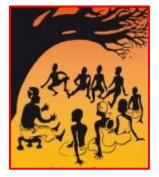
Social Studies

Name



AFRICAN PROVERBS

Proverbs are short, memorable phrases that give advice about life. Almost all languages have them. From ancient times people have argued about how to define a proverb. Here are some possible definitions.

- Proverbs contains wisdom that has been handed down from one generation to the next.
- A proverb is a short sentence or phrase that contains a general piece of wisdom.
- Proverbs express knowledge about life that are universally familiar to mankind.
- A Proverb is a saying that is easily memorized, and contains traditional beliefs about life.

Part 1 – Understanding Proverbs

 Write your own definition of a proverb. Use some combination of the bulleted definitions above, prior I some other approach, but do not copy another definition. Use your own words. 	(nowledge, o
2. If you had to choose one of the definitions listed by the bullet points, which one would you choose? Nun	nber
4. The word "proverb" comes from the Latin word <i>proverbium</i> , which was a combination of <i>pro</i> (put forth) <i>verbum</i> (word). How does your definition of proverb connect to the Latin meaning?	and

<u>Part 2 – Proverbs and Social Structure</u> – reading and thinking about proverbs can help us understand what people <u>value</u>. Read the African Proverbs below and answer the questions that follow.

- a. If you want to walk fast, walk alone. If you want to walk far, walk with others.
- b. You must judge a man by the work of his hands.
- c. A large chair does not make a king.
- d. It is better to be a lion for a day than a sheep all your life.
- e. When you educate a man, you educate an individual. When you educate a woman, you educate a generation.
- f. He who refuses to obey cannot command.
- g. If you think you are too small to make a difference, you haven't spent a night with a mosquito.
- h. Wealth if you use it, comes to an end; learning, if you use it, increases.
- i. In the moment of crisis, the wise build bridges and the foolish build walls.
- j. A flea can trouble a lion more than a lion can trouble a flea.
- k. Money can't talk, yet it can make lies look true.

Questions on back.

List two proverbs (just the letters) that most likely came from a society that valued equality and
Explain why you chose those two. Be specific
List two proverbs (just the letters) that most likely came from a society that valued <u>power.</u> and Explain why you chose those two. Be specific
List two proverbs (just the letters) that most likely came from a society that valued cooperation and
Explain why you chose those two. Be specific.
List two proverbs (just the letters) that most likely came from a society that valued <u>education.</u> and
Explain why you chose those two. Be specific
Explain how reading proverbs might allow you to predict what a society's hierarchy might look like. For example, could you predict where soldiers would be on a society that believed in proverb "i", or where farmers might be on a society that believed in proverb "b"?
Choose a proverb and relate/connect it to another society (not from Africa) that we have studied. For example: Proverb "C" reminds me of the people from, because
Based on your "connection" from the previous question, do you see a link to that society's hierarchy?
Explain the link