

Student Worksheet:

# WEST AFRICAN PROVERBS

Directions: Write beneath each proverb what you think it means.  
Choose one proverb and draw a picture of it.

- **Fon people from Benin (formerly Dahomey)**

1. The big do not eat out of the hand of the small.
2. He who makes the gunpowder, wins the battle.
3. When one is at sea, he does not quarrel with the boatman.

- **Fulani people from Guinea, Senegal, Mali, and Cameroon**

4. No matter how far the town, there is another beyond it.

- **Bambara people from Mali, Guinea and Senegal**

5. God gives nothing to those who keep their arms crossed.

### **Yoruba people from Nigeria**

6. However far the stream flows, it never forgets its source.
7. Respect the elders; they are our fathers.
8. Perseverance is everything.
9. Silence is also speech.
10. The young cannot teach traditions to the old.

### **A Drawing of a Proverb**

