

The Saylor Foundation's "Images of Africa" Assignment

Conduct a Google image search for pictures of Africa using such terms as "Africa photography" and "photography of Africa." Consider the degree to which the pictures that are available online fit the preconceptions discussed in the articles above. Jot your thoughts down on a separate piece of paper. This assignment is not accompanied by a grading rubric, as it is intended to simply give you the time and space to think through some of the issues you have encountered thus far in your readings.

Guide to Responding:

In carrying out this assignment, you should consider the varieties of preconceptions and notions of Africa presented by Jonathan Reynolds in section 1.2.1 and in the discussion of images of Africa presented by James Michira in this section (1.2.3). Ask yourself whether the images you find contribute to these preconceptions and notions, or present alternate ways of looking at Africa. Think especially about the ways in which they might shape the understandings of Africa developed by people unfamiliar with the continent. You might proceed in the following way:

- 1) Create a spreadsheet with the categories presented by Reynolds and one with the categories presented by Michira.
- 2) As you find images of Africa, place each one in the category or categories it seems to represent.
- 3) Consider whether Michira's categories or Reynolds's seem to be the most useful.
- 4) If some images don't seem to fit, consider whether Reynolds should have included additional categories, or whether the categories are not useful or are incorrect.

