



**Ethnic Groups
and
Religious Groups
in
Africa**



**What are the differences
between ethnic groups and
religious groups?**



Ethnic groups share –

- ❖ **language**
- ❖ **physical features**
- ❖ **customs**
- ❖ **traditions**



**Religious groups share
common
belief systems
BUT
are not necessarily a single
ethnic group.**

For example:

**Arabs may be Muslims or
Christians.**



Which concept relates to religion rather than ethnicity?

A. Kimba is Ashanti.

B. Mustafa follows the Quran.

C. Kemal is a nomadic herder.

D. Jambo speaks Swahili.

Shara is Arab. Why can't it be assumed that Shara is Muslim?

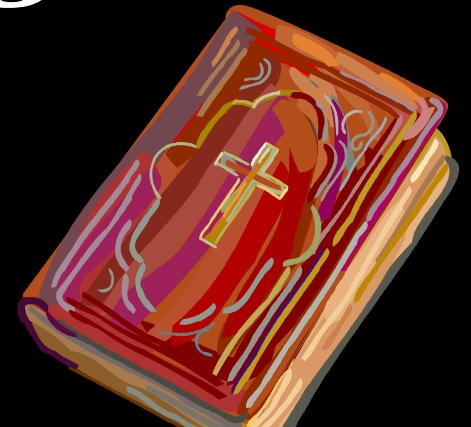
- A. All Arabs are not Muslim**
- B. All Arabs are Christian**
- C. Muslims are not Arab**
- D. Christians are not Arab**

***The main ethnic groups found in Africa are:**

- ❖ **Arabs**
- ❖ **Ashanti**
- ❖ **Bantu**
- ❖ **Swahili**



**What religion do the
different ethnic
groups belong to?**



**Many religions are found
throughout Africa.**

**There are Muslims,
Christians, and followers
of traditional religions.**

***A traditional religion follows a mixture of spiritual and supernatural powers. In some cases these traditional beliefs are combined with Christianity.**

**Arabs may be Muslims or
Christians. However in
Africa, Islam
is predominate.**

Ashanti follow traditional religions.

They believe that plants, animals, and trees have souls. They also believe in fairies, witches, and forest monsters.

Bantu follow a traditional religion. They believe in the power of their ancestors.

**Swahili are followers of
Islam with traditional
elements.**

* Arabs -

Islam or Christian, mostly
Islam

* Ashanti – traditional
religions

* Bantu - traditional religions,
believe in power of ancestors

* Swahili – Islam with
traditional elements

**Where do
the people
live?**

***Arabs are
found in
North Africa.**

***The Ashanti
live in West
Africa.**

***Bantu live in Central Africa and migrated to the area around the Congo River. They eventually migrated east to Kenya and south to South Africa.**

***The Swahili were found in East Africa, where they merged with Arabs. Now they are a mixed group from many backgrounds. They converted to Islam as early as 7th century A.D.**

Putting it all
together

**Where do the ethnic groups
live?**

**The majority of people in
North Africa are Arabs.**

Write **ARAB on your map in
North Africa.**

What makes Arabs an ethnic group?

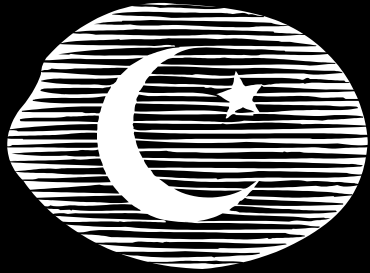
Arabs have common ancestry.

Arabic is the official language.

Write **SPEAK ARABIC on your map.**

Most Arabs follow the same religion – Islam.

Write



= ISLAM on your

map.

Extended families are common. Children and parents share a house with grandparents, aunts, uncles, and cousins, in an extended family.

On your map, write
Extended Family in North
Africa.

Families have fewer children
here. Write
2-4 children
on your map.

**2/3 of North Africans live in
urban areas. Write**

Mainly Urban

on your map.

Sub-Saharan Africa

**There are hundreds of
different ethnic groups.
On your map BELOW the
Sahara, write
Many Ethnic Groups.**

When Africa was ruled by colonial powers, European languages became the official languages of sub-Saharan countries. Most kept European languages as official languages after independence. Write

Speak French, English, or Portuguese

on your map.

Along the equator many people speak a common language – Swahili. It is a blend of native languages, Arabic and Portuguese.

Write

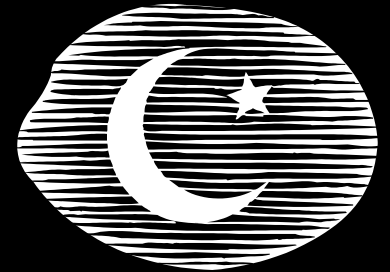
Speak Swahili

next to the equator.

Each ethnic group has its own religion. However, Arab traders introduced Islam to the area directly under the Sahara. European missionaries and colonists also introduced Christianity.

Under the Sahara write

Local Religions



Arab influence=



Colonial influence =

**Most people live in small
farming villages.**

**Some areas are urban, such
as Lagos, Nigeria.**

Write

**Some areas urban
on your map.**

**Over 2/3 of the people live
and work in rural areas.**

Write

Mainly Rural

on your map.

**Many people in farming
villages have large families.
In rural areas the family and
village all help raise the
children.**

Write

Village family

4-7 children

on your map.