

Two Kinds of Groups

Compare cultural heritage with shared religious belief.

SS7G4.a "Explain the differences between an ethnic group and a religious group."

NAME _____

DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB As you read, underline details that tell what connects an ethnic group. Circle details that tell what connects a religious group, then number one sentence that explains how the groups can overlap.

Groups in Senegal

- ① People belong to groups in different ways. An ethnic group is a group whose members share a cultural background. This background may include ancestry, language, history, customs, or traditions. In Senegal, the Wolof are one ethnic group. Many Wolof people speak Wolof, though they may also speak French or other languages. Not every person with Wolof ancestry has identical experiences, but shared heritage connects the group. Ethnic identity is not decided by one religion alone.
- ② A religious group is connected by shared beliefs, worship, and religious practices. Muslims, Christians, and followers of African traditional religions are examples of religious groups found in many African countries. A religious group can include people from many ethnic backgrounds. For example, in Senegal, many Wolof, Serer, and Fula people are Muslim. Their religion links them, even though their ethnic histories and languages may differ. Some people in one ethnic group also follow different religions.
- ③ Ethnic and religious groups can overlap, but they are not the same kind of group. A person can be both Wolof and Muslim. Wolof describes cultural heritage, while Muslim describes religious belief and practice. Two Muslims may have different ethnic identities, and two Wolof people may practice different religions. When learning about Africa, avoid assuming that everyone in one ethnic group follows one religion. Ask whether a source is describing shared culture and ancestry or shared beliefs and worship.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE _____ Use the passage

1 What kinds of shared background can connect members of an ethnic group?

2 What connects members of a religious group?

3 Why can a person be both Wolof and Muslim?

4 What does the example of Muslim Wolof, Serer, and Fula people show about religious groups?

3 YOUR TURN _____ Your own words

Complete the chart to compare the two group types. In the final column, give a specific African example that fits each type and shows what connects its members.

GROUP TYPE	WHAT CONNECTS MEMBERS?	SPECIFIC AFRICAN EXAMPLE

PART 1 • READ AND MARK

As you read, underline details that tell what connects an ethnic group. Circle details that tell what connects a religious group, then number one sentence that explains how the groups can overlap. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 • ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	What kinds of shared background can connect members of an ethnic group?	Shared ancestry, language, history, customs, or traditions can connect an ethnic group.
2	What connects members of a religious group?	Shared beliefs, worship, and religious practices connect a religious group.
3	Why can a person be both Wolof and Muslim?	Wolof identifies cultural heritage and ethnic identity, while Muslim identifies religious belief and practice.
4	What does the example of Muslim Wolof, Serer, and Fula people show about religious groups?	A religious group can include people from different ethnic backgrounds.

PART 3 • YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

GROUP TYPE	WHAT CONNECTS MEMBERS?	SPECIFIC AFRICAN EXAMPLE
Ethnic group	Shared ancestry, culture, language, and history	Akan people in Ghana share a cultural heritage.
Religious group	Shared beliefs, worship, and practices	Christians from Akan and Ewe backgrounds in Ghana share Christianity.

Accept equivalent descriptions that distinguish shared cultural heritage from shared religious beliefs and practices. For the chart, accept accurate African examples that do not claim every member of an ethnic group follows the same religion.