

Step 1 →
HOMEWORK

Take out your Lit Circle Packet.
Turn to Chapter 5-7 Analysis.

Step 2 →
Notes heading

Write down title & date.

Chapter 5-7

A Day: 1/15/16

B Day: 1/19/15

Step 3 →
Start the **Welcome Work**

Journal #4: Free Write (Page 11)
• **Optional: Reflect on Martin Luther King, Jr.**

Song of the day: "Somebody to Love" by Glee (not as good as Queen. Just saying)

Contraction Check: When you smash together words, you need put in an apostrophe to replace the missing letters.

I + am= I'm

do + not= don't

Is + not= isn't

it + is= It's

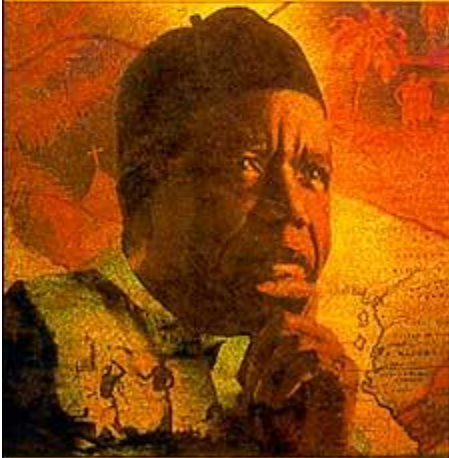
Journal #4: Free Write

Optional: Reflect on Martin Luther King, Jr.

CHINUA

The Classic Bestseller with More Than 2 Million Copies in Print

THINGS
FALL
APART



"Chinua Achebe is gloriously gifted with the magic of an ebullient, generous, great talent."—*Nadine Gordimer*

ACHEBE

An Introduction to Things Fall Apart

Chinua Achebe (Shin'wa Ach-ab-ba)

- Born 1930 in Nigeria
- Writes about the breakdown of traditional African Culture in the face of European Colonization in the 1800s.
- Sought to educate his fellow Nigerians about their culture and traditions.



Chinua Achebe,
Charles P. Stevenson Jr. Professor of Languages
and Literature at Bard College.

Author's Purpose

His first novel, *Things Fall Apart*, depicts the confrontation between the Igbo people of Southeast Nigeria and the British who came to colonize them.

“Achebe tells the story from an African point of view, showing that the Igbo were not “savages” needing to be civilized, as the European conquerors believed, but intelligent human beings with a stable, ordered society and rich tradition.”

Author's Background



- Achebe was raised as a devout Christian.
- His father was a teacher in a missionary school.
- Achebe recalls that his family called themselves “the people of the church” and thought of non-Christians – including Achebe’s uncle, who still practiced traditional religion – as “heathen” or “the people of nothing.”
- Achebe later rejected this thought, along with his European name “Albert.”

Author's Work

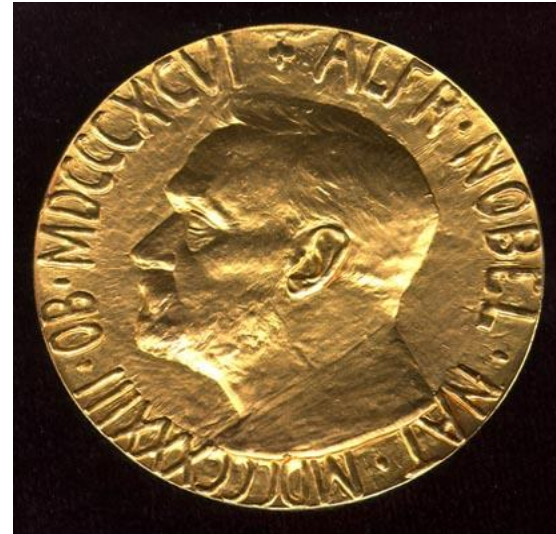
- Achebe left during the Nigerian Civil War of Independence (1967) to travel Europe and America to educate people about the cause.
- In 1990, a car accident in Nigeria leaves Achebe paralyzed. He accepts a position to teach college in New York state.
- He extends his stay in the U.S., due to the military coups in Nigeria in 1993 and recent corruption in the government.

Achebe's Style

Achebe blends a formal European style of writing (the novel) with African story-telling

He influenced other African writers and pioneered a new literary style using

- Traditional idioms
- Folk tales
- Proverbs



- Achebe is a *“social novelist.”* He believes in the power of literature to create social change.

Background on Nigeria

- History dates to Nok culture of 400 B.C.
- The Niger River divides country into three major regions. The country is as large as Texas, Louisiana and Mississippi combined.



Nigeria! Maps



Background on Nigeria

- There are over 100 million people in Nigeria today. The Igbo people are the third largest ethnic group.
- The Igbo people live in the eastern region – where *Things Fall Apart* is set – near town of Onitsha.
- The Yoruba live in the west and the Hausa-Fulani, an Islamic people, live in the north.

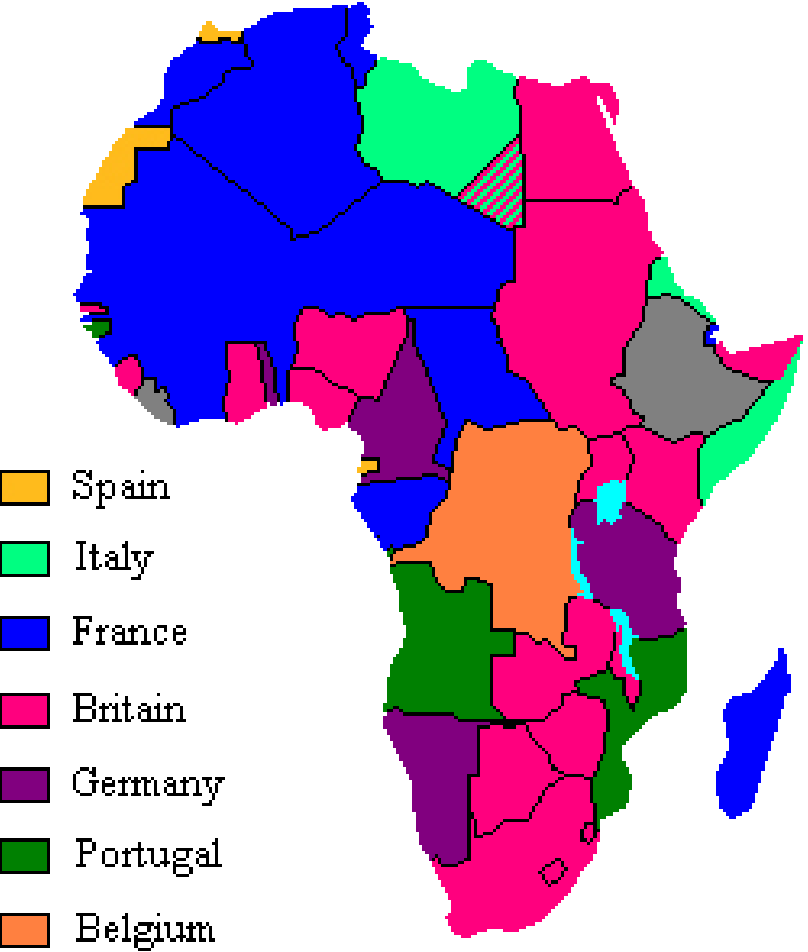
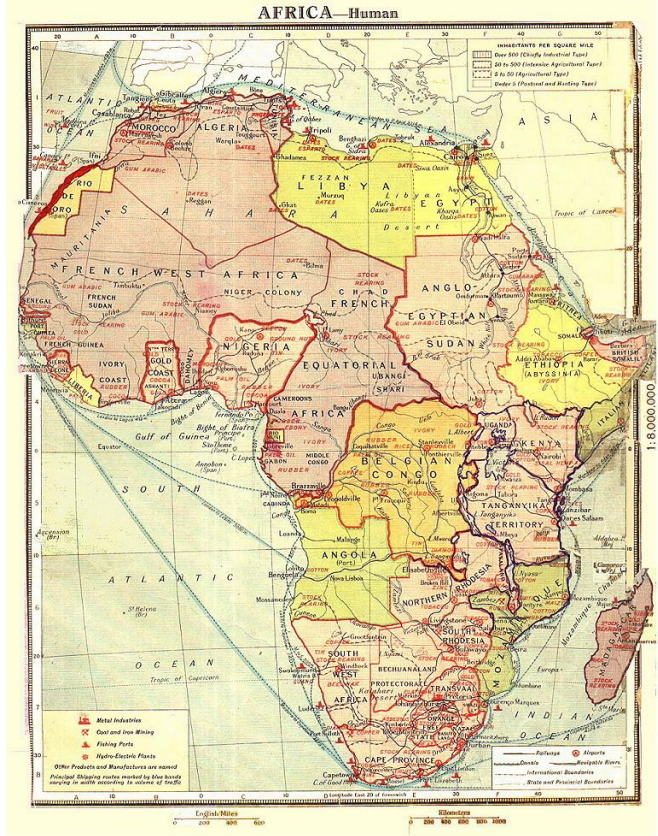


Background on Nigeria

- Nigeria was a center of the European slave trade for many years – a dangerous and lucrative business.
- It was colonized by Great Britain during the time of imperialism (18th and 19th centuries) and finally granted its independence by Great Britain in 1914.



Europe Colonizes Africa



- Spain
- Italy
- France
- Britain
- Germany
- Portugal
- Belgium

The Igbo

- Third most populous ethnic group in Nigeria (16% of population)
- Live in southeastern part of country in tropical rain forests (deal with rainy season and dry winds)
- Subsistence farmers – raise their own crops:
 - Yam, cassava, taro, corn, etc.
 - Palm trees for oil and fiber
 - Crafts and manual labor also provide income



Igbo Culture

- It is a patriarchal society. Decision making involves males only
- Men grow yams and women grow other crops
- Live in villages based on male lineage – male heads of household all related on father's side (approximately 5,000 people per clan)
- Women go to live with husbands; prosperous men have 2 or 3 wives
 - Each wife lives in her own hut in the family compound



Igbo Images

Traditional
Obi – hut or
family compound
under construction



Igbo Society

- No single leader, elders lead
- Social mobility: Titles earned (not inherited). High value placed on individual achievement.
- Hospitality very important

- Some Igbos owned slaves captured in war or as payment for debt.
- Proximity to West African ports means many Igbo were taken in slave trade

Ibo Religion

- Chukwu – supreme god, creator of world
 - The will of gods was revealed through oracles.
 - Each clan, village, and household had protective ancestral spirits
- Chi – personal guardian spirit – affects one's destiny, can be influenced through individual actions and rituals.
- Egwugwu – masked, ancestral spirits of the clan who appear during certain rituals.

Igbo Images

Villager performing
role of egwugwu



Igbo Images

Traditional *dibia*, a
medicine man or
healer.



Lit Circle: Chapters 5-7

- Golden Yam moment → Notecard
- Peer Assessment

Applied Practice Questions

HOMEWORK: A Day

- Due Wednesday, January 20
 - Read Chapters 8-10
 - Chapters 8-10 Analysis