

## West African Communities: Family Roles

7<sup>th</sup> Grade, West Africa

Objectives: I can describe the social conventions of extended families, villages and communities in West Africa

I can explain the purposes of social conventions within communities

### Lesson Summary

In this lesson, students learn about the role that extended families played in West African village and community life. They are introduced to the family structure and social conventions of West Africa through a mini-lesson. Afterwards, students engage in a class discussion focused on the purposes of social convention. Additionally, students will be asked to make connections between the social conventions in their lives and the social conventions of West African life with a focus on how these conventions serve a purpose in communities.

### Materials:

1. Extended Families Presentation (Prezi format)
2. Extended Families social convention note form
3. Venn Diagram comparing West African extended families and your family

### Procedure

1. **Do Now (10 minutes):** What are the roles and responsibilities within your family? What would happen if the roles were switched between people? Would it matter who did what? Why or why not?
2. **Mini-Lesson (15 minutes):** Students learn about social conventions of extended families in West African villages. Teacher provides information regarding social conventions of the time period and students take notes on presentation.

3. **Small Group Discussion Questions (15 minutes):**

In small groups, students will discuss the questions below. Students will each have a responsibility during discussion. Questions will be projected, one at a time, at the front of the class. Student 1 will read the question out loud. Student 2 will answer the question. Student 3 will agree/disagree, question and/or elaborate on Student 2's comments. Student 4 will summarize what was said. Students will rotate responsibilities after each question is asked.

\*Do you think it would've mattered if women had done the men's job, or vice versa? How come?

\*What if there weren't any conventions or norms about who did what? What affect might that have had on villages and families?

\*What were the purposes of West African families and villages having very clear roles within their communities?

\*Would it be OK if a person didn't uphold their duties? Why/why not?

What are some of the social conventions in your household? What duties do you have at home? What duties do the adults in your household have?

\*Would it matter if your family did not have any conventions about who does what? How would that affect your family? How come?

\* What would happen if you, or an adult who you live with, didn't uphold your duties? How would this affect other people in your family? Why?

### **Summary Activity (5-8 mins)**

**With whole class ask representatives from each group to give brief summary/share of group responses to**

1. Do you think it would've mattered if women had done the men's job, or vice versa? How come?
2. What if there weren't any conventions or norms about who did what? What affect might that have had on villages and families?

Teacher brief summary of discussion about role of conventions in organizing social systems.

**Homework:** Students complete Venn diagram comparing the social structures of extended families in West Africa and their own family.