

Comparison of Ibo and American weddings

Mrs. Hanson

Is there an engagement period before the wedding?

Ibo Culture

- Men from the groom's family visit the girl's family
- The bride helps to serve a meal to the men so they can see her.
- The two families negotiate a "bride price."

American Culture

- There is an engagement period in America.
- A man usually proposes marriage to a woman and he does this by himself.
- The decision to marry is between him and the bride.

Is there an engagement period before the wedding?

Ibo Culture

- The girl has little to say about the arrangement.
- If the families agree, the wedding will be planned.
- “She gave the dish to her father’s oldest brother and then shook hands, very shyly, with her suitor and his relatives. She was about sixteen and just ripe for marriage. Her suitor and his

American Culture

Ibo Culture

- relatives surveyed her young body with expert eyes...”
(Achebe 71).

What happens before the wedding?

Ibo Culture

- The bride's family prepares for a celebration.
- Men pound the yams into foofoo and split firewood.
- Women help the bride's mother cook the feast of traditional foods (yam foofoo, vegetable soup, and goat).

American Culture

- The bride's family can prepare food for the reception or
- A cater can bring food for the reception.
- A photographer comes to take pictures of the bridal party and family.

What happens at the wedding?

Ibo Culture

- The bride's family hosts a large meal for the bride's village and the groom's family.
- There is no exchange of rings or vows.

American Culture

- Weddings often involve a religious ceremony.
- Most weddings involve the exchange of rings and vows.

What happens at the wedding?

Ibo Culture

- The bride and other women dance for the men.

American Culture

Where does the wedding take place?

Ibo Culture

- Takes place at the home of the bride

American Culture

- Can take place in many locations:
- Church
- Hotel or restaurant
- Barn
- Destination such as a beach

What happens after the wedding?

Ibo Culture

- After the meal the bride goes home with the groom; s family for a 7 week trial marriage.

American Culture

- There is no trial marriage.
- The bride and groom might go on a honeymoon

Ibo Culture



American Culture



Photo Credits

- American Wedding:
<https://wheatandtares.org/2017/10/03/wedding-traditions-sexist-nightmares/>
- Ibo Wedding:
- <https://encrypted-tbn0.gstatic.com/images?q=tbn:ANd9GcTf8qwUWBdEx9MKYAVry6rxGQZEHN0RzJMH7yUIhifoa-7ax5uq>

Works Cited

- Achebe, Chinua. *Things Fall Apart*. Anchor Books, 1959.
- “Before Colonialism.” *Igbo Weddings*, iboweddings.weebly.com/before-colonialism.html
- “Marriage Customs - Things Fall Apart P3.” *Google Sites*, sites.google.com/a/rfschools.com/things-fall-apart-p3/marriage-customs.
- Shmoop Editorial Team. “Things Fall Apart Gender Quotes Page 7.” *Shmoop*, Shmoop University, 11 Nov. 2008, www.shmoop.com/things-fall-apart/gender-quotes-7.html.

