

**Tenth Annual International Essay Contest
for Children and Young People of African Descent
2015
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14-16 Years (800-1500 words)

WIOOC Supplementary Saturday School

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Penohamba Abisai

My Name is Penohamba Abisai and I will be writing about how 'science is practiced in Africa. I will begin with introducing how Africans used science before modern technology, and how in the 21st century it has changed drastically.

Most people see Africans and uneducated. I think this is because they do not have the same resources and opportunities as Europe and the United States. However long before modern technology was introduced, Africans were able to live healthily and create natural resources from their surroundings. Herbs and spices were used to heal wounds and lower high temperatures without causing any side effects. In a sense they were more adapted than the white supremacists, because of this developed nations such as the US have a long history of exploiting indigenous populations for their own personal benefit. However it was not only Africans that were not as developed, economically challenged countries such as Ecuador were also exploited for the natural resources found on their land.

Latest developments suggest new forms of abuse. The usual removal of another country's resources for your own personal benefit is seen to be no longer the biggest issue. It was discovered that US based Coriell Medical Institute Harvard University colluded with oil drilling company Maxx Energy Corporation in the drawing of thousands of

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blood samples from the native Huaorani tribe in Ecuador. This was seen as unethical due to the fact that some participants were under the impression that their blood was being extracted for personal medical examination. However that was not the case, as tribe members never received any results. It was unknown to the Huaorani that DNA samples were sold to medical labs in eight different countries, which are believed to be more economically developed than Ecuador. It was estimated that as many as 3,500 blood samples were drawn from 600 Huaorani members. This suggests that several pints of blood must have been drawn from each individual. Most people would see this as unusual and strange, but the tribe members have no knowledge of this due to little experience of the outside world. Research based on the collected data was written, and all of which were authorised without consent. Also money made from the commercial use were also never paid to the tribe. From this global scientists believe that ~~Ha Huaoran~~ Huaorani members could possess auspicious genetic mutation which affords them to be immune to certain ^{disease} like hepatitis, though this theory has yet to be scientifically proven. I think that the immunity to certain disease is adaptation over the years. This suggests that some members may have recently caught the disease and others have learnt to fight against them. Over the years the immunity was passed down the generations.

My theory is that more economically developed countries want sell the DNA sample for high price to increase the wealth and life expectancy of other developed countries. Also I think that the government of Ecuador allow ~~there~~ it happen is to create a trade and have other countries start business. This should allow them to create jobs and money into the economy. However, biopiracy is not an emphasised law in Ecuador which could be due to corrupt government that only considers there own personal benefit. But the fact that indigenous groups are left vulnerable to exploitation as a result of their comparative lack of resources.

There are foreign pharmaceutical companies search for potential medical components. They tend to overpower indigenous objects because they have the money for expensive patents and necessary extraction ~~prede~~ procedures that indigenous populations cannot. Most countries that cannot afford expensive tools still use very early ~~met~~ methods of extraction such as a hammer and nail. Usually problems cause by pharmaceutical companies are over looked by the government because they possess more power than they do. Regularly indigenous populations are left without adequate legal representation. This is a basic display ~~of~~ of injustice as there is also a language barrier in which translators were not offered shows the intentions of there visi

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In conclusion, the ~~be~~ basic ~~hature~~ nature of science practice in indigenous countries is that injustice is shown towards them for personal benefit of ~~parent~~ foreign outsiders. Also they are unable to ~~be~~ help themselves as they have not developed at the same speeds as more economically developed countries have the resources to do so.