

Name _____

Date _____

African Proverbs

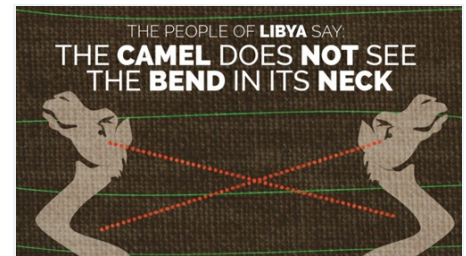
Use the text to answer each question below.

1. Most African history, stories and knowledge weren't passed down through books, but via family members, singers and storytellers. Virtually all of Africa's many cultures, as well as cultures around the world, share a rich tradition of proverbs—little sayings that contain big wisdom. The proverbs from this song are just a few of the thousands and thousands of proverbs from Africa's history.

What is a proverb?

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|---|--|
| A. a type of saying that only Africans use | B. a short saying that contains advice or wisdom |
| C. family stories that people tell each other in Africa | D. a part of African history |

2. For hundreds of years, the camel was the car of the desert, and in many places it still is. Able to travel long stretches without water, it was the perfect animal for transporting people, food and goods across the seemingly endless sands of the Sahara. In Libya, the camels have long necks that are curved sharply. Locals, who think the camel's neck is unattractive, believe that a camel cannot see its own "ugliness." But look how the camels in the graphic above are looking at each other's necks.



“The camel does not see the bend in its neck” means that

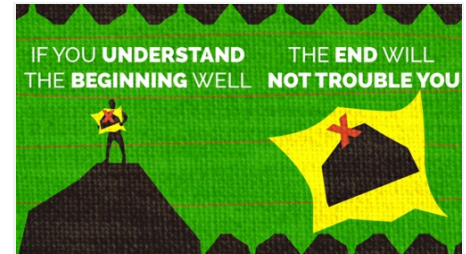
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|---|--|
| A. people should face forward and not turn around. | B. people should look up and be hopeful and not down and be sad. |
| C. it's easy to see the faults in others, but it's hard to see your own faults. | D. people should think a lot more about one another and a lot less about themselves. |

3. “Patience can cook a stone” is a Fula proverb. The Fula (or Fulbe) people live in many countries in West and Central Africa. Many Fula groups are nomadic, herding cattle and sheep across the African plains and live in grass houses that are easy to set up and take down. The Fula people eat all kinds of food, but they don't eat stones. This proverb takes something that seems impossible (cooking a stone) and says it can be achieved with patience.



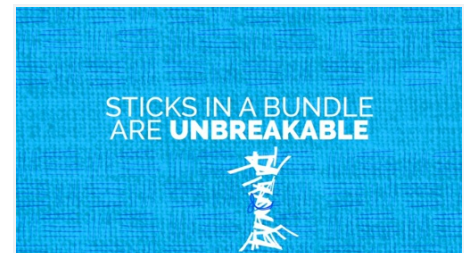
Which of the proverbs below is most similar to the Fula proverb?

- A. “A green fruit gets ripe slowly.”
B. “Everyone has his own burden.”
C. “A book holds a house of gold.”
D. “Absence makes the heart grow fonder.”
4. “If you understand the beginning well, the end will not trouble you” is a proverb from the Ashanti people. The Ashanti people are a major ethnic group who live in central Ghana. They have a long, rich history that includes the Ashanti Kingdom, which ruled the land around present-day Ghana in the 17th century. The Ashanti are a very proud people who believe that they have been chosen by God to do good in the world. They place a strong value on doing things well and not rushing or being lazy, and they value knowledge. Stories from ancestors are passed down every evening after dinner.



Where was the Ashanti Kingdom?

- A. South Africa
B. Morocco
C. Ghana
D. Egypt
5. “Sticks in a bundle are unbreakable” is a proverb from Tanzania. Tanzania is a country on the east coast of Africa that borders the Indian Ocean. The people there are a mix of original Bantu speakers and Arab traders who built settlements in the first century. They speak Swahili, but come from many different ethnic groups. Despite their varying cultures, the people of Tanzania know that sticking together is important, and that there is strength in unity.



“Sticks in a bundle are unbreakable” means that

- A. it's not always good when everyone agrees with each other because they can't consider other perspectives.
B. even if people have little power on their own, sticking together makes them very strong.
C. groups of people are easy to manage.
D. people who stick together are weak.

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- WHEN ONE IS IN LOVE, A **CLIFF**
- BECOMES A **MEADOW**

but potentially dangerous.
ly exist.

UNTIL THE **LION** HAS HIS OR
HER OWN **STORYTELLER**

- THE **HUNTER** WILL ALWAYS HAVE
THE BEST PART OF THE **STORY**