

Leanna Wolfe
Anthropology 121

Quiz #6

The Initiation of a Maasai Warrior

1. Is male circumcision practiced in your family? Why?
2. When do the Maasai circumcise their males?
3. How is a Maasai male expected to behave during his circumcision ceremony?
4. What does being circumcised imply?
5. T/F Maasai men are prohibited from engaging in sexual intercourse prior to being circumcised.
6. What areas does a Maasai young man shave in preparation for his circumcision?
 - a. his head
 - b. his pubic hair
 - c. his arms
 - d. his chest
 - e. his legs
7. Who sharpens the ritual knives?
 - a. the circumciser
 - b. the young man's father
 - c. the young man's mother
 - d. the young man himself
 - e. his betrothed wife
8. What happens if a man fails to be brave during his circumcision ceremony?
9. T/F Circumcision ceremonies can be very emotional for those bearing witness.
10. T/F It is acceptable for Maasai women to cry and kick during their own circumcision ceremonies.
11. How does the Maasai circumcision function as a rite of passage?
12. What does it mean to be a Maasai warrior?
13. What happens to young men whose circumcision becomes botched?
14. What do the Maasai believe happens when older and younger people make love?

Female Circumcision: Rite of Passage or Violation of Rights?

1. T/F Female circumcision is the partial or total cutting away of the external female genitalia
2. What are the three basic types of female genital excision?
3. What is a clitoridectomy? What might be the male equivalent?
4. What does the infibulation procedure involve? What can be the health consequences of this procedure?
5. T/F Infibulation can function to control female sexual behavior.
6. T/F In some cultures, a girl who is not circumcised is not considered marriageable.
7. How is circumcision (both male and female) an identity marker and a rite of passage?
8. Why might female circumcision be regarded as a ritualized form of child abuse?
9. What is the World Health Organization's 1979 policy on female circumcision?
10. When was the term Female Genital Mutilation (FGM) introduced?
11. At what age are clitoridectomies performed in Africa?
12. Does male circumcision affect a man's sexual pleasure?
13. Does female clitoridectomy affect a woman's sexual pleasure?
14. T/F Many African women have considered sex a duty to their husbands rather than a pleasure for themselves.

15. T/F Recently Maasai parents attempting to arrange the circumcision of their daughters have been sent to jail.
16. Why are female circumcision ceremonies now often conducted in private?
17. What alternative rituals have been implemented to reduce the practice of FGM?
18. How has conversion to Christianity impacted the Maasai practice of FGM?
19. Should anthropologists become activists in the area of female circumcision?