

AFRICAN WEDDINGS

By: Sara E.

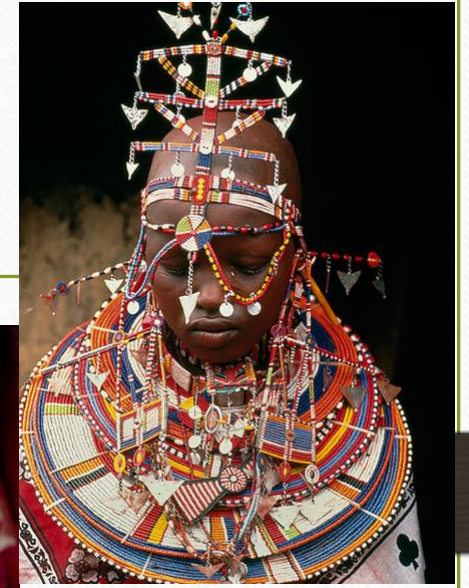
AFN 121

PROF. REMI ALAPO

Fall 2021



African weddings | Africa Facts (africa-facts.org)



History of African weddings?

- There are many civilization in Africa that have different wedding styles.
- From Ethiopia, Ghana, Kenya, Nigeria and the many nations of south Africa. They all have different costumes to walk down the aisle and say I do.
- In all African cultures the wife is a very important role she is the tie from the ancestors to the unborn children. She can have a strong powerful child that will be able to carry the family name well so picking a wife is important.

Ethiopian weddings

- In Ethiopia brides usually get painted in different African symbols
- The two families agree on the wedding can have a ceremony. If there is need for divorce both parties must agree
- The wife is not entitled to an inheritance only the child born from the husband.
- They have a tradition where the best man and groom comes to the brides house and gently break the barrier of the brides family the best man sprays perfume and the brides family plays music

Ghana wedding

- In Ghana culture they have a knocking ceremony where the groom comes and knocks on the door of the bride like a visitor.
- They bring wine as an offering and the bride's family can accept or not. They see the groom to make sure he doesn't have a child or if he is a good loving person with a decent job.
- If all goes well they have a ceremony all the groom's family sit on one side and the bride the other side facing each other. They have introductions and formal prayer

Kenya wedding

- Massai girls are usually young and married off to older men. It is a ritual the father or brother of the bride spit on her head before being sent off
- The Swahili of Kenya give the bride oils and henna tattoos also the older women called somo tell the bride how to treat her husband even may be seen in the brides bedroom if anything goes wrong

South African weddings

- Zulu wedding the bride is extravagant and changes her clothes many times. The bride put money in the cow slaughtered by the grooms family and she also presents blanket gift to the grooms family.
- Somali wedding the groom can have 4 wives. They can arrange marriages through wealth even if the bride was not born yet and if the groom dies it goes to the next of kin.
- Sudan wedding the husband must present 30-50 cattle. The marriage is complete if the wife has 2 children. If only one the husband can ask for divorce
- Senegal wedding they bring the wife kola nuts and money to bless the wife.

Reference

- All information found at [African weddings | Africa Facts \(africa-facts.org\)](http://africa-facts.org)