****Independence in Kenya**

*Freedom achieved after a violent rebellion*

Great Britain colonized Kenya in 1895. Many Kenyans thought the British had taken their land unfairly.

A group of Kenyan nationalists started a secret organization called the Mau Mau. This group believed that the only way to achieve independence was through force. They began a violent uprising against the British in 1952 that became known as the Mau Mau Rebellion.

The British response to this rebellion was ruthless, resulting in the deaths of thousands of Kenyans. Many more were imprisoned or tortured. Although the British won, defeating the Mau Mau in 1956, it was clear that the people of Kenya supported the nationalists.

Not wishing to fight another violent war, the British granted Kenya independence in 1963. Kenyans elected nationalist leader Jomo Kenyatta as their first president.

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| 1. Who were the Mau Mau?
2. If the Mau Mau were defeated, why did Britain choose to grant Kenya independence?
3. Who was Jomo Kenyatta?
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***Did you know?***

*Hussein Obama, the grandfather of former U.S. president Barack Obama was imprisoned by the British during the Mau Mau rebellion. It is not clear what role he had in the revolt, but he was reportedly beaten and tortured during two years in British custody.*

**Nigeria’s Independence**

*Freedom gained through politics, not force*

Many different ethnic groups live in the region we now call Nigeria. After the Berlin conference in 1884, the area became a colony of Great Britain. For many years the British treated Nigeria as two separate colonies, a southern province where they spent money building roads and schools and a northern province which they mostly ignored. This created resentment and conflict between ethnic groups in different parts of the colony.

After World War II, nationalist organizations began to form in Nigeria to seek the end of British rule. Many of the members of these groups had attended college in Europe and studied British politics. They realized that they could achieve independence by placing political pressure on their colonial rulers. So, they formed their nationalist groups into political parties and demanded that these parties be allowed to participate in the government of Nigeria.

Bowing to this pressure, the British gradually began allowing Nigerians to vote for their own leaders to be included in the government during the 1950s. By 1957, Nigerians had their own Prime Minister and by 1960 they were granted full independence.

Although Nigerians managed to gain their independence peacefully, ethnic conflict continues to be a problem for the country today.

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| 1. Why was there conflict between different ethnic groups in Nigeria?
2. What strategy did nationalist leaders use to gain independence? How did they learn this strategy?
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**Independence in South Africa**

The history of colonization and independence in South Africa is unusual. They were granted independence many years before the rest of Africa but aspects of European rule would continue until the late 20th century.

Dutch, French and German Europeans settled large sections of South Africa in the 1700s. These white settlers farmed the land and eventually formed their own countries. They developed their own distinct national identity, calling themselves *Boers,* and their own language, *Afrikaans*, a blend of Dutch and other languages. The Boers were proud and nationalistic, but were not always friendly toward their native African neighbors. Racial discrimination became a regular part of life in South Africa.

In the late 1800s, the British colonized South Africa and conquered the Boers, but only after fighting two costly wars with the white settlers. Some black Africans thought the British would eliminate discrimination, but this did not happen. When Great Britain granted South Africa independence in 1910, the white Boers were left in charge.

Even though South Africa was considered independent, black South Africans had to spend many decades fighting for equal rights. In the 1940s, the government started a new policy of racial separation called apartheid that remained in South Africa until the 1990s.

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| 1. List two ways that independence in South Africa was different from independence in other African countries.
2. Who settled South Africa in the 1700s?
3. Who are the Boers?
4. Which group ruled South Africa after it became independent?
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