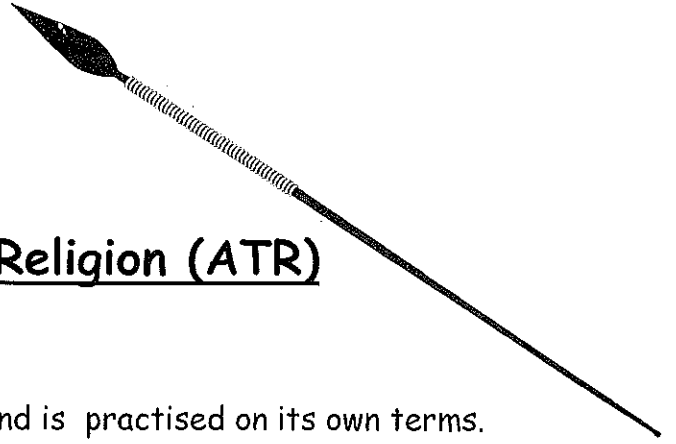


African Traditional Religion (ATR)



African Traditional Religion is clan-based; and is practised on its own terms.

There are many varieties of African Traditional Religion. Nobody is quite sure when this religion began, because it has been around for a long time and the beliefs and traditions were passed on from one generation to another orally.

African Traditional Religion Celebrations

These rituals and customs are different from one 'clan' to another. In most of the rituals, ancestors play an important part in ceremonies, and these ceremonies are sometimes led by a healer or sangoma.

African Traditional Religion Customs

Rituals and celebrations are held when a child is born, when a boy is initiated into adulthood, at marriage ceremonies and at funerals. Some rituals are performed to ask the ancestors for help or advice. At most African ceremonies an animal (goat, chicken, and cow) is slaughtered.



Where is African Traditional Religion practised?

Because African Traditional Religion is primarily a clan-based religion, the home or family homestead - usually in rural areas is the site for practice.

Who is responsible for overseeing religion practice?

For general purposes, the religion leaders are the clan elders - as well as the aunts and uncles and those who have inherited religious duties through birthright.

What is the belief system of African Traditional Religion?

African Traditional believe in genderless God.

Traditional African Religion views the entire universe as a living system: trees, rocks, rivers and soil are filled with living spirit.

One of the holiest substances know to Africans - is salt.

The African religious custom centres on the belief in God the Creator through the power and appeasement of the ancestors. For African Traditionalists, there is no recognition of Christ as God.

A Sangoma is a spirit medium through whom the spirits of deceased family members communicate with the living.