

adapted
ancestors

destroy
leaders

nomads
roots

survived
unique

The Berbers

The *Berbers* are the indigenous people of northwest Africa. They lived there before the Arabs. At one time, they were (1) nomads, but now most of them live in towns and villages. Some Berbers are very light-skinned, and some are dark. Nobody is really sure who their (2) _____ were, but they probably have (3) _____ in both Europe and Africa.



The largest number of Berbers live in Morocco and Algeria. At one time, some Arab (4) _____ in those countries wanted to (5) _____ Berber culture. But Berber culture (6) _____. Berbers (7) _____ to the Arab environment they were in. They became Muslim, and most of them learned Arabic.

Many Berbers live like modern-day Moroccans and Algerians now, but most of them still speak Berber. They return to their villages often so that they don't forget their (8) _____ traditions.

Questions

- a. Do you think you'll catch a lot of fish on your trip today?
- b. I thought this indigenous culture was against modern culture. Why is that man using a camera?
- c. What do you think of your young people who want to move to the cities and leave the old ways?
- d. What do you think will help your people to survive?
- e. Why do all the women sit on one side and the men on the other?
- f. How many children from this village do you think will attend school in the fall?

Responses

- e 1. I'm not sure. It's been our **custom** for so long.
- ___ 2. I **doubt** it. I went out yesterday and didn't get anything.
- ___ 3. I **expect** we'll get a large group. Maybe 15 to 20.
- ___ 4. You're right. We hold onto our own culture very strongly. But frequently we will **adopt** a custom or tool that we find useful.
- ___ 5. I think we must learn how to **stand up against** the governments and the companies that try to take away our lands.
- ___ 6. Of course, this makes us sad. But if they want to **integrate** into modern culture, we can't stop them. We hope they will bring to the modern world all that they learned in our world.