



The illustration depicts a group of African dancers in a dynamic pose. They are wearing traditional clothing, including patterned headwraps, beaded necklaces, and colorful dresses. One dancer in the foreground holds a large, patterned umbrella. Another dancer in the background holds a large, ornate drum. The background is a bright blue sky with a yellow sun. The overall style is bold and colorful, with a focus on traditional African art and culture.

DIVERSE CULTURES OF AFRICA

SS7G4 The student will describe the diverse cultures of the people who live in Africa.

a. Explain the differences between an ethnic group and a religious group.

b. Explain the diversity of religions within Arab, Ashanti, Bantu, and Swahili ethnic groups.

c. Evaluate how the rate of literacy affects the standard of living.

Essential Question

How are ethnic groups different from religious groups?

ethnic group



religion?



Name:

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Cultures of Africa

Directions: Copy and complete the chart using the PowerPoint presentation entitled, "SS7G4" under links from my teacher webpage!



Ethnic Group	Language Spoken	Religion Practiced	Location(s)

Ethnic Groups

- Is a group of people who share cultural ideas and beliefs that have been a part of their community for generations. The characteristics they may have in common could include language, religion, a shared history, types of foods, and a set of traditional stories, beliefs, or celebrations.



Religious Groups

Shares a belief system in a god or gods, with a specific set of rituals and literature. People from different ethnic groups may share the same religion, though they may be from very different cultures.



Arabs

- Most practice Islam
- Speak Arabic, because it was necessary if one was to be able to read the Quran, Islam's holy book.
- Arab people began to spread into North Africa in the late 600s AD. Today Muslims are found throughout Africa. They make up a majority of the people living along the Mediterranean coast and in some countries along the Indian Ocean in the east.



Ashanti

- Religion: practice a mixture of spiritual and supernatural powers. Believe that all living things have souls.
- Live primarily in Ghana



Bantu

- The Bantu speaking people of Africa migrated in many different waves from the region just south of the Sahara Desert to the central and southern parts of the continent beginning over 2,000 years ago.
- Today the speakers of the hundreds of Bantu-related languages include many different ethnic groups, through they share a number of cultural characteristics.
- Many Bantu who settled in areas where there was a strong Arab presence are **Muslim**. Others, living in parts of Africa influenced by missionary efforts are **Christian**. Others follow traditional animist religions. Animists believe that spirits are found in natural objects and surroundings.



Swahili

- Religions: Islam and traditional religions
- Located: Coastal Kenya and Tanzania
- While the Swahili language is considered a Bantu language, there are many Arabic words and phrases included as well. The word Swahili comes from the Arabic word “Swahili”, which means “one who lives on the coast.”



Closing

What are the differences between an ethnic group and religion?

Ethnic Group	Religious Group