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| Name: |  | Date: |  |

## Preparation

* Download “Decolonizing Women”

## Purpose

This activity helps reveal the struggles that women in particular faced as they both experienced and attempted to throw off colonial rule in Africa in the twentieth century. Although women often faced harsher discrimination than men—the discrimination against them was based on both their gender and ethnicity—the story of their lives under colonial rule has frequently been overlooked. By comparing women’s involvement in anticolonial movements across different regions of Africa, you will see how the fight for equality is not something that is confined to the distant past but rather that it extends to today and continues to shape the lives of women around the world.

## Practices

### CCOT

This activity focuses on comparing women’s experiences before, during, and after European colonialism. You’ll explore continuity and change over time as you examine the impact of colonial rule in Africa and how it continues to shape women’s roles in society today.

## Process

1. Take out the Comparing Women’s Roles in Decolonization Efforts worksheet and download the article “Decolonizing Women.”
2. Read the article “Decolonizing Women,” using the questions in the Comparison Tool (included in the worksheet) to guide your reading. In addition, think about the following prompt, which you’ll use to outline a comparison essay at the end of this activity: *Compare and contrast the ways in which colonialism changed the lives of women in Nigeria, Egypt, and Algeria*.
3. After you finish reading, complete as much of Part 1 of the Comparison Tool as you can with the information from the article.
4. Your teacher will assign each student a number from one to three. All the “ones” will research Nigeria, the “twos” will focus on Egypt, and the “threes” will work on Algeria.
5. You’ll conduct independent research on the Internet to find information that more fully answers the questions in the Comparison Tool for how colonialism impacted the lives of women in your assigned region (Nigeria, Egypt, or Algeria).
6. Be sure that you are using credible (trustworthy) websites, such as those of reputable newspapers/news outlets, museums, libraries, universities, and journals. Find at least two credible and relevant sources for your assigned country.
7. Use the research cards included with the worksheet to organize and record your findings, and to track information for each source.
8. Once you have found relevant information from at least two sources, strengthen your answers for Part 1 of the Comparison Tool with your findings. Make sure you cite your outside sources in the tool.
9. Get into groups of three with at least one student representing each country. Work together with your group members to identify the similarities and differences between the experiences of women in each of these cases.
10. Write two thesis statements answering the prompts below. Remember that you can use the acronym ADE (amount, depth, and endurance) to help determine historical significance. Consider if these similarities and differences affected most women in these regions (amount); if women in these regions were deeply affected by these similarities and differences (depth); or if these similarities and differences were long lasting (endurance).
    * What was the most significant similarity between women’s decolonization experiences in these three nations?
    * What was the most significant difference between women’s decolonization experiences in these three nations?
11. Finally, use your thesis statements to outline a comparison essay in response to this prompt: *Compare and contrast the ways in which colonialism changed the lives of women in TWO of the following regions: Nigeria, Egypt, and Algeria*. Plan your outline as a five- to six- paragraph essay with an introduction, body paragraphs with evidence, and a conclusion. Your teacher will walk you through the criteria needed to construct this outline.
12. To wrap up, think about how the legacy of colonialism continues to affect women in these nations. Share your thoughts with the class.
13. Be prepared to share your outlines with the class and your teacher.

**Directions:** Use the following research cards to organize the information found online.

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Research Cards | |
| Title: |  |
| Author: |  |
| Name of website (if applicable): |  |
| What makes the author an authority on this topic? |  |
| What makes the website credible? |  |
| What information will you be using from this source? |  |
| Citation: |  |

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## Part 1: Identifying and Describing

1. Write the topic of comparison at the top of the chart, and then add the cases you’re comparing and their associated time periods and locations.
2. Respond to the questions in the Part 1 chart for each case you’re comparing. Use the resources provided.
3. After responding to the questions for each case, identify and describe the similarities and differences between these cases.

## Part 2: Analyzing

1. If you were going to write two essays about the similarities and/or differences you’ve identified for this topic, what are two thesis statements you might use? Write one thesis statement about similarities and one about differences.
2. If required, use your thesis statements to craft a response to the comparison prompt for this activity.

## Topic of Comparison

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|  |

## Part 1: Identifying and Describing

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| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Cases You’re Comparing |  |  |  |
| Time Period |  |  |  |
| Location |  |  |  |
| Community  What, if any, social privileges did women have in pre-colonial compared to colonial times? |  |  |  |
| Similarities |  | | |
| Differences |  | | |
| Networks  How did women work together to combat oppression? |  |  |  |
| Similarities |  | | |
| Differences |  | | |
| P&D  What role did women play in the economy before, during, and after colonialism? |  |  |  |
| Similarities |  | | |
| Differences |  | | |

## Part 2: Analyzing

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Thesis Statement 1: Similarities |  |
| Thesis Statement 2: Differences |  |
| Response |  |