

A stylized world map in shades of blue and green, centered on the Atlantic Ocean, serving as a background for the title text.

Tapping the Collective Genius





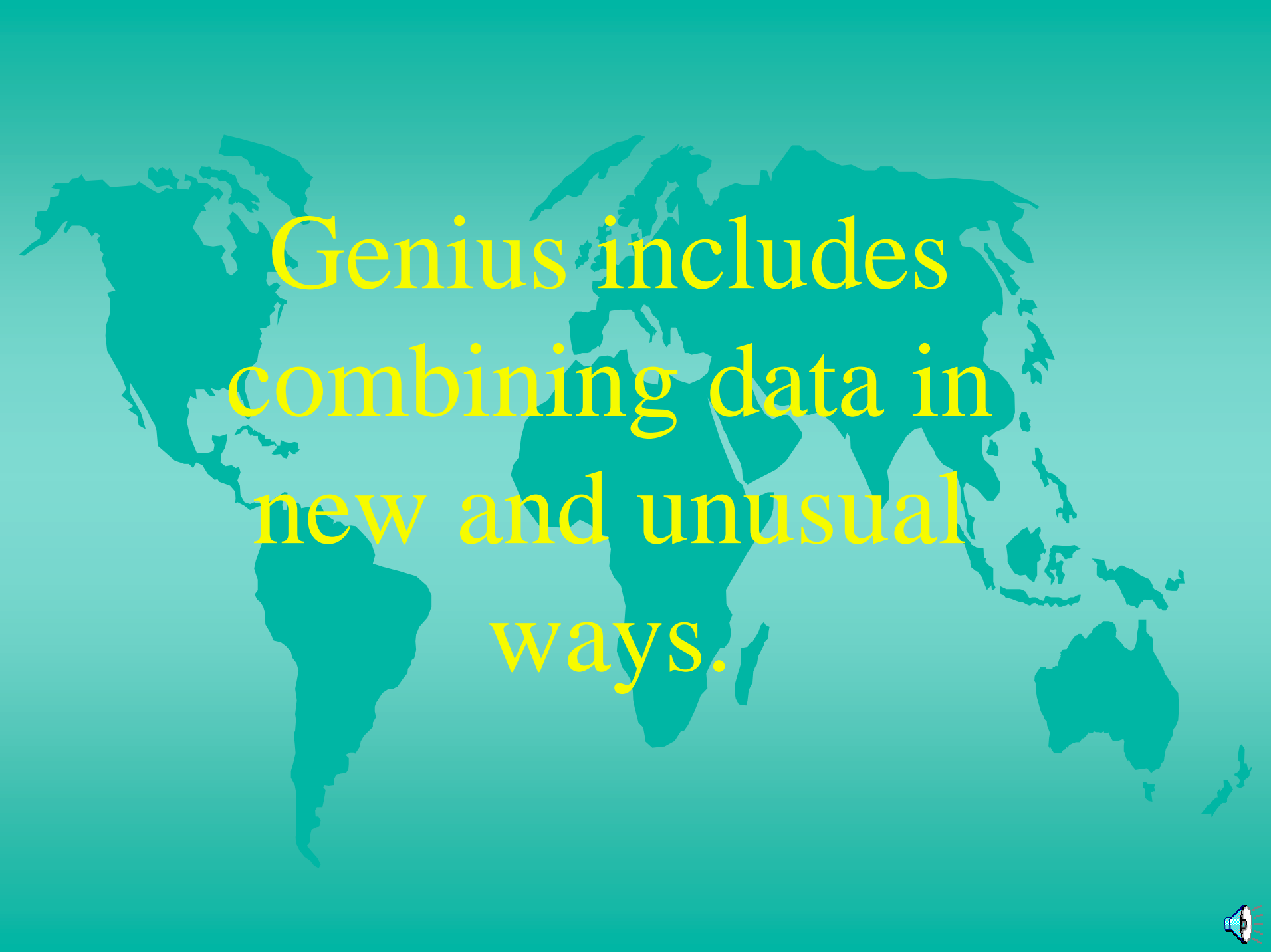
Each of us has
billions of bits
of data in our
minds.



A faint, light blue world map is visible in the background of the slide, showing the outlines of the continents.

Thoughts, ideas, and
understandings come
from combining
unconnected data.



A faint, light blue world map is visible in the background of the slide, centered behind the text.


Genius includes
combining data in
new and unusual
ways.





Any group can
create its own
genius by following
certain principles.





Bahá'ís call this:
Consultation.



CONSULTATION IS:

Searching for the truth of a matter

with a spirit of mutual respect,
trust and amity

to reach an understanding or take
appropriate action.



A world map is shown in the background, with continents in a light tan color and oceans in a light blue color. The map is centered on the Atlantic Ocean.

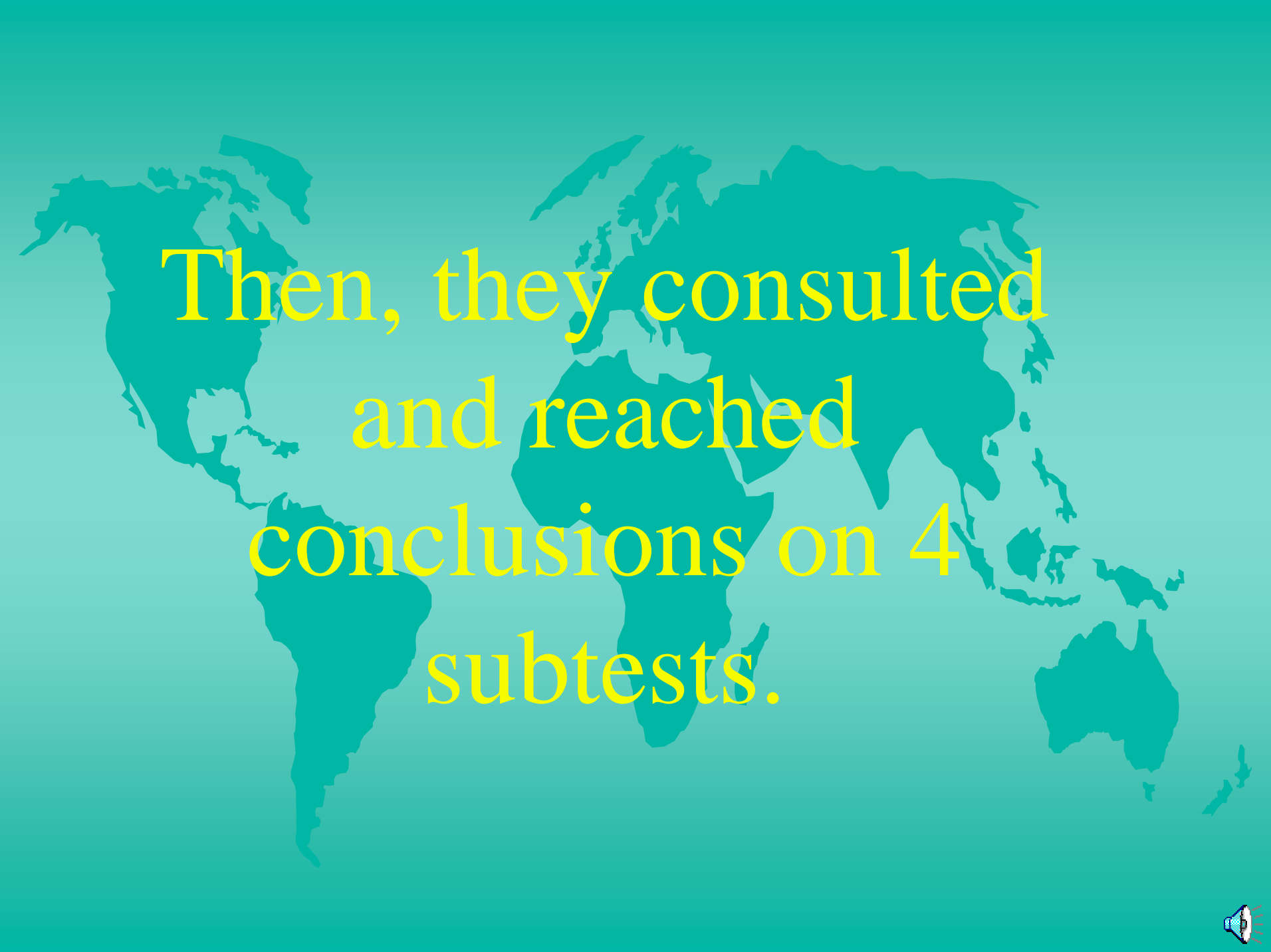
A group of people were
given individual
intelligence tests.





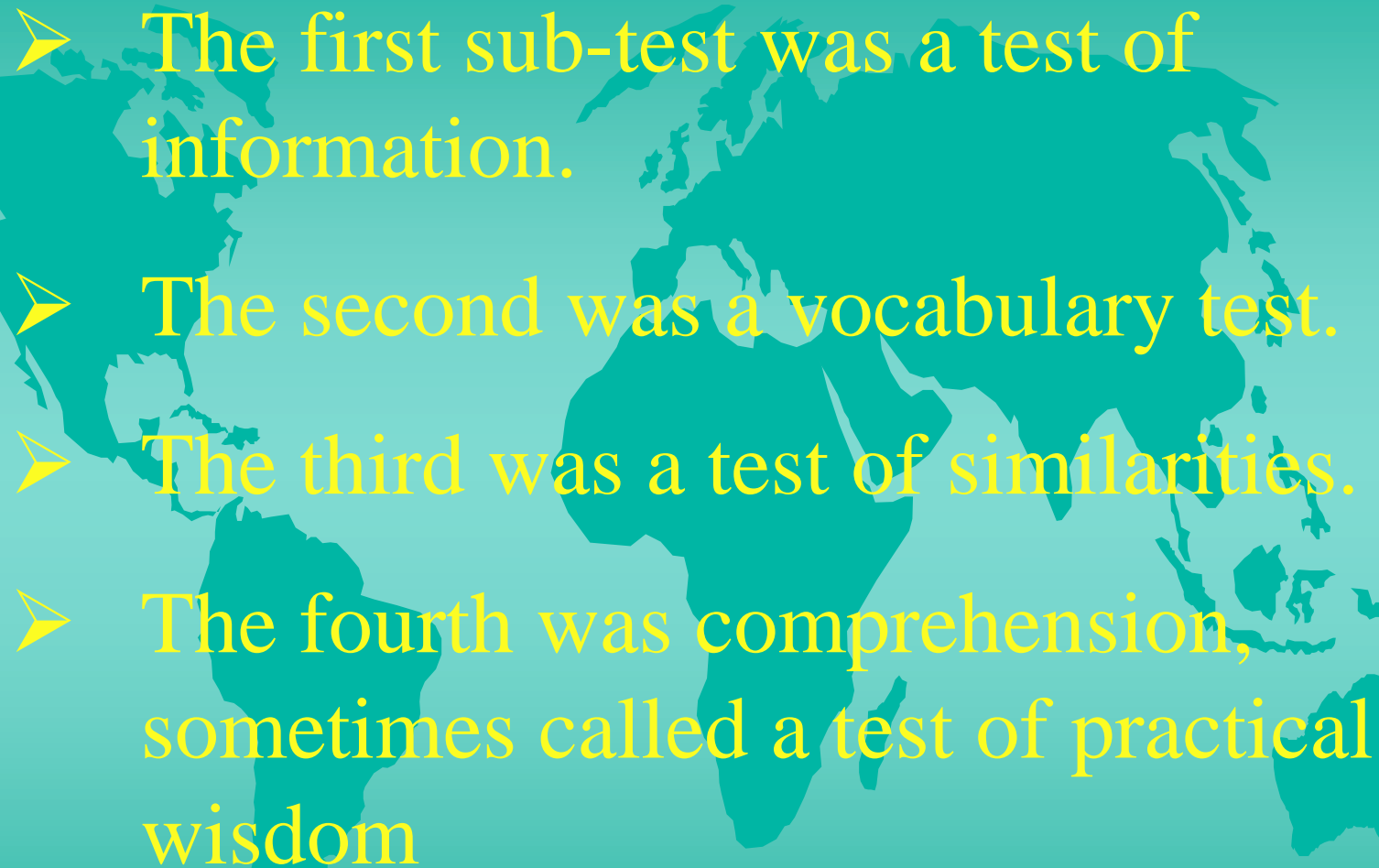
Next, they were taught
the basic principles of
consultation.





Then, they consulted
and reached
conclusions on 4
subtests.



- 
- The first sub-test was a test of information.
 - The second was a vocabulary test.
 - The third was a test of similarities.
 - The fourth was comprehension, sometimes called a test of practical wisdom

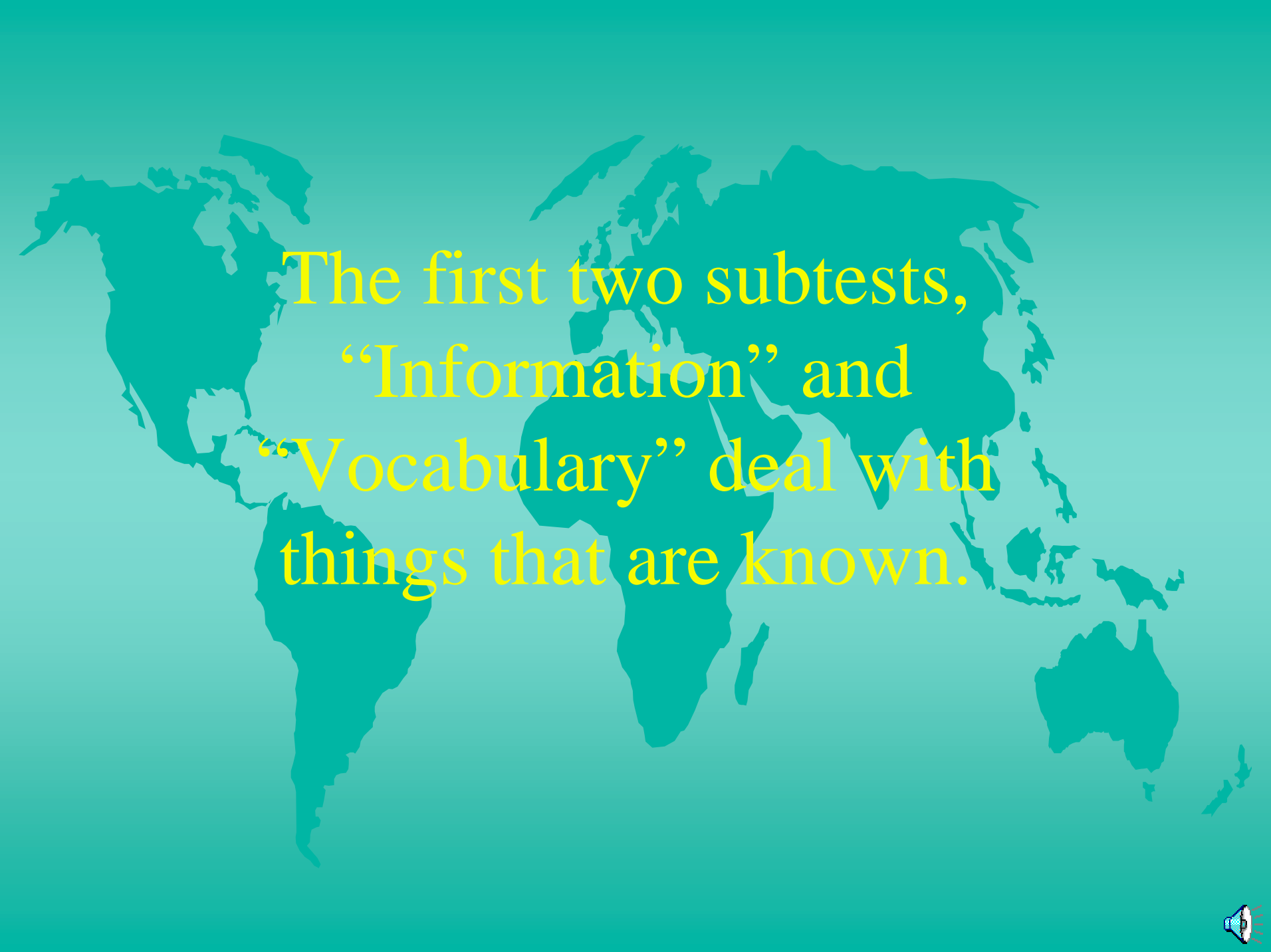


A faint world map is visible in the background of the slide, showing the continents in a light blue color against a white background.

There were three sets of scores:

- **Individual Scores,**
- **Composite** of the best answers,
- **Group** scores from consultation.

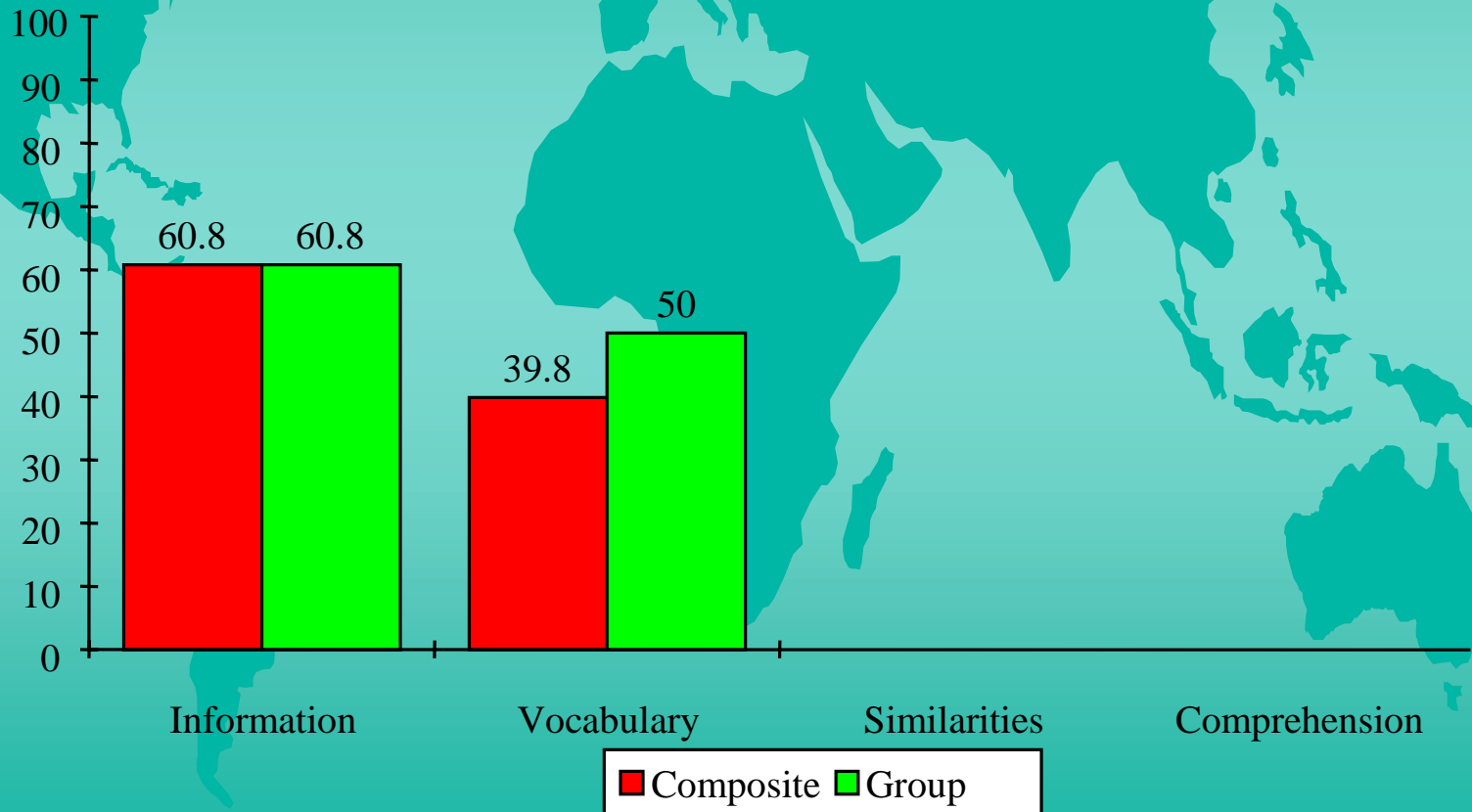




The first two subtests,
“Information” and
“Vocabulary” deal with
things that are known.



There was no significant improvement from consultation.



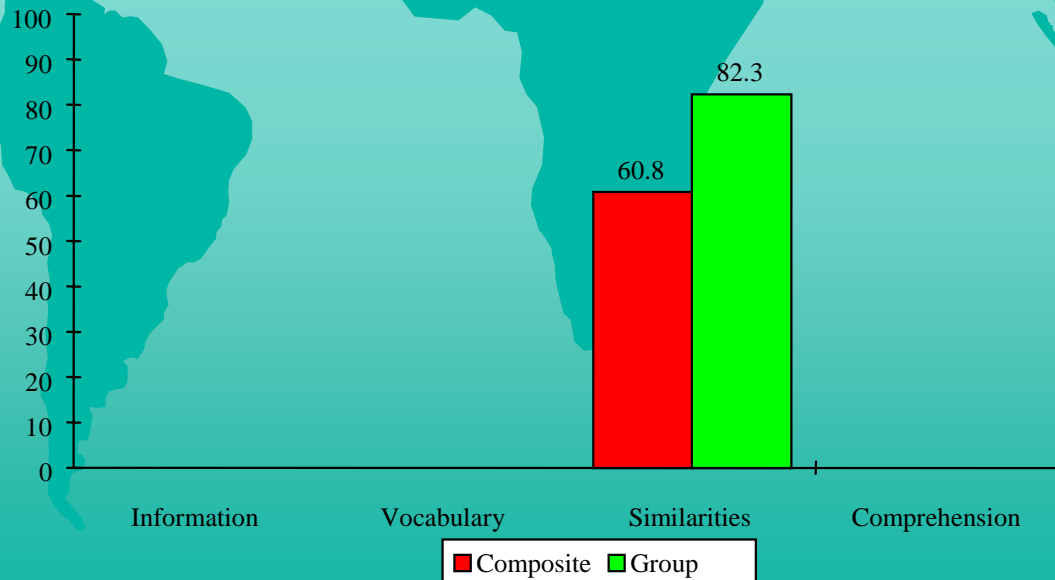


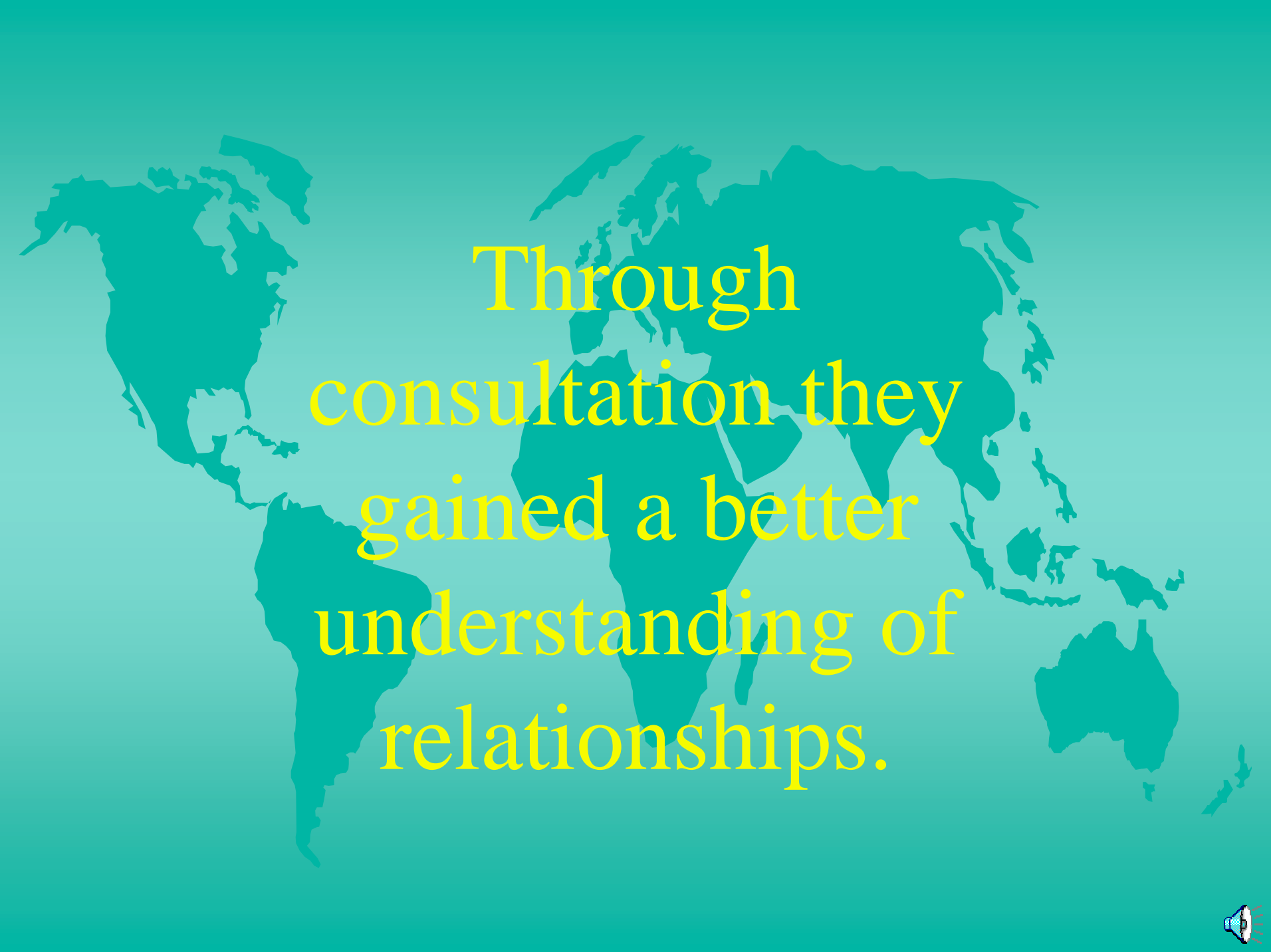
The group did not create
new information from
consultation but shared
what was already known.



The 3rd subtest, “Similarities,” shows relationships. The group went from the 60.8 to the 82.3 percentile.


That is an increase of $\frac{2}{3}$ of a standard deviation.





Through
consultation they
gained a better
understanding of
relationships.

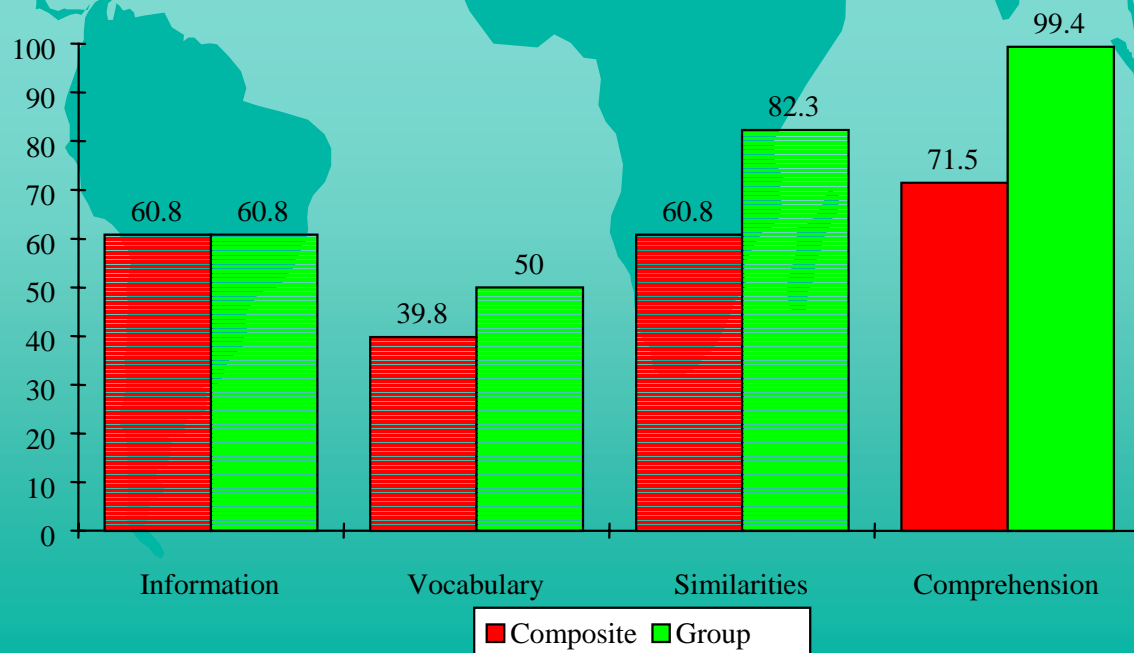




The 4th subtest,
“Comprehension,” is
sometimes called a test of
practical wisdom. It calls for
judgment in certain situations.



The group went from the 71.5 to the 99.4 percentile. That is an increase of 2 full standard deviations: a score associated with genius.





Consultation enabled
them to make better
decisions with the
information they had.



Dynamics of Consultation



Circle of Truth

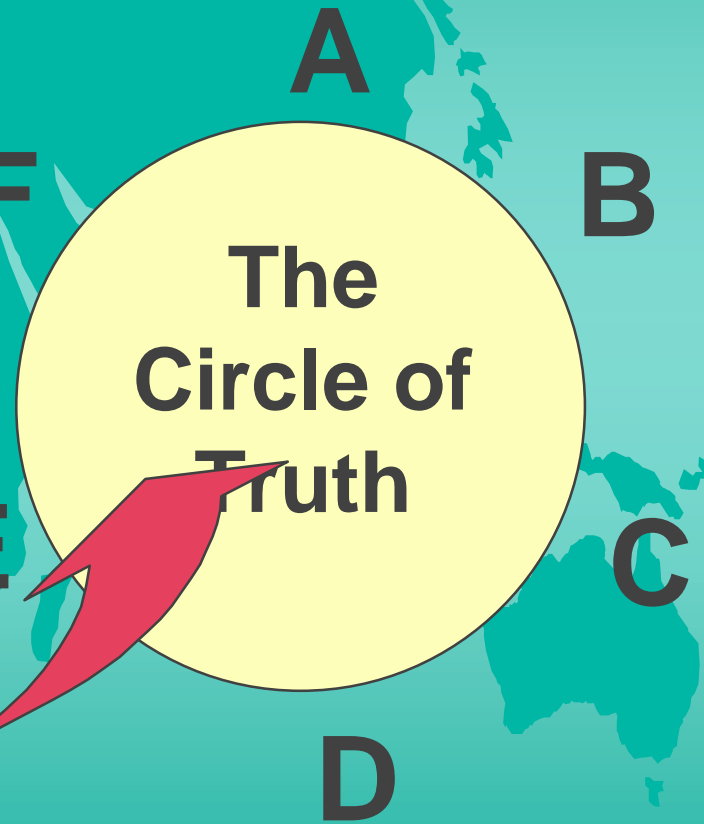
The Dynamics of Consultation, illustrated by a “Circle of Truth.” was suggested by Dan Reimer. It was described in *Developing Genius*, by John Kolstoe. The PowerPoint presentation was originated by Ramsey Zeine. It demonstrates consultation.



The Circle of Truth

Six people, A, B, C, D, E, and F gather to consult on a subject.

The best answer, or gem of truth, is somewhere within this Circle of Truth.



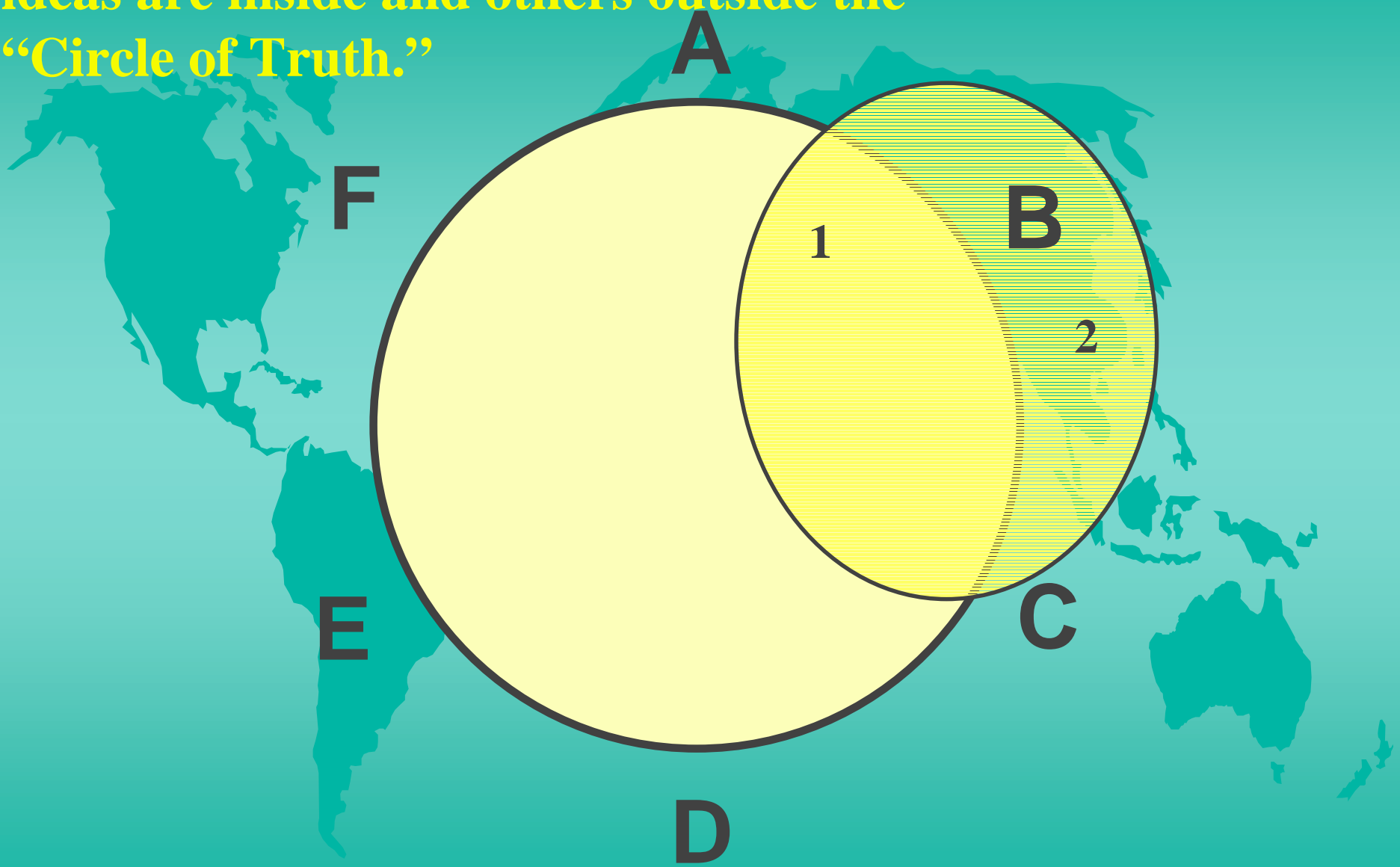
They have mutual respect,
trust and amity. Judgments
are suspended while ideas
mingle freely.

Each one has some
knowledge and
opinions.

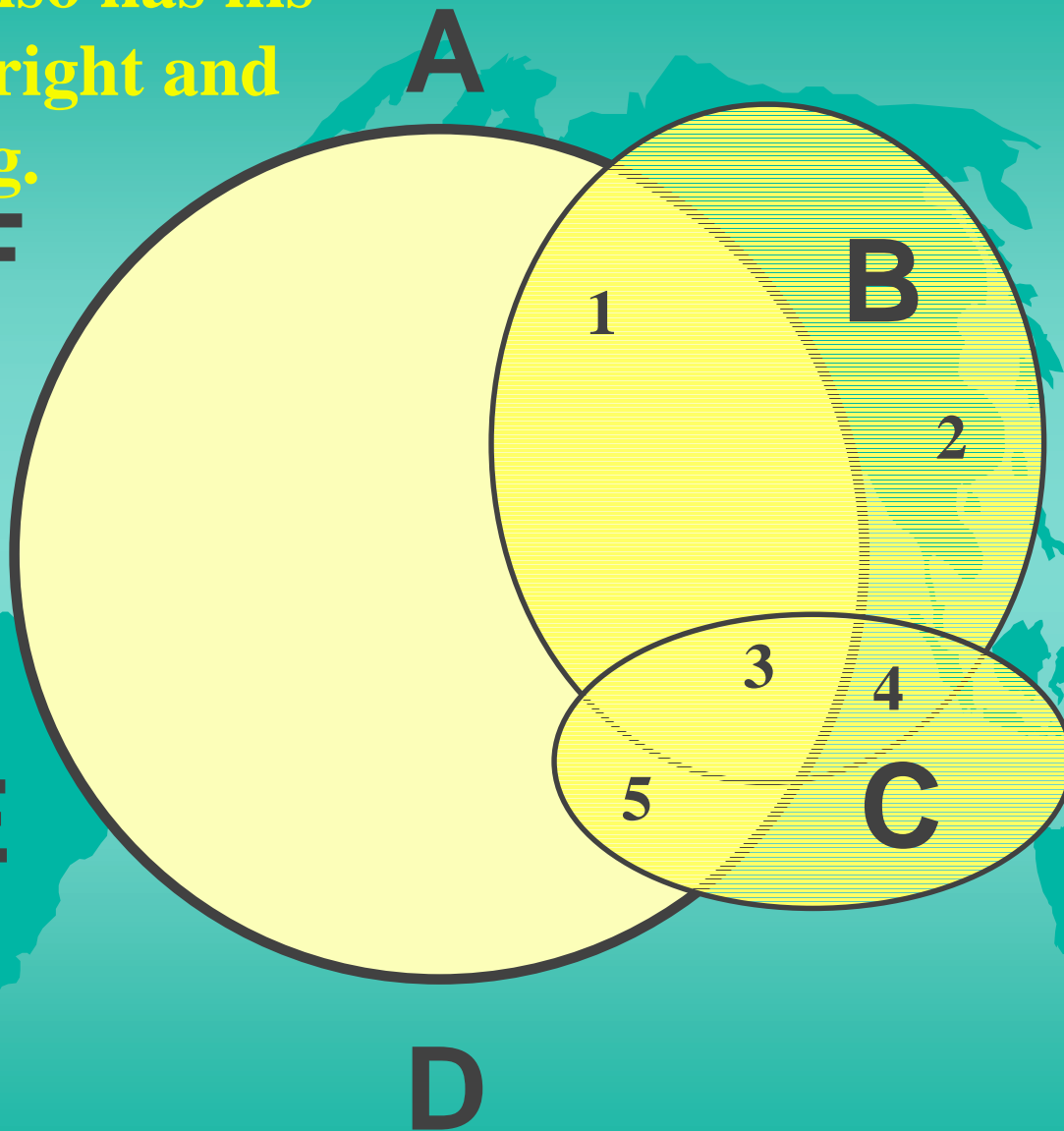
The Circle of Truth



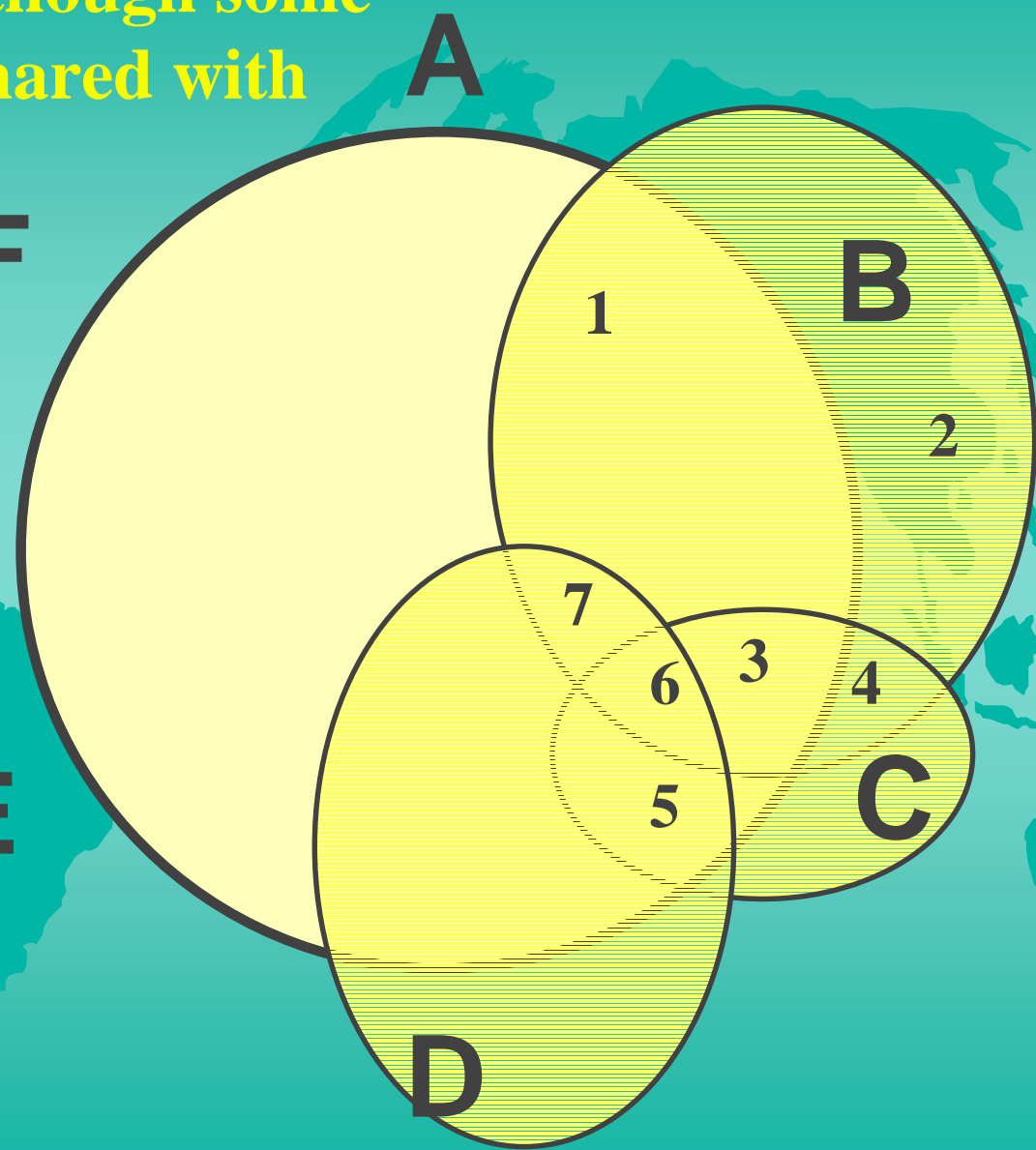
“B” knows the most about the subject. Some ideas are inside and others outside the “Circle of Truth.”



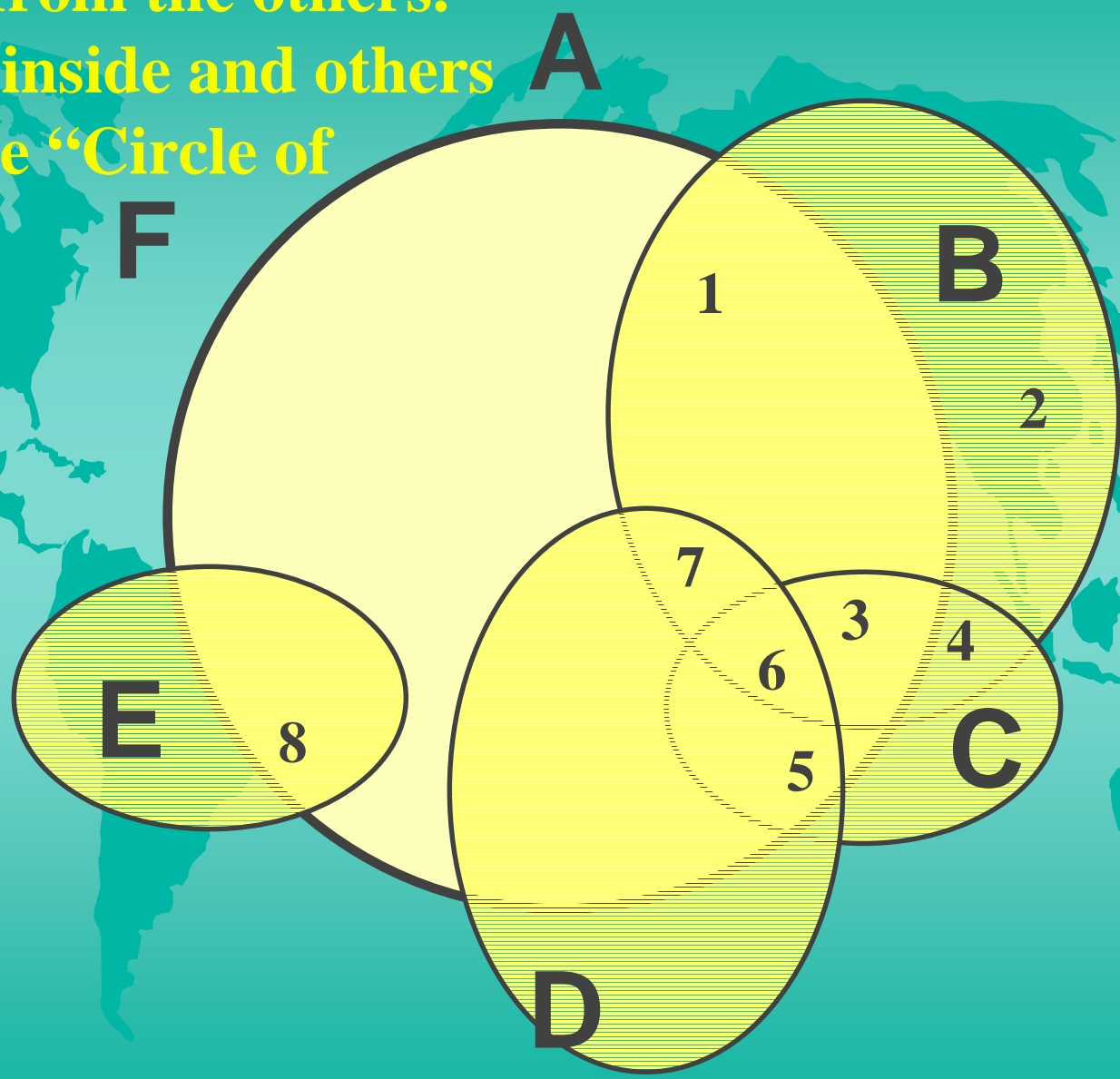
“C” shares some opinions with “B” and also has his own, some are right and some are wrong.



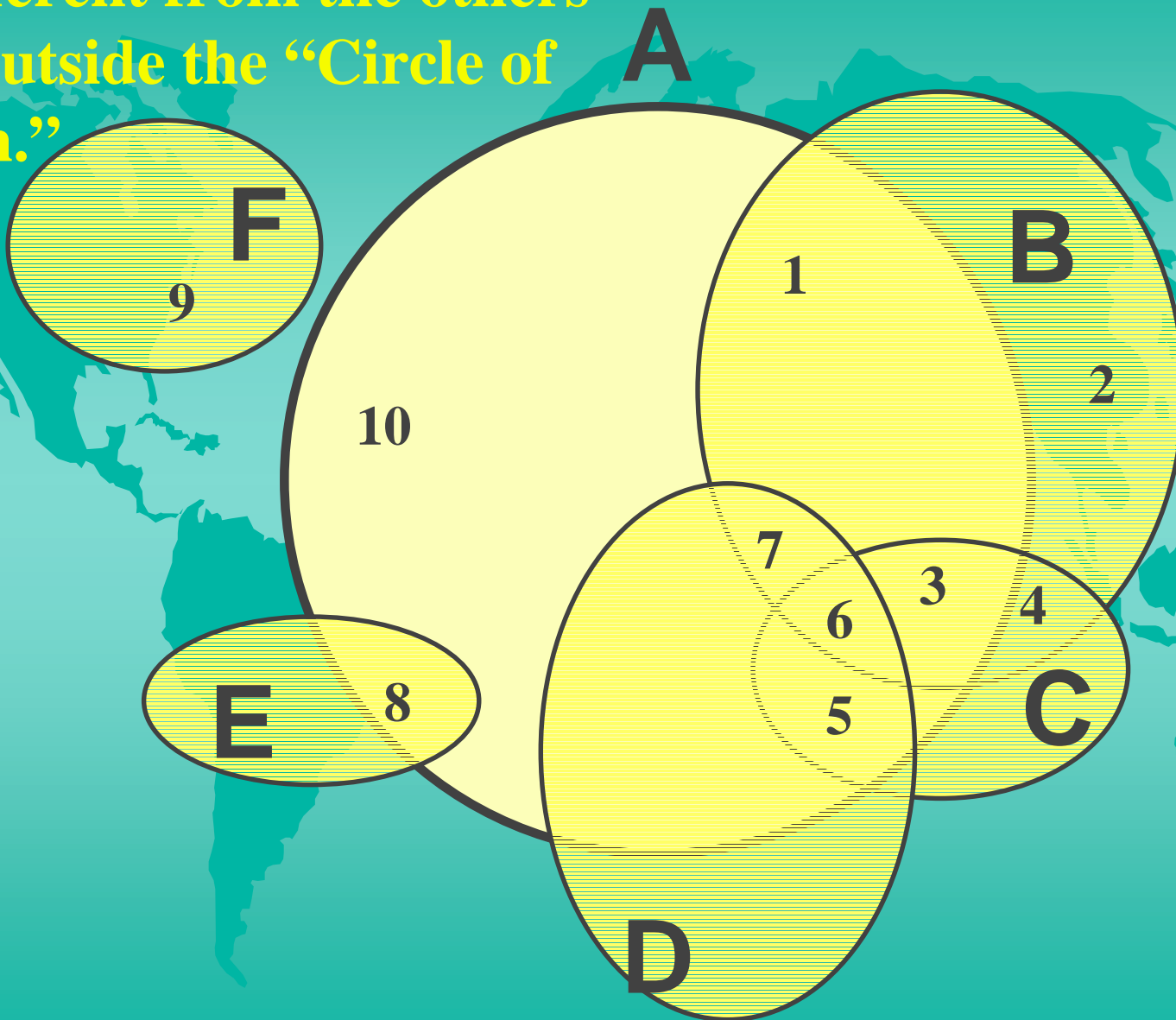
“D” has a different perspective, although some thoughts are shared with “B” and “C.”



“E” has thoughts that are different from the others. Some are inside and others outside the “Circle of Truth.”

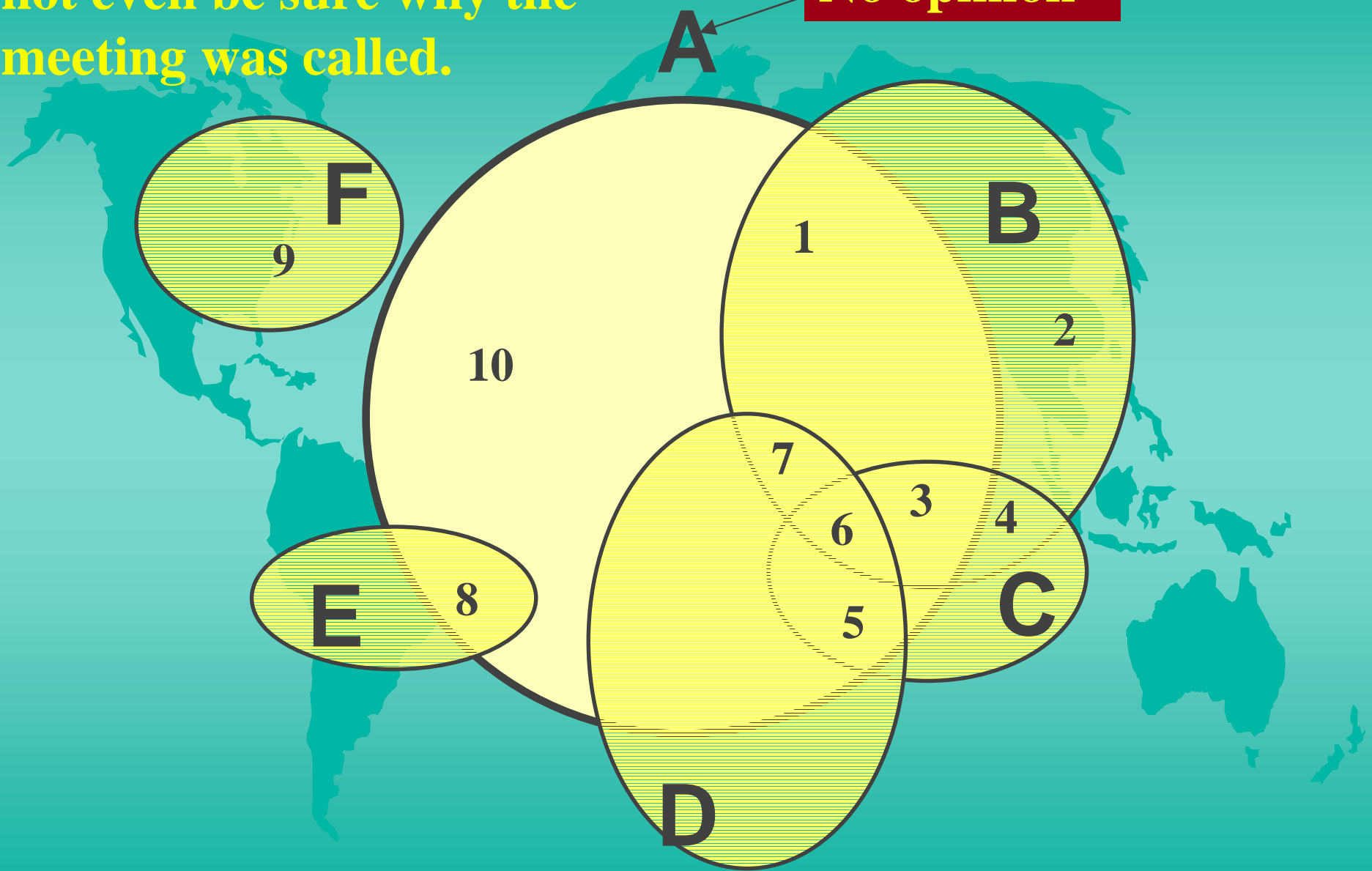


Everything "F" understands
is different from the others
and outside the "Circle of
Truth."



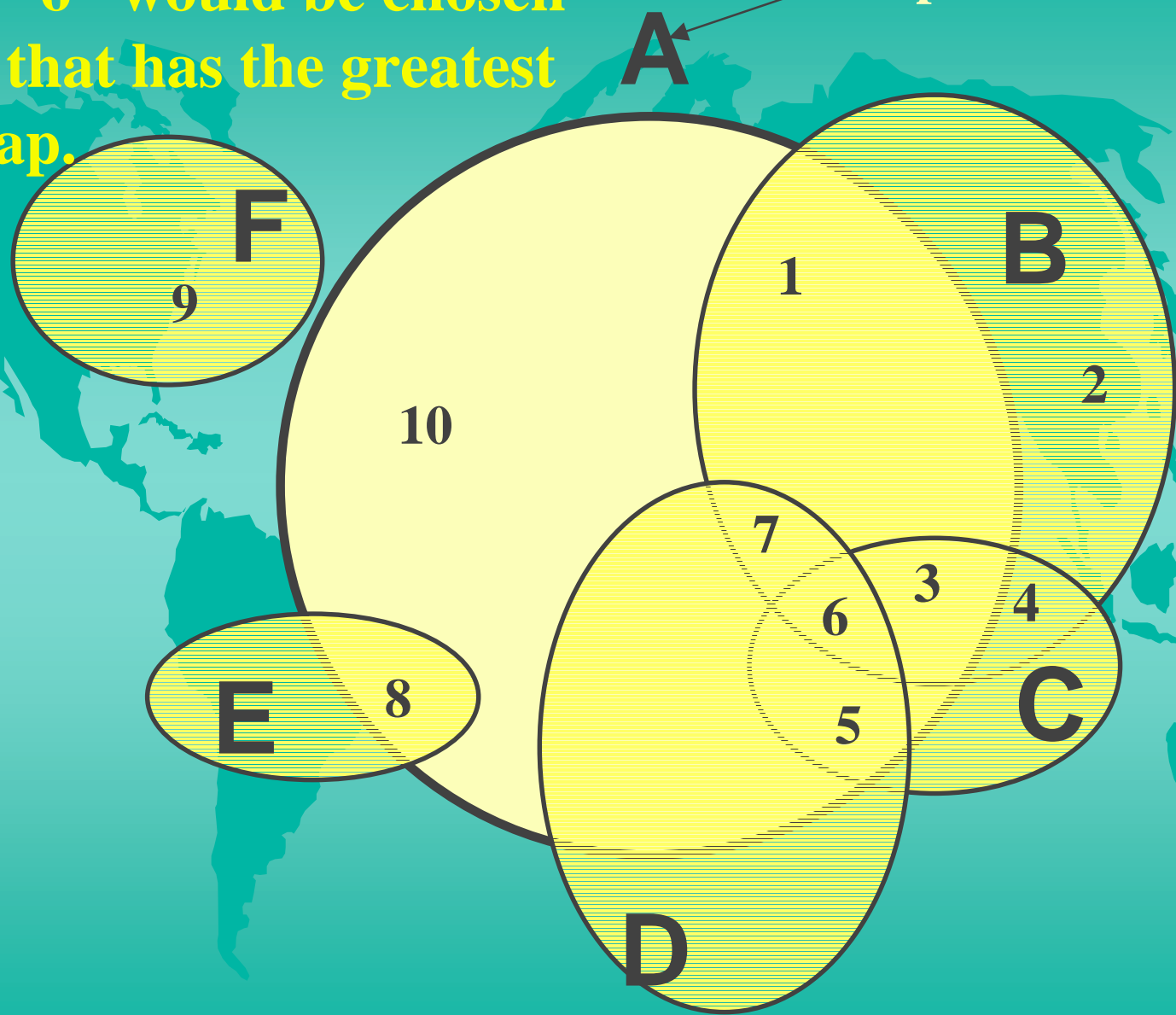
“A” has no opinion and may not even be sure why the meeting was called.

No opinion



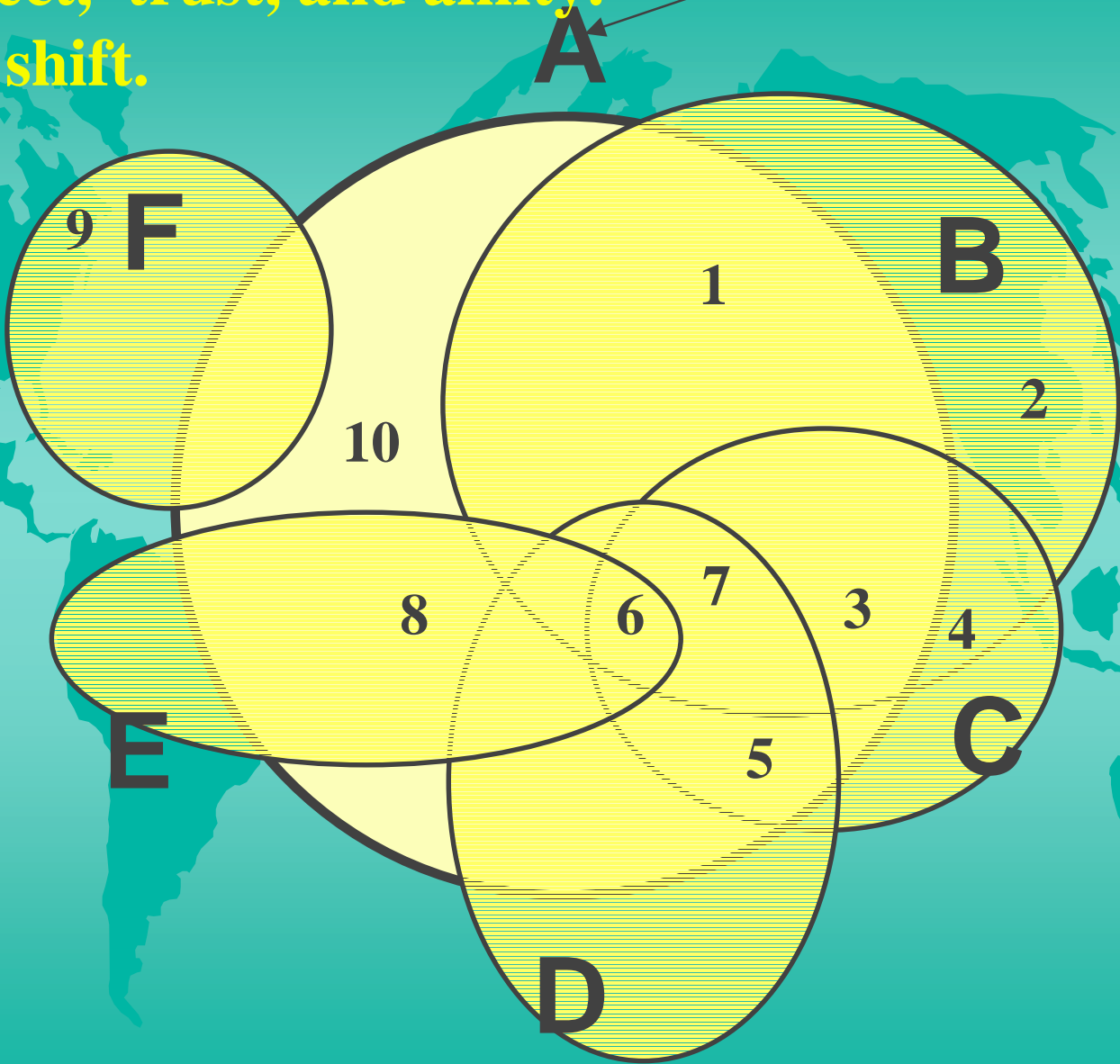
If a vote were taken at this time, "6" would be chosen since that has the greatest overlap.

No opinion



Instead of voting, they consult
with respect, trust, and amity.
Opinions shift.

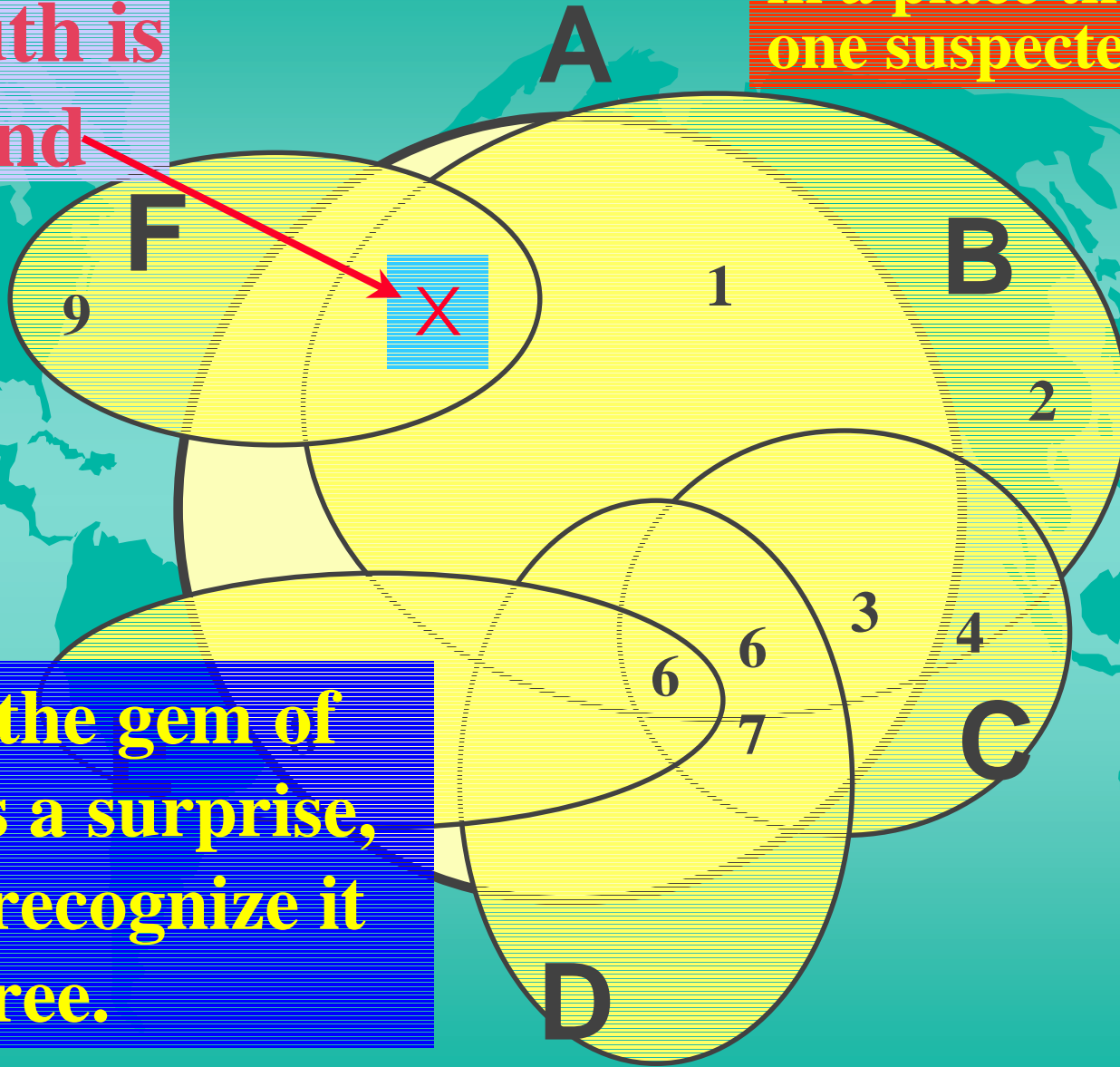
No opinion



**The Gem
of Truth is
Found**

No opinion

**The Gem was found
in a place that no
one suspected.**

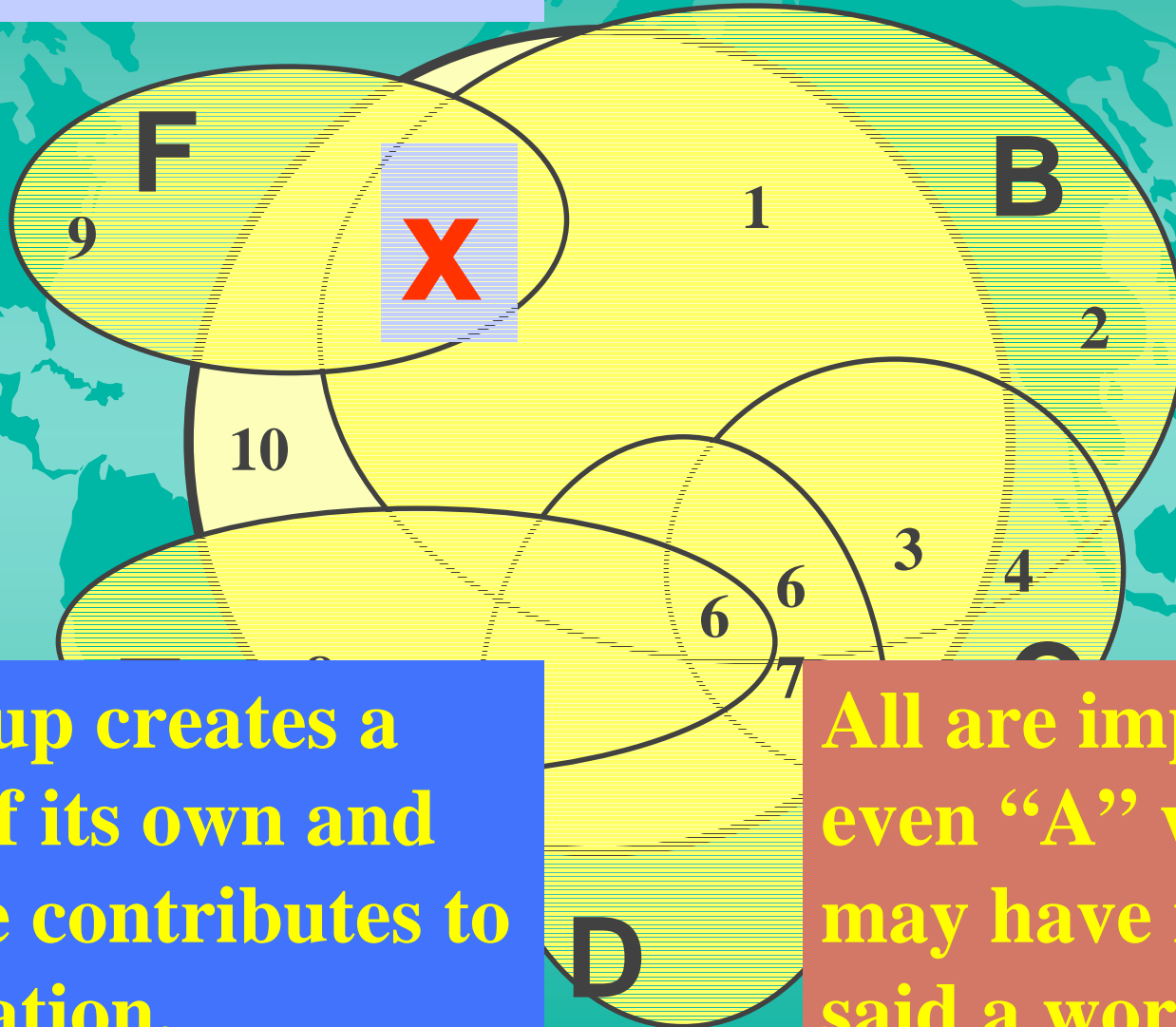


**Often, the gem of
truth is a surprise,
yet all recognize it
and agree.**



Who made the greatest contribution to finding the “gem of truth?”

A → No opinion



The group creates a genius of its own and each one contributes to that creation.

All are important, even “A” who may have never said a word.



A world map is shown in the background, rendered in a light blue color against a dark blue gradient. The map is centered on the Atlantic Ocean, showing the continents of North America, South America, Europe, Africa, Asia, and Australia.

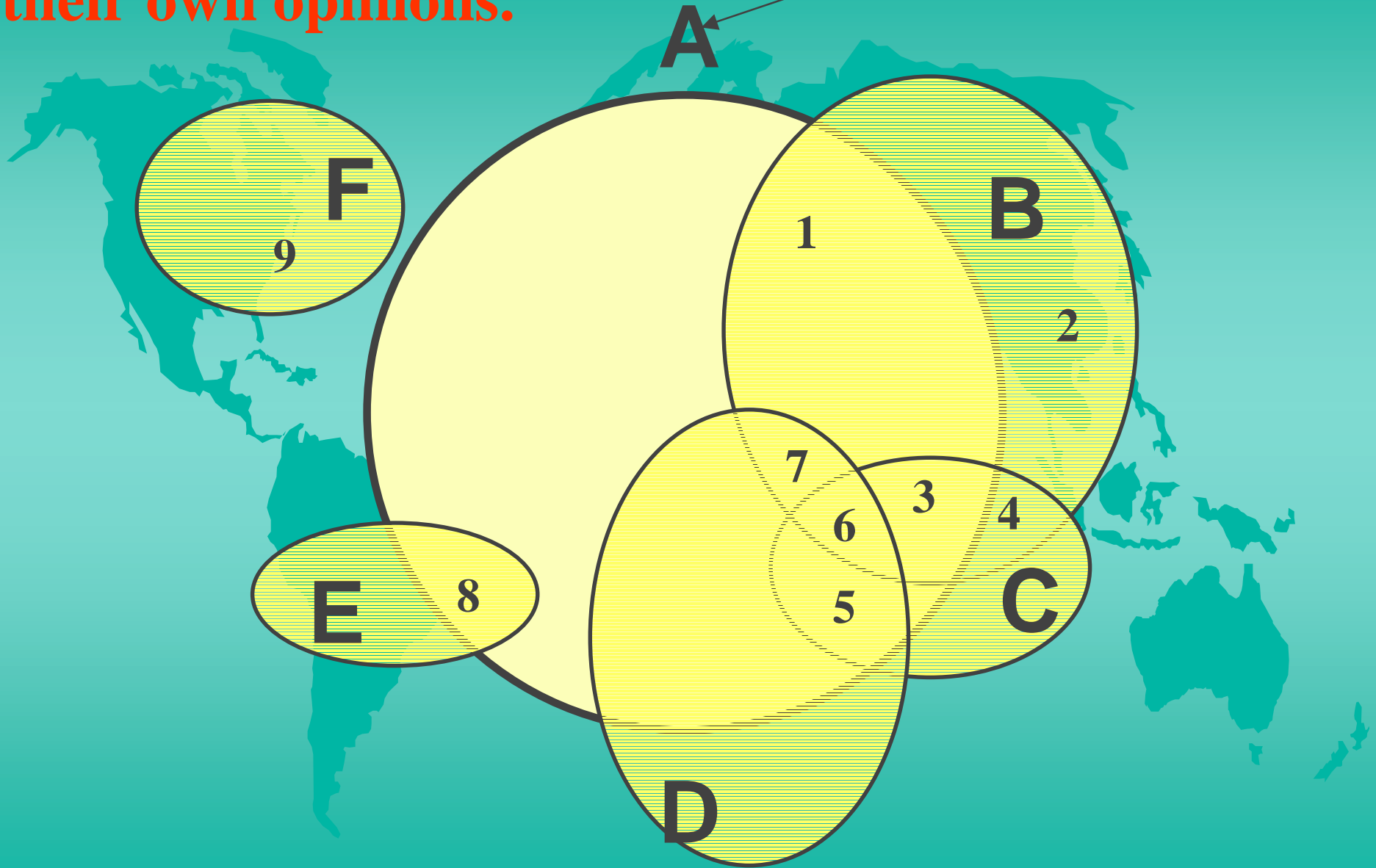
CONSULTATION WITH

- **DISRESPECT,**
- **MISTRUST,**
- **SUSPICION,**
- **AND ENMITY**



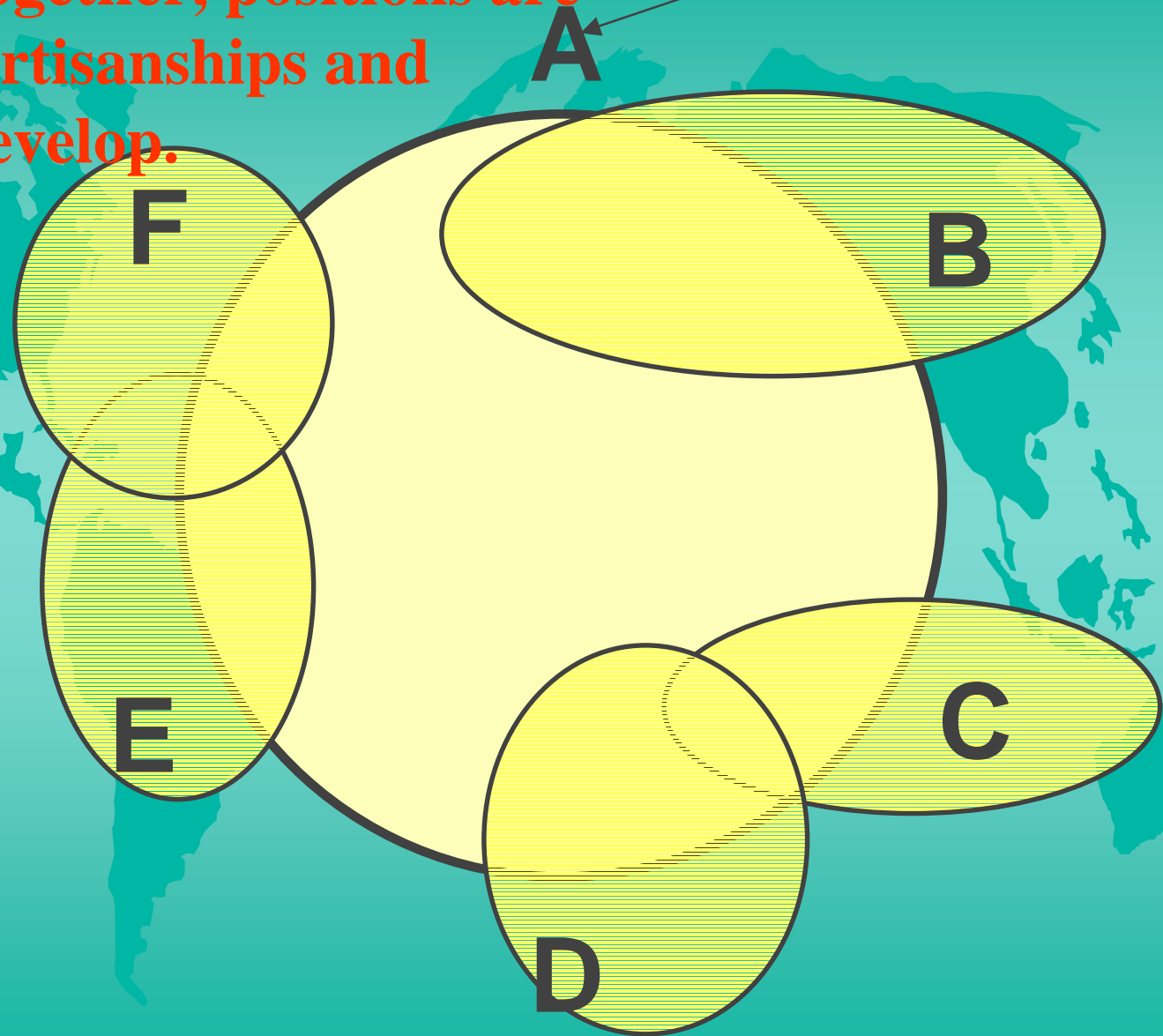
As before, all enter with their own opinions.

No opinion



Opinions still shift. Instead of coming together, positions are taken. Partisanship and parties develop.

No opinion



When people attempt to consult with disrespect, mistrust and enmity,

No opinion

A

B

The voice of the group genius is silent.

F

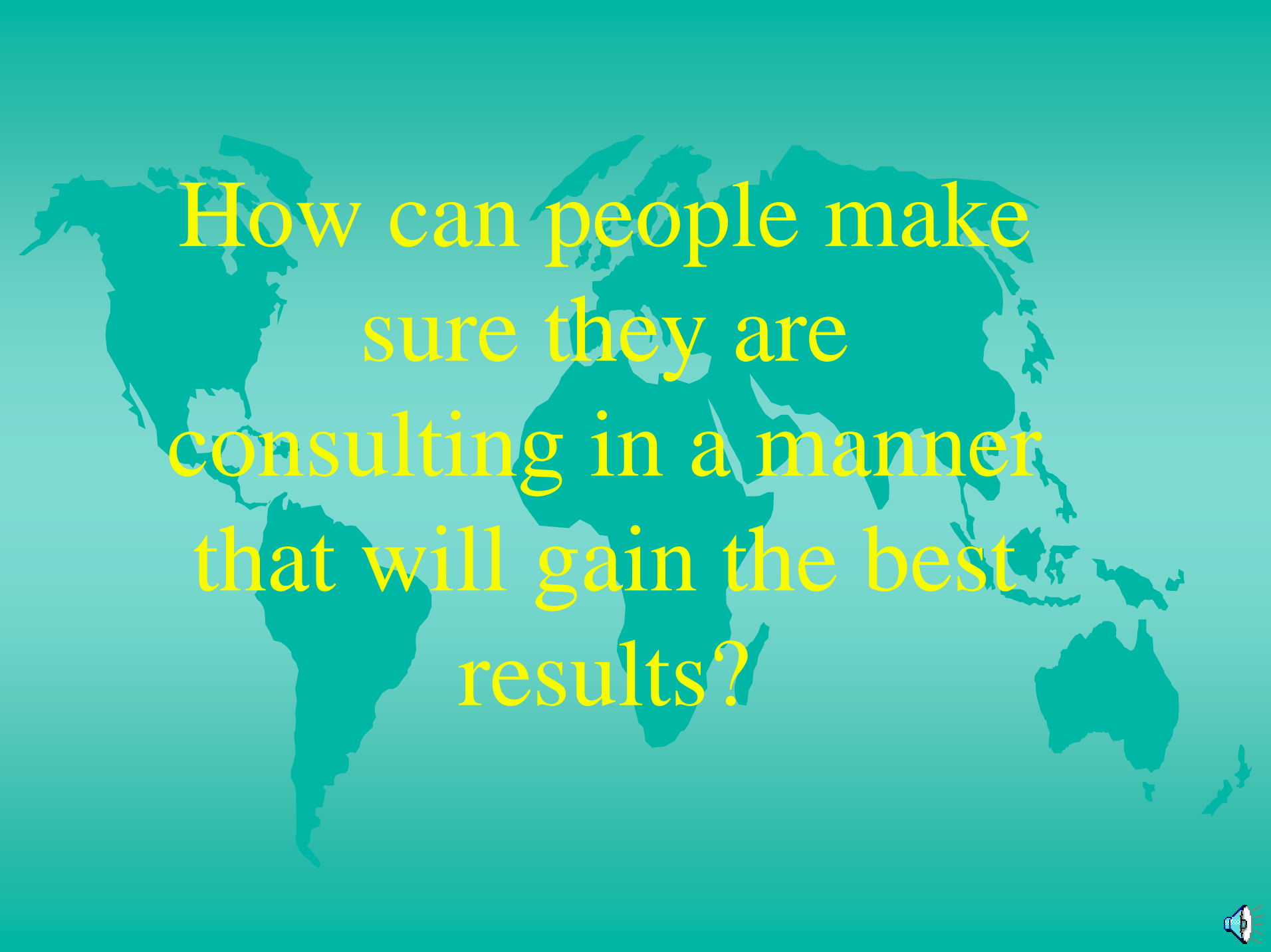
E

C

And, the truth is never found!

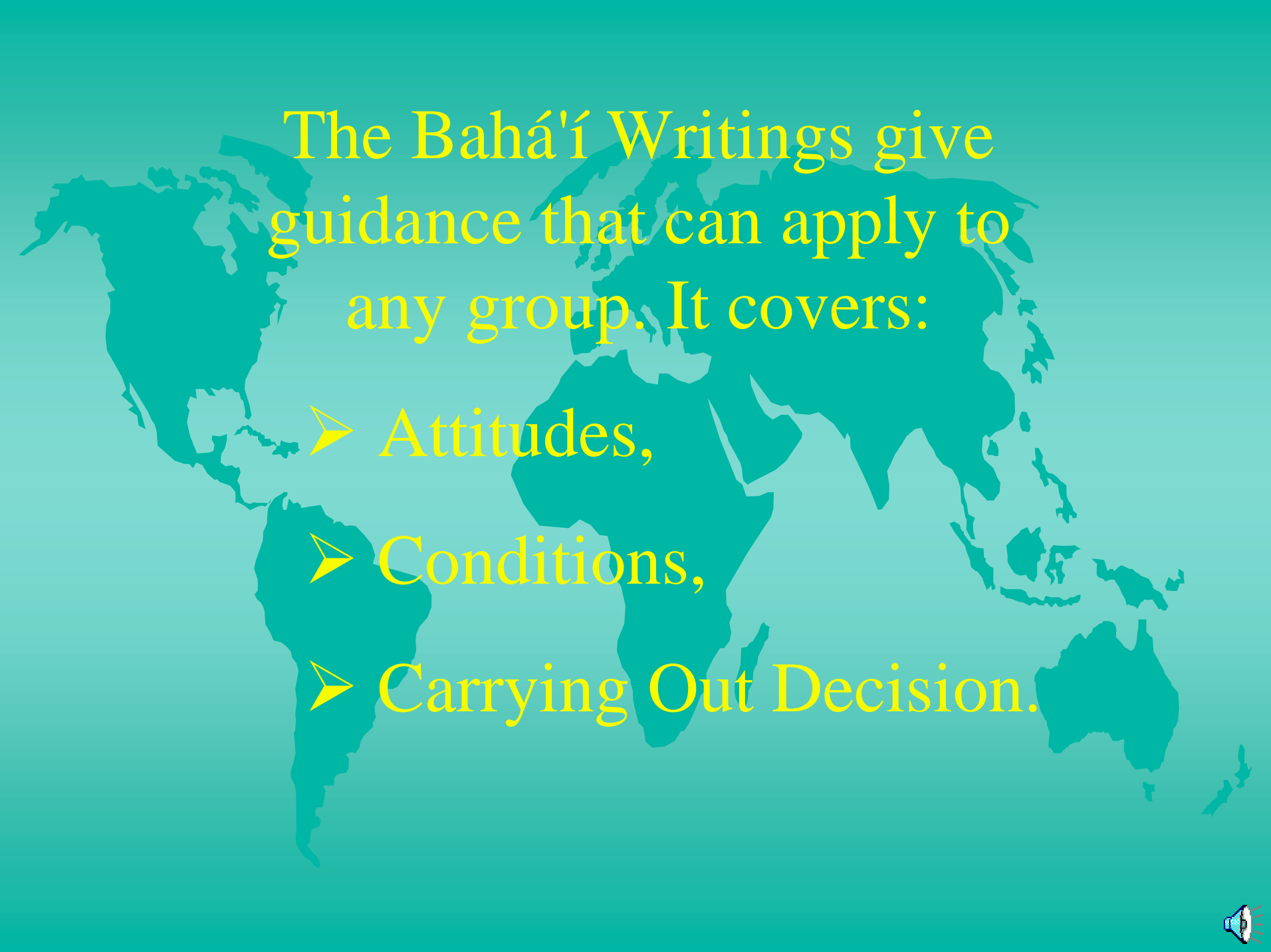
D





How can people make
sure they are
consulting in a manner
that will gain the best
results?





The Bahá'í Writings give guidance that can apply to any group. It covers:

- Attitudes,
- Conditions,
- Carrying Out Decision.





Seven attitudes have
been referred to as the
Prime Requisites:



*purity of motive,
radiance of spirit,
detachment from all else save God,
attraction to His Divine Fragrances,
humility and lowliness amongst His loved ones,
patience and long-suffering in difficulties and
servitude to His exalted Threshold.*



A world map is shown in the background, rendered in a light blue color. A red dot is placed on the map, specifically over the United States. The text is overlaid on the map.

**What behaviors
are associated
with each of these
qualities?**



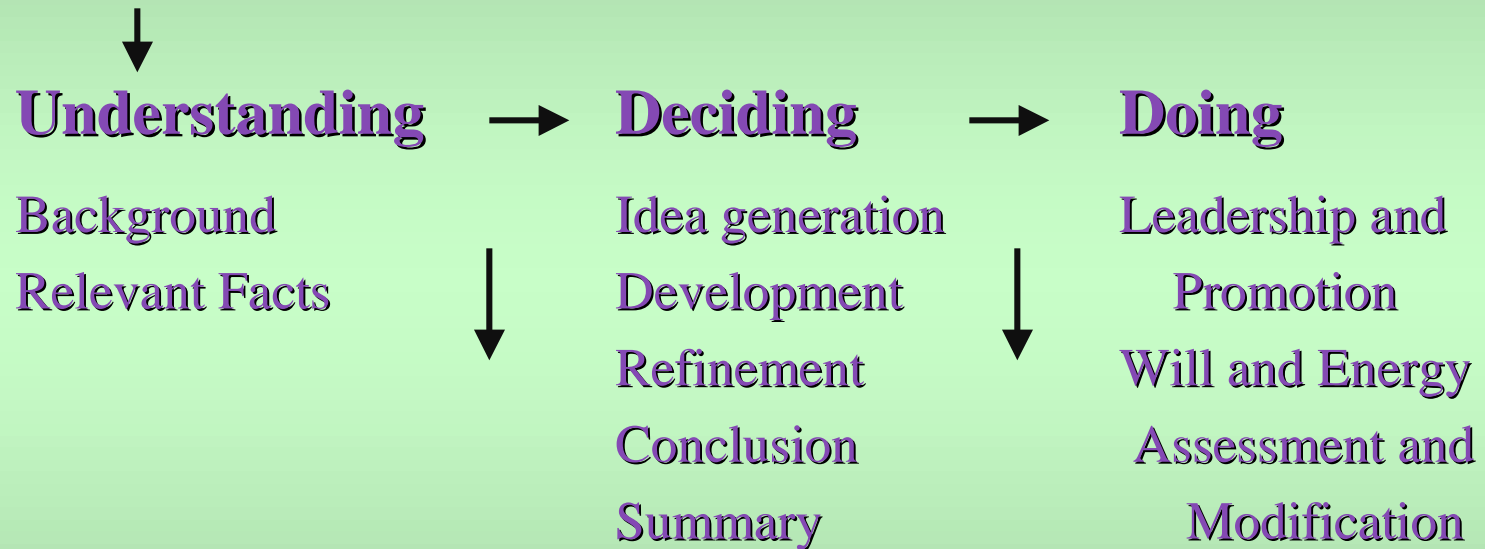
Conditions of Discussion:

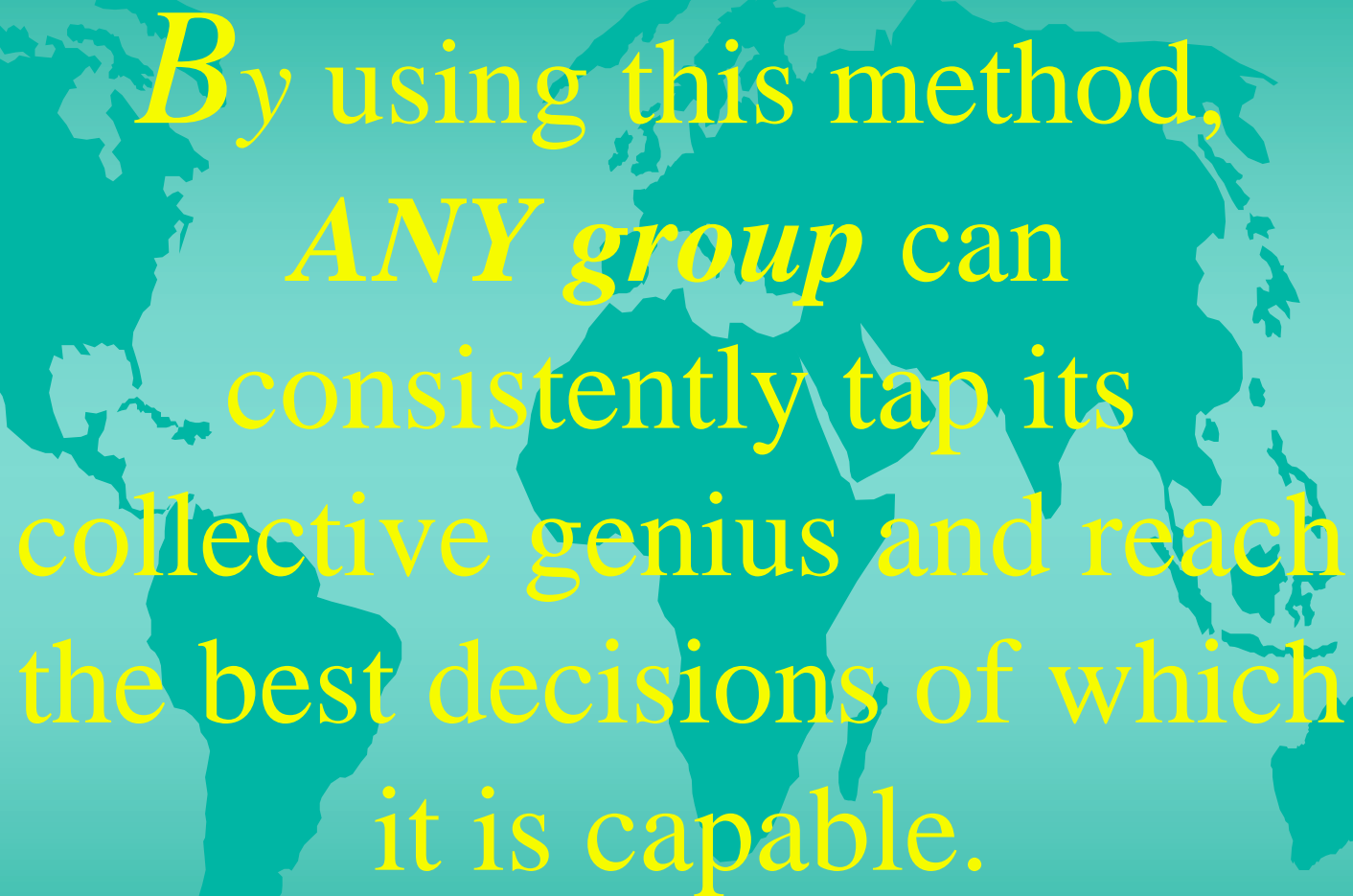
- Amity, Harmony, Trust,
- Agreed upon method of discussion,
- Common purpose and focus.



Consultative Process

Problem -- Question -- Request -- Random Thought





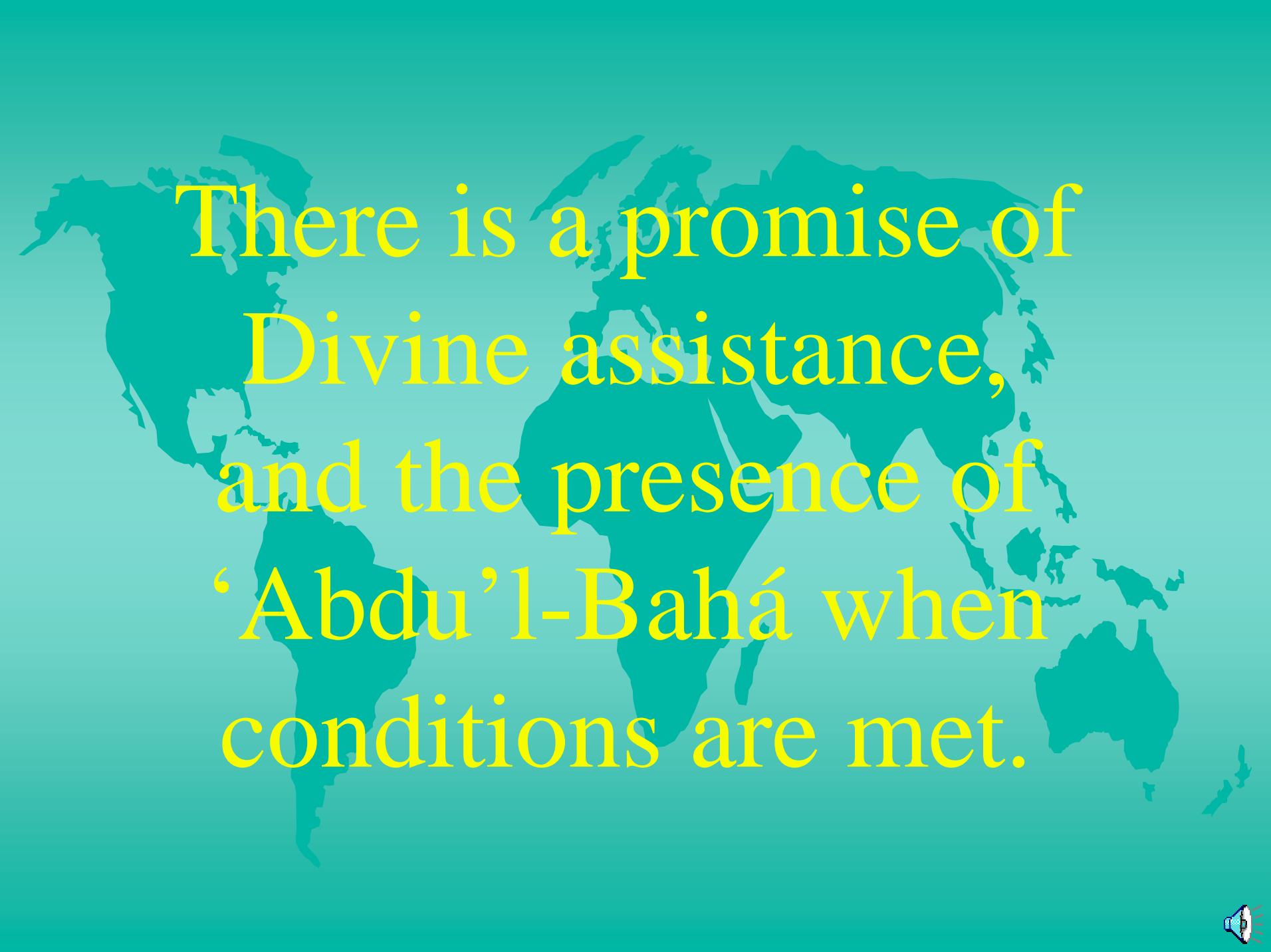
By using this method,
ANY group can
consistently tap its
collective genius and reach
the best decisions of which
it is capable.






**Spiritual
consultation
involves more.**





There is a promise of
Divine assistance,
and the presence of
'Abdu'l-Bahá when
conditions are met.





The first condition is
absolute love and
harmony amongst the
members of the
assembly.



The second condition is that the members of the assembly should unitedly elect a chairman and lay down guide-lines and by-laws for their meetings and discussions.

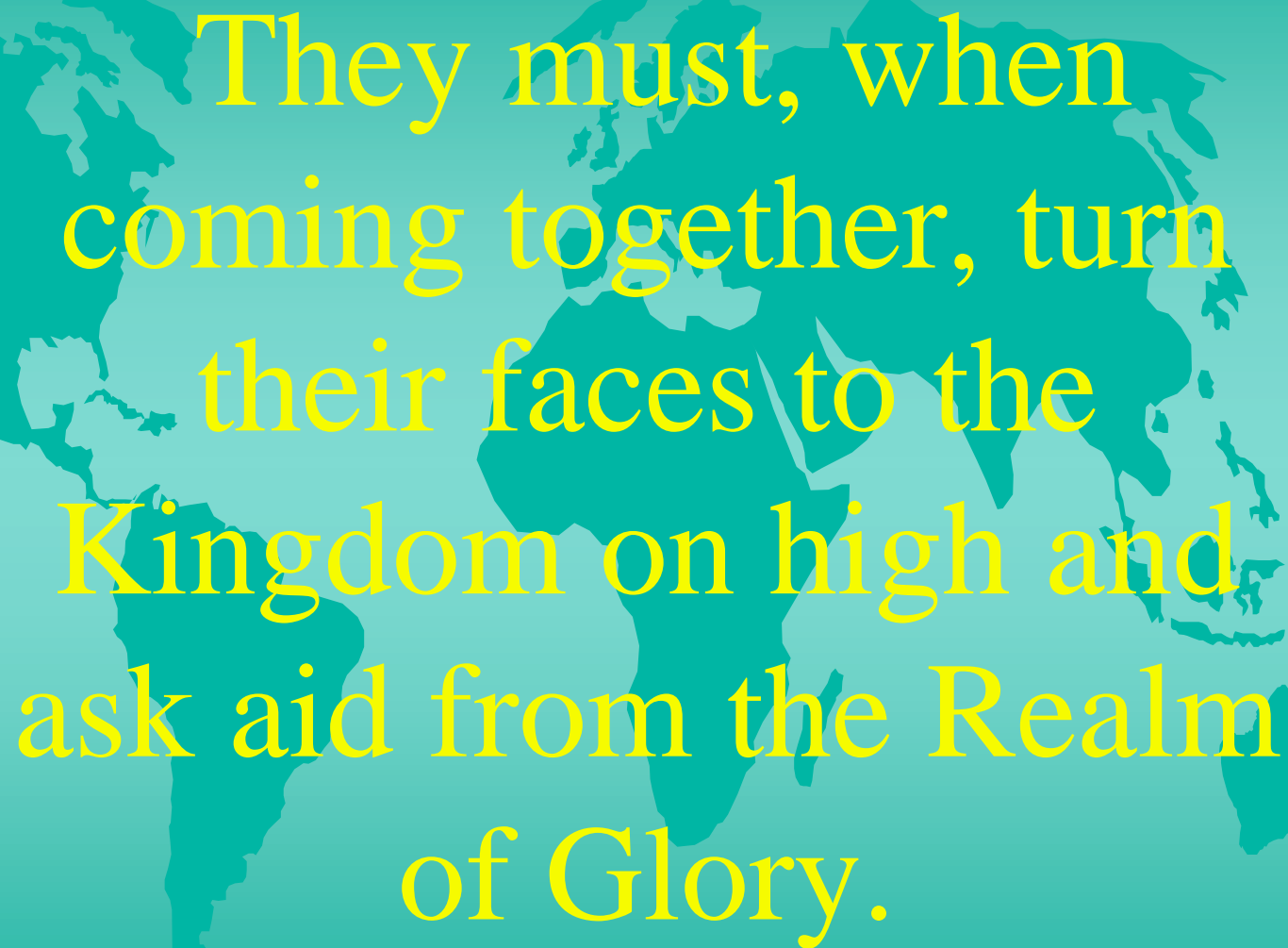


The chairman should
have charge of such
rules and regulations
and protect and
enforce them;



the other members
should be submissive,
and refrain from
conversing on
superfluous and
extraneous matters.





They must, when
coming together, turn
their faces to the
Kingdom on high and
ask aid from the Realm
of Glory.





For Bahá'ís,
consultation is
more than making
good decisions.



Purpose for Bahá'í Decisions:

- Promote unity and concord,
- Embody compassion,
- Reflect the spirit of the Writings,
- Promote the process of Entry by Troops,
- Make good decisions.



Bahá'í Summary Reminders:

- **Promote unity and concord,**
- Best Ideas come from the group,
- Follow procedures,
- Remain detached,
- Maintain courtesy and moderation,
- Listen attentively, without interrupting,
- Each one express frankly and clearly his or her own views,
- Avoid discord,
- Suspend judgment until discussion is complete.



As a result,
Bahá'ís will build
communities noted
for love, unity and
good decision-
making.



*Thank you for
contributing to the
maturation of the
wonderful gift of
Consultation.*

