

Faiths Within Groups

Read how religion can vary within African ethnic groups.

SS7G4.b "Describe the diversity of religions within African ethnic groups."

NAME _____

DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK _____ Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline each religion or religious practice. Circle each word or phrase that shows differences within a group, so you can see why ethnicity does not determine one religion.

Many Communities, Many Beliefs

- ① Religion in Africa is diverse both across and within ethnic groups. An ethnic group is a community connected by shared heritage, language, or customs. It is not a single religious category. For example, Yoruba people live mainly in Nigeria and nearby countries. Many Yoruba are Christians or Muslims. Others follow Yoruba traditional religious practices, which may include honoring orisa, spiritual beings connected to forces of nature and human life. Some families combine customs from traditional religion with practices from Christianity or Islam.
- ② The Hausa are another large ethnic group, living mostly in northern Nigeria and southern Niger. Islam has been important in Hausa communities for centuries, and most Hausa people are Muslim. Yet religious life is still varied. Some people also keep local customs linked to family events, healing, or community celebrations. These customs do not mean every person believes the same things. A description of a group should avoid claiming that all members worship alike, because individuals and families may practice religion in different ways.
- ③ Among the Oromo of Ethiopia and Kenya, people may be Muslim, Christian, or followers of Waaqeffanna, an Oromo traditional religion centered on belief in one supreme creator, Waaqa. The proportions and local practices differ from place to place. In Ethiopia, some Oromo Christians belong to the Ethiopian Orthodox Tewahedo Church, while others are Protestant. This example shows why religion cannot be predicted simply from ethnicity or country. To describe diversity accurately, name several religions and use words such as many, some, or others instead of all.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE _____ Use the passage

1 How does the Yoruba example show that an ethnic group is not a single religious category?

2 Compare Yoruba and Oromo religious diversity. What religious choices are named for both groups, and what traditional religion or practice is named for each group?

3 Why would it be inaccurate to say that every Hausa person practices religion exactly alike?

4 Use the Oromo example to explain why religion cannot be predicted simply from ethnicity or country.

3 YOUR TURN _____ Your own words

Write exactly 3 sentences comparing the religious diversity of the Yoruba and Oromo. Name at least two religions or religious practices, use a careful word such as many, some, or others, and explain why neither group should be described as having only one religion.

PART 1 • READ AND MARK

Underline each religion or religious practice. Circle each word or phrase that shows differences within a group, so you can see why ethnicity does not determine one religion. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 • ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	How does the Yoruba example show that an ethnic group is not a single religious category?	Yoruba people may be Christian, Muslim, or followers of Yoruba traditional religious practices. Some families also combine traditional customs with Christianity or Islam.
2	Compare Yoruba and Oromo religious diversity. What religious choices are named for both groups, and what traditional religion or practice is named for each group?	Both groups include Christians and Muslims. Yoruba traditional religious practices may include honoring orisa, while Oromo traditional religion is Waaqeffanna.
3	Why would it be inaccurate to say that every Hausa person practices religion exactly alike?	Most Hausa people are Muslim, but some also keep local customs connected to family events, healing, or celebrations. Individuals and families may practice religion differently.
4	Use the Oromo example to explain why religion cannot be predicted simply from ethnicity or country.	Oromo people may be Muslim, Christian, or followers of Waaqeffanna. In Ethiopia, Oromo Christians may belong to the Ethiopian Orthodox Tewahedo Church or be Protestant, so one ethnic group and country can include different religious practices.

PART 3 • YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

Yoruba people may be Christian, Muslim, or followers of Yoruba traditional religious practices, while Oromo people may be Muslim, Christian, or followers of Waaqeffanna. Some Oromo Christians belong to the Ethiopian Orthodox Tewahedo Church, while others are Protestant, showing further variety. These examples show that members of neither ethnic group all practice religion in the same way.

Accept accurate descriptions that recognize more than one religion or religious practice within an ethnic group. Students should avoid absolute claims, unless they are accurately using words such as most, many, some, or others.