

7.15 Examine the importance of written and oral traditions in the transmission of African history and culture

Oral Traditions

- Oral tradition means that the stories are spoken rather than written down
- Culture and traditions were passed down through storytellers
- It was the responsibility of the clan/tribe to teach the traditions and the ways of their people
- This was one way the children were educated

Oral Traditions

- Griots were people who remember the stories from the past and teach children about the culture through song, stories, and poetry.
- The griots were the tribe's historians
- African stories are usually performed with music and dance
- Because people hold these stories in their memories, sometimes the stories change over time (think about playing telephone)

Oral Traditions

- Every human culture has created stories to understand the world around them
 - Sharing human experience: to express or communicate emotion, feelings, ideas, and information
 - Passing on tradition and culture: storytelling, myths, legends
 - Recreational: drama for entertainment

Music and Dance

- Music is a very important part of traditional African cultures
- Music accompanies ceremonies and rituals (drums and strings)
- Music and dance are not thought of as separate; they are done together

Bantu

- Group of people who originally live in West Africa
- Migrated in search of fertile land
- Spread their knowledge of farming, ironworking, and LANGUAGE across the continent
- Today almost 1/3 of Africans speak a language derived from the Bantu

