i	J j
a	bba	cca	dda	e	ffa	gga	yi/i	jja
K k	L l	M m	N n	NY ny	Ŋ ŋ	O o	P p	R r
kka	la	mma	nna	nnya/ nna-yi	ŋŋa	o	ppa	eri
S s	T t	U u	V v	W w	Y y	Z z		
ssa	tta	wu/u	vva	wa	ya	zza		

Ganda pronunciation

Vowels

a	aa	e	ee	i	ii	o	oo	u	uu
[a]	[a:]	[e]	[e:]	[i]	[i:]	[o]	[o:]	[u]	[u:]

Consonants

b	c	d	f	g	j	k	l	m	n
[b]	[ɕ]	[d]	[f]	[g, ɕ]	[ɕ]	[k, ɕ]	[l, r]	[m]	[n]
ny	ŋ	p	r	s	t	v	w	y	z
[ɲ]	[ŋ]	[p]	[r]	[s]	[t]	[v]	[w]	[j]	[z]

The majority of present-day Baganda are Christians and are evenly divided between Catholics and Protestants. About 15% of the Baganda tribe are Muslims (the following of Islam). In the earlier days of the Baganda history the people of the tribe followed an indigenous native religion known as Balubaale. This was the following of gods of specific problems. For example, god of fertility, god of warfare. Some also used to wear amulets to block evil spirits because of the belief of witches and their ill intent. The Balubaale cult no longer exists but the belief in your ancestors visiting your dreams and warning you of the future is still quite common.



History of Baganda

Baganda was one of many of the principalities (small states ruled by a king) that was founded by the Bantu-speaking people in what is now Uganda. It was founded in the late 14th century and when the *kabaka* (ruler), Kato Kintu Kakulukuku, of Ganda people came to exercise strong centralized control over his domains, called Buganda.



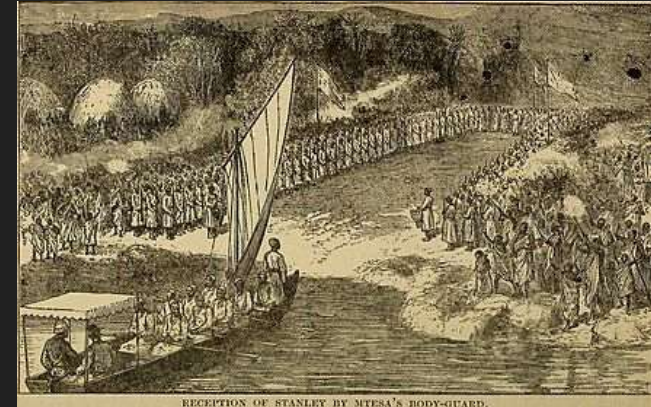
First *Kabaka* of Baganda

Present Kabaka of Baganda, Muwenda Mutebi II



Trade

Baganda participated in long distance trade. Until about the middle of the 19th century Baganda was isolated from the rest of outside world. The rivalry between Baganga and Bunyoro was tense because of the central African lake region which was a popular trading location. The trade for ivory became was popular before Christ but the demand increased in the 19th century. Ahmad bin Ibrahim introduced Baganda's *kabaka* (king) to foreign trade. He explained how the trade system worked for things such as guns, gun powder and cloth. BY the 1860's Baganda's was the place for caravans and the *kabaka* and his chiefs begin to dress in a cloth called mericani. This cloth was way more valuable than European and Indian cloth, and it was brought over by American trader. They payed for this cloth with ivory tusks.



RECEPTION OF STANLEY BY MTEZA'S BODY-GUARD.



Rites of Passage

Baganda has ceremonies and events for the different stages in life. When a person passes through the phase of a child they are considered *omwana*, youth are called *omuvubuka*, and man or woman are *omukazi*. When one passes they are considered *omuzimu* (spirit) and become a candidate for recarnation. At birth the umbilical cord is saved for a later date when a ceremony is performed and the child and the members of the families clan comes together so the child can receive its clan name. The learning of manner is mandatory for children of Baganda. Greetings and the respect of your elders is what they are taught. The fathers sisters are the ones who teaches the girls about sex education, the grandmother comes is and teaches soon after the female starts her menstrual cycle. She teaches them about marriage and their soon to be domestic responsibilities. In adulthood, marriage and the birth of children is a prerequisite for adulthood.



omuzimu



Women preparing for marriage

Relationships and Family Life

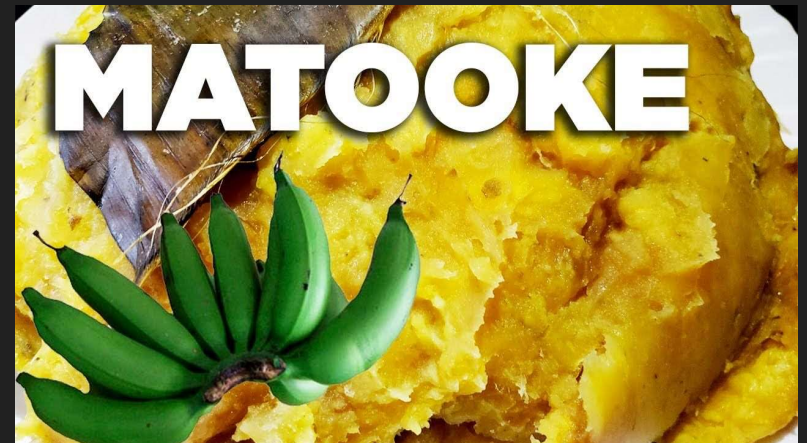
Women are not flatter but should make the man feel like he is the only one. Men are to flatter the women and present themselves in a positive manner. Affection is not to be shown in public by the man and woman. Dating and courtship are normal and started at a young age.



Staple Food of Baganda

Matooke

Matooke is a plantain that can either be steamed or boiled served with peanut sauce and meats. Certain proteins they have access to are eggs, fish, beans, chicken, goats, beef, and during the right season, termites and grasshoppers. The vegetables they have are cabbage, beans, mushrooms, carrots, sweet potatoes, onions and various types of greens. They make their drinks from the fruits they have access to like, bananas, pineapple, maize. They eat with their hands which is not uncommon in the African cultures.



Cultural Heritage

Music and dancing and performing are very popular within the civilization. The Kabaka's Palace was a place where royal dancers and drummer performed regularly. A small drum is usually obtained by each Baganda family, they use it just to play for things like cleaning or family time. Dancing and music starts young in the culture due to it being such a uplifting way to bring joy and enjoy their time.



Why I Chose Baganda

I chose Baganda because I had heard of the other civilization that would be on the list to choose from but I had never heard of Baganda. I'm glad I did choose Baganda because I learned about a new place and group of people. I learned about the importance of their family members and all the rights and wrongs when it comes to the civilization. Sometimes people have a negative look of countries that aren't our own, especially African countries, and it is important to not judge before learning the actual history of the civilization.

