



Kenya Profile

CCSSR2—I can identify information that support an idea.

Geography: The Republic of Kenya is a country in East Africa. Ethiopia borders Kenya to the north. Kenya is bordered by Somalia to the northeast, Tanzania to the south, Uganda to the west. On the Southeast is the Indian Ocean.

History: Part of their history was a time of problems. At some times, other countries attacked to take over the country. There was much fighting. Kenya was made a British colony. That meant that Kenyans did not rule their own land.

The native people of Kenya believed in independence. They did not want to be a colony. It took years, but they got their land back. Kenya became independent in 1963, and the Kenyan people declared not only their independence but formed a country. They took the name Kenya as the name of their country.

Cultures: There are different groups of people in Kenya. It was not one country before it became a colony. Different groups lived in different places and had their own languages and ways of living. After independence, they joined together in one country, but they still have differences. There are different culture groups within Kenya. While they are from the same region they have different histories. Each has its own traditions. Traditions should be respected. While most people in Kenya speak and write in English because of the colonial years, each culture has its own language and history. There still are problems having a united country.

Leaders: Kenyans have much to be proud of, including a history of great cultures. The Kikuyu are one group in Kenya. They have lived there for centuries. When the area became a colony, one of the Kikuyu leaders helped bring about progress. That leader was named Jomo Kenyatta. He would become the first president of Kenya. Another Kikuyu has been a world leader. She is Wangari Maathai. She won the Nobel Peace Prize for her accomplishments to help people work together for progress.

Connections: In 2008, the son of a Kenyan was elected the President of the United States. Chicago has a very special connection to this African country.

EXPLAIN WHAT YOU LEARNED

What is an important idea you learned about Kenya?

Underline two facts from the passage that support that idea.