

Rwanda: Past to Present

Trace how a history of conflict shapes conditions in Rwanda today.

6.1.B “analyze the historical background of various contemporary societies to evaluate relationships between past conflicts and current conditions.”

NAME _____

DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK _____ Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline details about conflicts or divisions from the past. Circle present-day conditions, then draw a line from each circled detail to a related underlined detail.

History and Life in Rwanda

- ① In 1994, Rwanda experienced a genocide in which extremist leaders and militias targeted Tutsi people and also killed Hutu people who opposed the violence. Colonial rule by Germany and Belgium had strengthened divisions between Hutu and Tutsi groups by treating them as fixed racial identities. Belgian officials gave some Tutsi people advantages in schools and government, then later supported Hutu leaders. After independence in 1962, discrimination, violence, and exile increased fear and resentment. These earlier conflicts helped create conditions that extremists used in 1994.
- ② After the genocide, Rwanda's new government faced destroyed homes, damaged schools, empty farms, and many people grieving relatives. The country rebuilt roads and services, but survivors and people accused of crimes still had to live near one another. Beginning in 2001, community courts called gacaca heard many genocide cases. The courts aimed to reveal what happened, punish offenders, and help communities rebuild trust. Gacaca was not perfect. Some people said witnesses felt unsafe or that trials were unfair, showing that recovery after conflict can remain difficult.
- ③ Today, Rwanda has a growing economy and has expanded health care, education, and technology. Its government promotes a shared Rwandan identity rather than official labels of Hutu or Tutsi in public life. Each April, remembrance events honor people killed in the genocide and warn against hate. However, limits on political opposition and criticism have raised concerns among some human rights groups. Rwanda's present conditions show both links to the past: rebuilding and remembrance respond to genocide, while debates about freedom and trust reflect the challenges of preventing future violence.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE _____ Use the passage

1 How did colonial treatment of Hutu and Tutsi groups make later violence more likely? Explain the relationship.

2 Why did rebuilding roads and services not solve all of Rwanda's problems after the genocide? Use two details from the passage.

3 What problem from the genocide did gacaca courts address, and how were the courts supposed to help?

4 Choose two current conditions in Rwanda. Explain a different connection each one has to the country's history of conflict.

3 YOUR TURN _____ Your own words

Choose a contemporary society you have studied. Write 60 to 90 words that name a past conflict, describe two current conditions, and explain how each condition connects to the past. Use specific facts from class or a reliable source.

PART 1 • READ AND MARK

Underline details about conflicts or divisions from the past. Circle present-day conditions, then draw a line from each circled detail to a related underlined detail. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 • ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	How did colonial treatment of Hutu and Tutsi groups make later violence more likely? Explain the relationship.	Colonial officials treated Hutu and Tutsi as fixed identities and gave different groups advantages at different times. This strengthened divisions, fear, and resentment that extremists later used.
2	Why did rebuilding roads and services not solve all of Rwanda's problems after the genocide? Use two details from the passage.	Many people were grieving relatives, and survivors and people accused of crimes had to live near one another. Rebuilding buildings did not automatically rebuild trust or solve trauma.
3	What problem from the genocide did gacaca courts address, and how were the courts supposed to help?	Gacaca addressed genocide crimes and broken trust in communities. The courts were meant to reveal what happened, punish offenders, and help communities rebuild trust.
4	Choose two current conditions in Rwanda. Explain a different connection each one has to the country's history of conflict.	Answers will vary. For example, remembrance events respond to the genocide by honoring victims and warning against hate. Limits on criticism may connect to concerns about preventing future violence and maintaining trust.

PART 3 • YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

Northern Ireland's Troubles involved conflict over whether the region should remain in the United Kingdom or join Ireland. The 1998 Good Friday Agreement helped create a power-sharing government, so this current system responds to the earlier conflict. Some neighborhoods still have separate Catholic and Protestant schools or housing. These divisions show that peace agreements can reduce violence while distrust from the past can continue.

Accept accurate explanations that connect a specific past conflict to a specific current condition. For the open response, check that the student names one past conflict, two current conditions, and explains both connections using accurate facts.