

Appropriate Technology, Development, Fall 2019

Suggested readings and videos to prepare for the part of class presentations on Mon and Wed, 7 & 9 Oct 2019 by Clif Hiebsch. Saing'orie Sangau and I are co-founders of the nonprofit, WAEV, which works in Maasai communities near Monduli, Tanzania. My wife and I work at Orkeeswa Secondary School (she is there now), 7 km from Monduli, a private school serving 4 Maasai villages. The following are about the Maasai people.

The two presentations in #5. below (arranged marriages of girls) are by students and staff of Orkeeswa school, and should be watched. However, more general information in #s 1 – 4 may be valuable to look at first to provide a context.

1. The Maasai Association at [www.maasai-association.org](http://www.maasai-association.org) has a wealth of information. Their introductory page, <http://www.maasai-association.org/maasai.html>, is a good overview. From their home page, there are many links to more specific information.
2. As usual Wikipedia has a wealth of printed information, under “Maasai People”.
3. Amazon has a 20-minute video, <https://www.amazon.com/Last-Maasai-Kitumi-Olooirusha-Inyangusi/dp/B01MRCHJ1M> , shows men discussing their history with the British and other topics, village life, culture, and a long segment on the child naming ceremony.
4. The Maasai are a cattle-raising (goats and sheep too) peoples. The relationship between the Maasai, their livestock, and large carnivores, particularly the lion, is a classic part of their culture and self-image (psyche). The National Geographic 40-minute documentary, “Lions vs Maasai Warriors”, <https://tr.vlip.lv/video/5wnISLY2mAESGMk%3D.html> , illustrates this relationship, the rights-of-passage to be a Maasai warrior, and the circumcision ceremony. These ceremonies are very important villages near Monduli.
5. Arranged marriages of 13- to 14-year-old girls to older men is the norm amongst the Maasai. The following two presentations were produced by students and staff of Orkeeswa school. The first is a presentation at The Moth ( [themoth.org](http://themoth.org) ) conference in Nairobi, 2018 by Memusi Saibulu, <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=PILHOhkneP8> about how she escaped such a marriage. The second is a dramatization called “Black Head Cow”, <https://www.shortoftheweek.com/2019/10/01/black-head-cow/> . You must decide what happened to Naserian.
6. Female circumcision, or FGM (female genital mutilation) is illegal in Tanzania, but is commonly practiced by the Maasai. [https://www.28toomany.org/static/media/uploads/Law%20Reports/tanzania\\_law\\_report\\_v1\\_\(may\\_2018\).pdf](https://www.28toomany.org/static/media/uploads/Law%20Reports/tanzania_law_report_v1_(may_2018).pdf) Girls at Orkeeswa school say the statistics are much lower than reality.