

HOTEL RWANDA

Background

- ▣ Please read over the class set of background information and familiarize yourself with the characters.

Think about these questions:

- ▣ *What do you already know about Rwanda?*
- ▣ *What do you know about the colonization of Africa?*

Words to know

- ▣ **Genocide:** the deliberate killing of a large group of people.
- ▣ **Ethnic cleansing:** the mass killing of members of an unwanted ethnic or religious group in a society.

Timeline of events

- ▣ 1860, a Tutsi king rules territory.
- ▣ 1916-1924 Belgian colonization begins (after WWI).
- ▣ 1926 Ethnic ID cards issued by Belgians. Belgians use Hutus as forced labor and put Tutsis in charge as supervisors.
- ▣ 1959 Hutus overthrow Tutsi king.
- ▣ 1962 Country wins independence from Belgium.
- ▣ 1990 Civil war begins
- ▣ 1994...

Why the division?

- ▣ “According to the Belgian colonists, the Tutsis are taller and more elegant. It was the Belgians that created the division. They picked people, those with thinner noses, lighter skin. They used to measure the width of people’s noses. The Belgians used the Tutsis to run the country. Then when they left, they left the power to the Hutus, and of course the Hutus took revenge on the elite Tutsis for years of repression.” -Rwandan journalist