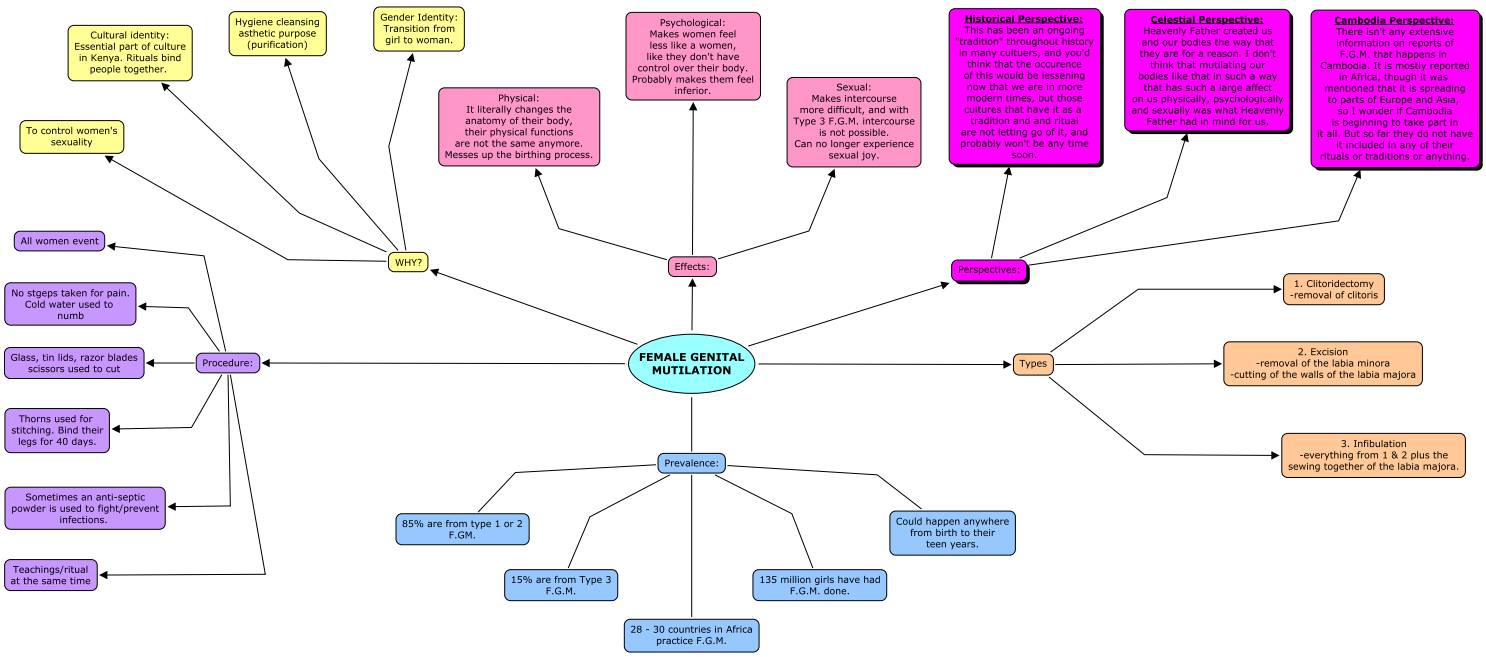
FEMALE GENITAL MUTILATION
WHY?
Cultural identity: Essential part of culture in Kenya. Rituals bind people together.
Hygiene cleansing asthetic purpose (purification)
Gender Identity: Transition from girl to woman.
To control women's sexuality
Effects:
Physical: It literally changes the anatomy of their body, their physical functions are not the same anymore. Messes up the birthing process.
Psychological: Makes women feel less like a women, like they don't have control over their body. Probably makes them feel inferior.
Sexual: Makes intercourse more difficult, and with Type 3 F.G.M. intercourse is not possible. Can no longer experience sexual joy.
Perspectives:
Historical Perspective: This has been an ongoing "tradition" throughout history in many cultuers, and you'd think that the occurence of this would be lessening now that we are in more modern times, but those cultures that have it as a tradition and and ritual are not letting go of it, and probably won't be any time soon.
Celestial Perspective: Heavenly Father created us and our bodies the way that they are for a reason. I don't think that mutilating our bodies like that in such a way that has such a large affect on us physically, psychologically and sexually was what Heavenly Father had in mind for us.
Cambodia Perspective: There isn't any extensive information on reports of F.G.M. that happens in Cambodia. It is mostly reported in Africa, though it was mentioned that it is spreading to parts of Europe and Asia, so I wonder if Cambodia is beginning to take part in it all. But so far they do not have it included in any of their rituals or traditions or anything.
Procedure:
All women event
No stgeps taken for pain. Cold water used to numb
Glass, tin lids, razor blades scissors used to cut
Thorns used for stitching. Bind their legs for 40 days.
Sometimes an anti-septic powder is used to fight/prevent infections.
Teachings/ritual at the same time
Types
1. Clitoridectomy -removal of clitoris
2. Excision -removal of the labia minora -cutting of the walls of the labia majora
3. Infibulation -everything from 1 & 2 plus the sewing together of the labia majora.
Prevalence:
85% are from type 1 or 2 F.GM.
15% are from Type 3 F.G.M.
28 - 30 countries in Africa practice F.G.M.
135 million girls have had F.G.M. done.
Could happen anywhere from birth to their teen years.