

# Ethnic and Religious Groups

## What is the difference?



# Ethnic & Religious Groups

*What is the  
difference between  
an ethnic group and  
a religious group?*

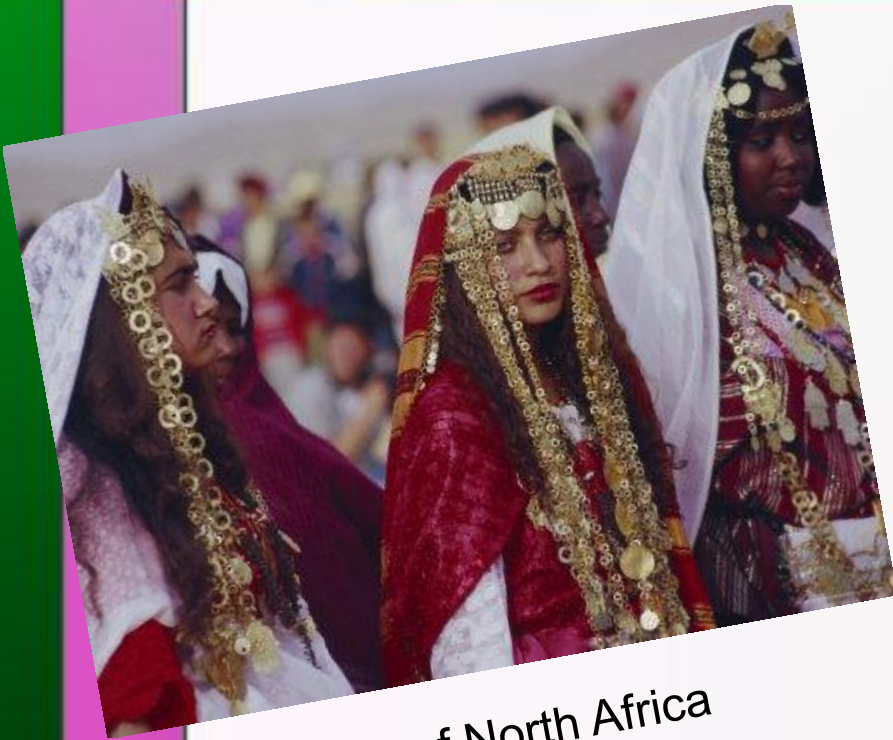
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# Ethnic Group

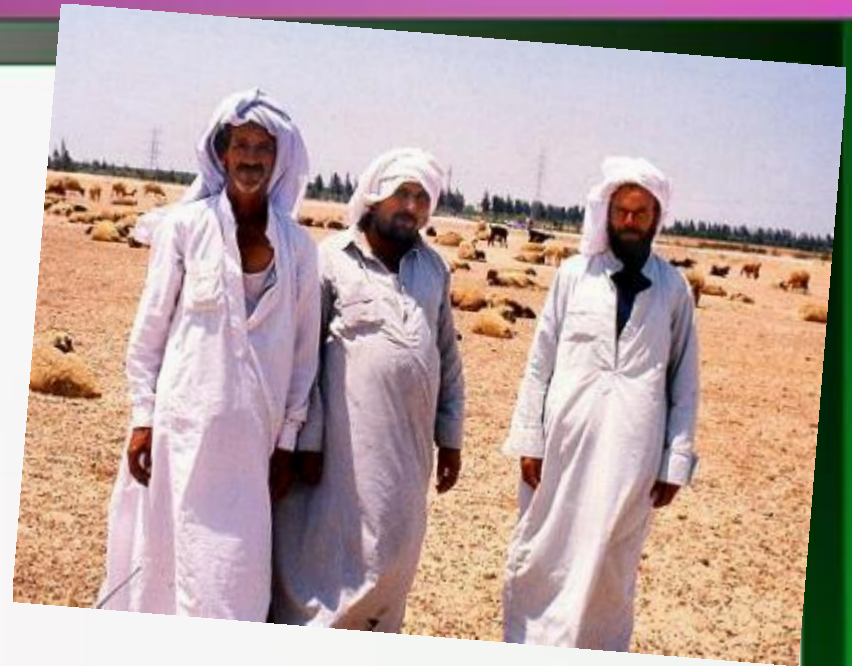
- Group of humans whose members share a common history, ancestry, language, culture, religion, and/or physical appearance



# Examples of ethnic groups ...



Berbers of North Africa

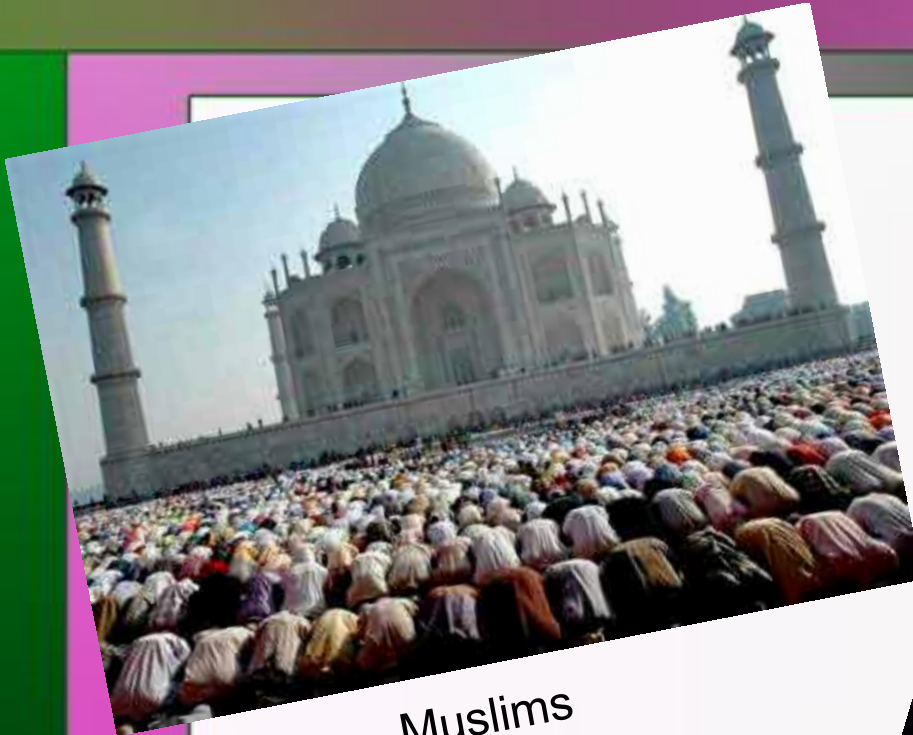


Bedouins  
Nomadic people of the  
Sahara

# RELIGIOUS GROUP

- **A set of individuals who share common religious beliefs, practices, and/or rituals**

# Examples of religious groups ...



Muslims



Hindus

# Let's compare the two ...

- Ethnic Group
  - What you are
  - You can't change
  - You can't choose
- Religious Group
  - What you choose to believe in
  - You can change
  - You can choose

## Your turn ...

Look at the following examples and determine if the group would be an ethnic group OR a religious group.



# Your turn ...

This group of people have been farming the same region of Africa for generations, still practice the same marriage rituals that their ancestors practiced, and still wear the same colorful clothing that their ancestors wore. Would this be an example of an ethnic group or religious group?

# Your turn ...

Although from different regions of Africa, this group of people worship on the same day, pray to the same god, and practice the same spiritual rituals. Is this an example of an ethnic group or a religious group?

Now that we know the difference between an ethnic group and a religious group, let's take a look at a few found in Africa.

# Ethnic group OR religious group



Let's look at some  
groups of the  
Middle East



# KURDS





Spread  
across  
remote  
sections of  
Turkey,  
Iran, Syria  
and Iraq-  
collectively  
these  
regions are  
called  
**Kurdistan**

Most are **Sunni Muslims**, however, those in  
Iran are **Shiite**

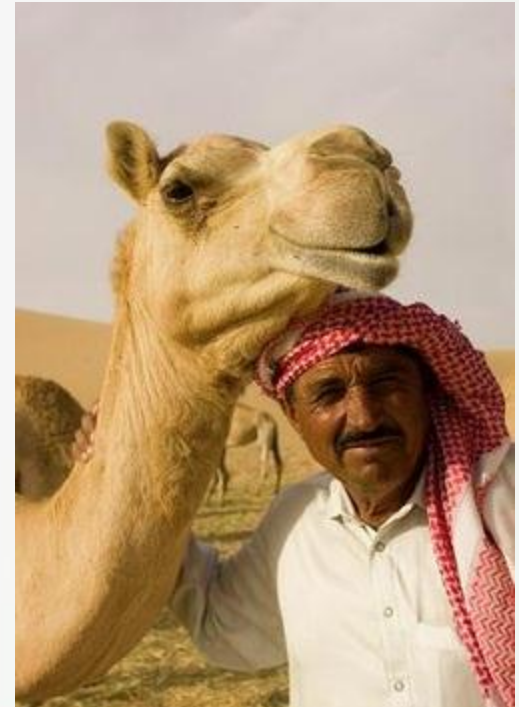


Speak **Kurdish**

# ARABS

# العرب

- Live throughout Middle East and Africa
- Religion – Islam
- Speak – Arabic





# PERSIANS

- Live in Iran
- speak the Persian language
- One of the oldest languages still spoken today!





Persia was the official name of Iran until 1935.



Persians are descendants of Aryan tribes that migrated to this area from Central Asia and later formed the great Persian Empire

Today, most Persians live in Iran...



and most are Shi'ite Muslims.

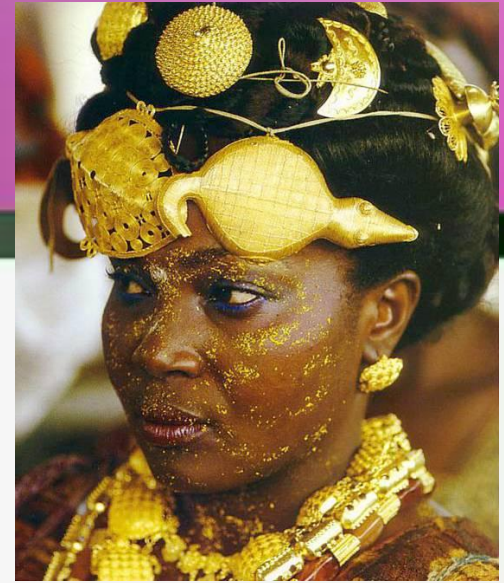


# Ethnic Groups of Africa



# Ashanti

- Live in central Ghana
- Religion –
  - spiritual and supernatural powers
  - Plants, animals, and trees have souls (animist)
  - Believe in fairies, witches, and forest monsters



# Bantu



- Central and southern Africa
- Made up of hundreds of smaller ethnic groups such as the Zulu and Kikuyu
- Swahili the most common language
- Religion differs with region ...
  - example –
    - Bantu of Somalia are Islamic ...
    - Bantu of Kenya are Christian
    - Some Bantu are animist (belief that natural objects have souls)





# Swahili

- Found mostly in eastern region of Africa
- Swahili language – mix of Arabic and Bantu
- Religion – Islam

