

4/12 Do Now

In the American culture what roles do we innately assign or associate with gender.

Things Fall Apart



- Published in 1958
- Takes place in Nigeria in the late 1800s and early 1900s.
- Most renowned book published in English by an African writer.

Location

What does its location suggest to us?



Nigeria Today

- Nigeria today:
 - About twice the size of California
 - Population 131,859,731
 - About 3.6 million people have HIV/AIDS
 - Ethnic Groups (around 250 different groups)
 - Hausa and Fulani 29%, Yoruba 21%, Igbo (Ibo) 18%, Ijaw 10%, Kanuri 4%, Ibibio 3.5%, Tiv 2.5%
 - Languages
 - English (official), Hausa, Yoruba, Igbo (Ibo), Fulani
 - Religion
 - Muslim 50%, Christian 40%, indigenous beliefs 10%
 - Government
 - Federal Republic (President, Cabinet, etc...) and Islamic Shariah law
 - They have had many coups and political struggles
 - Capital City - Abuja
 - Literacy
 - About 60% of people age 15+ can read and write.

Now read “A Brief History of Nigeria” and answer the questions.

Chinua Achebe



- Born in Nigeria in 1930 as Albert Achebe
- Wrote *Things Fall Apart* in 1958
- Speaks out very strongly against racism in politics
- Was director of External Broadcasting in Nigeria from 1961-1966
- Served as editorial director for many years for two publishing houses, Heinemann's African Writers Series and Nwankwo-Ifejika
- Helped to start *Okike: An African Journal of New Writing* and the Association of Nigerian Authors
- Emeritus professor of English at the University of Nigeria, Nsukka and is Charles P. Stevenson Professor of Languages and Literature at Bard College

Beginning *Things Fall Apart*

- Why do you think Achebe begins the story the way he does?
- What do we know about Okonkwo, Unoka, and Nwoye?

Okonkwo, Nwoye, Unoka

	Okonkwo	Nwoye	Unoka
Physical Traits (age, appearance, etc.)			
Personality Traits (interests, dislikes, etc.)			
Other relevant details			

Review Okonkwo's family tree

Other Elements of our culture

Family Relationships (family make-up/members; child-rearing practices)

Rites of Passage

Weddings

Funerals

Religion/spirituality (deity, places/methods of worship, major holidays/celebrations)

Governing system (laws/punishments, legal body, political gathering)

Gender & Class Roles

Arts & Entertainment

Religion

Rites of passage

Funerals

Weddings

Gender/Class Roles

Arts & Entertainment

Governing System

Family Relationship

Homework

Read Chapters 5-7 and look up the etymology of your name.

Please have the etymology of your name written down. (For Wednesday)

Copy notes from the blog on Nigeria and Chinua Achebe.

Read and answer questions on “A Brief History of Nigeria.”

Ms. LeeKeenan’s blog is:

enamoredwithenglish.yolasite.com (then click the tenth grade tab)