



Things fall apart; the centre cannot hold. ~Yeats

A young Nsukka man wearing a mask circa 1900. © G.I. Jones Estate

Introduction:

We are all products of a culture; some of us are from traditional cultures, some of us are from hybrids, some from something in-between. In fact, part of the reason that Chinua Achebe wrote the novel *Things Fall Apart* was, as he said, to demonstrate that the Igbo people were not without culture prior to the arrival of Europeans. In Part One of *Things Fall Apart* Achebe explores the culture of the Igbo people prior to the arrival of Christian missionaries. As we seek to learn more about the Igbo people we'll be creating a bit of a map that illustrates (both in paragraph and in picture) some of the culture of the Igbo people.

Instructions:

In groups of 2 (not 3, not 4) you'll be asked to choose 5 topics from the list below. For each topic, craft one paragraph that details what traditions the Igbo people had surrounding said topic. Of course, some of the traditions change throughout the course of the novel (recall that the process of taking a title has changed), and you can feel free to illustrate these changes as well.

When you're done you'll have 5 paragraphs that explore various aspects of the the Igbo culture prior to the arrival of Europeans.

Requirements:

Each of the five paragraphs will have a **clear topic sentence**, **at least two passages that discuss or illustrate the topic**, **commentary** on the significance of the selected passages, and **elaboration** on the commentary. Citations will be **smoothly integrated** and will not interrupt the flow of the paragraph.

The List:

Newborn/Infancy | Childhood | Education
Marriage | Manhood | Womanhood | Adulthood
Religion | Leadership | Elders | Death