Africa Study Guide

• Chapter 8 (1500 B.C. – A.D. 700)
• Chapter 15 (800-1500)

Name: _____________________________________  Block: ___________

Mr. George

World History 1
AFRICA MAP

Map should reflect “time and effort”. Should be neatly labeled.
☐ Draw an outline of Africa-make the map as large as possible on the paper.
☐ Color in the 4 climate zones and add a map key (Mediterranean, Desert, Savanna and Rainforest).

Draw and Label the following:

| ☐ Nile River | ☐ Nok Homeland (present day Nigeria) |
| ☐ four deserts | ☐ five primary lakes within Africa |
| ☐ Senegal River | ☐ Niger River |

Label the following:

| ☐ Sahel | ☐ Indian Ocean | ☐ Mt. Kenya | ☐ Great Rift Valley |
| ☐ Gulf of Guinea | ☐ Arabian Peninsula | ☐ Gulf of Aden | ☐ Mt. Kilimanjaro |
| ☐ Atlantic Ocean | ☐ Madagascar | ☐ Red Sea | ☐ Bantu Homelands |
| ☐ Equator | ☐ Atlas Mountains | ☐ city of Djenne-Djeno | ☐ Drakensberg Mountains |
| ☐ Mediterranean Sea |

☐ Draw two sets of narrow arrows showing the Bantu migrations to the South and East. Use a Key and Label one set “Bantu Migrations 3000BC-400AD; the other set should be labeled Bantu Migrations 400AD-11AD.

☐ Label the location of “Aksum” and the city of Aksum on the horn of Africa.
☐ Draw a small cross and label it “Christianity” inside of Aksum
☐ Label the following cities on your map “Mogadishu, Malindi, Mombasa, Kilwa & Sofala.”
☐ Draw and label the city of Great Zimbabwe. Create a dashed line connecting Great Zimbabwe to the port city of Sofala.
☐ Directly north of Great Zimbabwe draw and label the Mutapa Empire.
☐ Label the border of “Hunting-Gathering” societies in Central Africa south of the Sahara.
☐ Label the border of “Stateless Societies” in Central Africa south of the Sahara.
☐ Label the border of the “Almoravid Empire”.
☐ Label the border of the “Almohad Empire”.
☐ Draw the crescent moon & star to represent “Islam” in both the Almoravid and Almohad Empire inside the overlap of the two empires.
☐ Label the “Maghrib” in the correct location in North Africa.
☐ Draw and label the border of “Ghana” and include the dates of the empire.
☐ Draw and label the border of “Mali” and include the dates of the empire.
☐ Draw and label the border of “Songhai” and include the dates of the empire.
☐ Draw and label a “gold nugget” in the rainforest region in West Africa south of Ghana, Mali and Songhai with an arrow pointing to those empires.
☐ Draw and label a bowl of “salt” in the Sahara Desert north of Ghana, Mali and Songhai with an arrow pointing to those empires.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>0-49 Beginning</th>
<th>☐ 70 Developing</th>
<th>☐ 85 Proficient</th>
<th>☐ 100 Exemplary</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Not done. Incomplete. Not acceptable. Map is somewhat neat and organized. Some or few inaccuracies in drawing or labeling. Met SOM®i or FEW assignment requirements. More time and effort should have gone into this assignment.</td>
<td>Map is neat, creative, colorful and organized. Map reflects accurate drawing and clear labeling of MOST items. Met MOST assignment requirements.</td>
<td>Map is neat, creative, colorful and organized. Map reflects accurate drawing and clear labeling of ALL items. Met ALL assignment requirements. Time and effort went into this assignment.</td>
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STUDY GUIDE: AFRICA

KEY TERMS:

savanna
Ghana
desertification
Mali
griot
Songhai
lineage
Nok
patrilineal
Aksum
matrilineal
Askia Muhammad
Swahili
King Ezana
Bantu peoples
Sundiata
Sahara
Mansa Musa
Timbuktu
Sonni Ali
Gao
Sundiata
Almoravids
Almohads
Migration
nomad
Push-pull factors

KEY CONCEPTS:

You should be able to answer, in your own words:

- What are the major geographic features and four major climate regions of Africa?
- How did geography influence the development of Africa?
- How did Islam impact Africa?
- What were the characteristics of the Eastern and Western African empires?
- How did trade affect African civilizations?
- Who were griots and what did they do? What was their role in African society?
Human History

Ask someone to tell you quickly what they associate with Africa, and the answers you'll get will probably range from "cradle of humankind" and "big animals" to "poverty" and "tribalism." How did one continent come to embody such extremes?

Geography and history go a long way toward providing the explanations. Geographically, Africa resembles a bulging sandwich. The sole continent to span both the north and south temperate zones, it has a thick tropical core lying between one thin temperate zone in the north and another in the south. That simple geographic reality explains a great deal about Africa today.

As to its human history, this is the place where some seven million years ago the evolutionary lines of apes and protohumans diverged. It remained the only continent our ancestors inhabited until around two million years ago, when Homo erectus expanded out of Africa into Europe and Asia. Over the next 1.5 million years the populations of those three continents followed such different evolutionary courses that they became distinct species. Europe's became the Neanderthals, Asia's remained Homo erectus, but Africa's evolved into our own species, Homo sapiens. Sometime between 100,000 and 50,000 years ago our African ancestors underwent some further profound change. Whether it was the development of complex speech or something else, such as a change in brain wiring, we aren't sure. Whatever it was, it transformed those early Homo sapiens into what paleoanthropologists call "behaviorally modern" Homo sapiens. Those people, probably with brains similar to our own, expanded again into Europe and Asia. Once there, they exterminated or replaced or interbred with Neanderthals and Asia's hominins and became the dominant human species throughout the world.

In effect, Africans enjoyed not just one but three huge head starts over humans on other continents. That makes Africa's economic struggles today, compared with the successes of other continents, particularly puzzling. It's the opposite of what one would expect from the runner first off the block. Here again geography and history give us answers.

Agriculture & Animals

It turns out that the rules of the competitive race among the world's humans changed radically about 10,000 years ago, with the origins of agriculture. The domestication of wild plants and animals meant our ancestors could grow their own food instead of having to hunt or gather it in the wild. That allowed people to settle in permanent villages, to increase their populations, and to feed specialists—inventors, soldiers, and kings—who did not produce food. With domestication came other advances, including the first metal tools, writing, and state societies.

The problem is that only a tiny minority of wild plants and animals lend themselves to domestication, and those few are concentrated in about half a dozen parts of the world. As every schoolchild learns, the world's earliest and most productive farming arose in the Fertile Crescent of southwestern Asia, where wheat, barley, sheep, cattle, and goats were domesticated. While those plants and animals spread east and west in Eurasia, in Africa they were stopped by the continent's north-south orientation. Crops and livestock tend to spread much more slowly from north to south than from east to west, because different latitudes require adaptation to different
climates, seasonalities, day lengths, and diseases. Africa's own native plant species—sorghum, oil palm, coffee, millets, and yams—weren't domesticated until thousands of years after Asia and Europe had agriculture. And Africa's geography kept oil palm, yams, and other crops of equatorial Africa from spreading into southern Africa's temperate zone. While South Africa today boasts the continent's richest agricultural lands, the crops grown there are mostly northern temperate crops, such as wheat and grapes, brought directly on ships by European colonists. Those same crops never succeeded in spreading south through the thick tropical core of Africa.

Effect on Animals

The domesticated sheep and cattle of Fertile Crescent origins took about 5,000 years to spread from the Mediterranean down to the southern tip of Africa. The continent's own native animals—with the exception of guinea fowl and possibly donkeys and one breed of cattle—proved impossible to domesticate. History might have turned out differently if African armies, fed by barnyard-giraffe meat and backed by waves of cavalry mounted on huge rhinos, had swept into Europe to overrun its mutton-fed soldiers mounted on puny horses. That this didn't happen was no fault of the Africans; it was because of the kinds of wild animals available to them.

Ironically, the long human presence in Africa is probably the reason the continent's species of big animals survive today. African animals co-evolved with humans for millions of years, as human hunting prowess gradually progressed from the rudimentary skills of our early ancestors. That gave the animals time to learn a healthy fear of man, and with it a healthy avoidance of human hunters. In contrast, North and South America and Australia were settled by humans only within the last tens of thousands of years. To the misfortune of the big animals of those continents, the first humans they encountered were already fully modern people, with modern brains and hunting skills. Most of those animals—woolly mammoths, saber-toothed cats, and in Australia marsupials as big as rhinoceroses—disappeared soon after humans arrived. Entire species may have been exterminated before they had time to learn to beware of hunters.

Disease

Unfortunately the long human presence in Africa also encouraged something else to thrive—diseases. The continent has a well-deserved reputation for having spawned some of our nastiest ones: malaria, yellow fever, East African sleeping sickness, and AIDS. These and many other human illnesses arose when microbes causing disease in animals crossed species lines to evolve into a human disease. For a microbe already adapted to one species to adapt to another can be difficult and require a lot of evolutionary time. Much more time has been available in Africa, cradle of humankind, than in any other part of the planet. That's half the answer to Africa's disease burden; the other half is that the animal species most closely related to humans—those whose microbes required the least adaptation to jump species—are the African great apes and monkeys.
Economic Impact of Geography

Africa continues to be shaped in other ways by its long history and its geography. Of mainland Africa's ten richest countries—the only ones with annual per capita gross domestic products over $3,500—nine lie partly or entirely within its temperate zones: Egypt, Libya, Tunisia, Algeria, and Morocco in the north; and Swaziland, South Africa, Botswana, and Namibia in the south. Gabon is Africa's only tropical country to make the list. In addition, nearly a third of the countries of mainland Africa (15 out of 47) are landlocked, and the only African river navigable from the ocean for long distances inland is the Nile. Since waterways provide the cheapest way to transport cumbersome goods, geography again thwarts Africa's progress.

What does the future hold?

All these factors can lead to the question: Is the continent, or at least its big tropical core, doomed eternally to wars, poverty, and devastating diseases? I'd answer: Absolutely not. On my own visits to Africa, I've been struck by how harmoniously ethnic groups live together in many countries—far better than they do in many other parts of the globe. Tensions arise in Africa, as they do elsewhere, when people see no other way out of poverty except to fight their neighbors for dwindling resources. But many areas of Africa have an abundance of resources: The rivers of central Africa are great generators of hydroelectric power; the big animals are a major source of ecotourism revenue in eastern and southern Africa; and the forests in the wetter regions, if managed and logged sustainably, would be renewable and lucrative sources of income.

As for Africa's health problems, they can be greatly alleviated with the right planning and funding. Within the past half century several formerly poor countries in Asia recognized that tropical diseases were a major drain on their economies. By investing in public health measures, they have successfully curbed those diseases, and the increased health of their people has led to far healthier economies. Within Africa itself, some international mining and oil companies have been funding successful public health programs throughout their concession areas because they realized that protecting the health of their workers was an excellent business investment for them.

What's the best case for Africa's future? If the continent can overcome its health problems and the corruption that plagues many of its governments and institutions, then it could take advantage of today's globalized, technological world in much the same way that China and India are now doing. Technology could give Africa the connections that its geography, particularly its rivers, long denied it. Nearly half of all African countries are English speaking, an advantage in trade relations, and an educated, English-speaking workforce could well attract service jobs to many African countries.

If Africa is to head into a bright future, outside investment will continue to be needed, at least for a time. The cost of perpetual aid to or military intervention in Africa is thousands of times more expensive than solving health problems and supporting local development, thereby heading off conflicts. Not only Africans but the rest of us will be healthier and safer if Africa's nations increasingly take their places as peaceful and prospering members of the world community.
What is Africa?

The RACIAL definition: Africa is based on race—the “real” Africa is south of the Sahara Desert. Here Africans are black.

The CONTINENTAL definition: Africa is based on geography—“Africa is not a race, but a continent. The northern boundary is not the Sahara Desert, but the Mediterranean Sea.” Therefore, the light-skinned Arabs and Berbers of the north are also Africans.

This controversy, as Marzui demonstrates, has caused centuries of schizophrenia and bitterness. Scholars have gone to great lengths trying to prove that Egypt (located in Africa) was, in fact, an “African” (black) civilization. Skulls have been dug up and scrutinized for “Negroid” features, Egyptian murals and statues have been argued over to prove that people’s races were flat.

Is nothing African unless it’s black!” asks Marzui.

Should Africans think of themselves as a race of black people? Or should Africans think of themselves as people who came from a continent that includes both the Negroid peoples south of the Sahara Desert and the Caucasian peoples of North Africa? Should Africans think of themselves as a “multi-colored people”?

Then Who is African?

Someone who is born on the continent of Africa? Or someone who has “black” skin? Black-skinned people exist in India and in other parts of the world, but they are not racially Negroid. People existed in most of Africa for thousands of years ago who are not Negroid nor even have black skin. Is the light-skinned Muslim of the north not an African? What about the Jews who settled in Africa over 2,000 years ago, centuries before Islam was even created—or the Dutch who settled in South Africa 400 years ago and call themselves Afrikaners? Can a white person be an African?

Creating an African Identity

“Africans, all over the continent, without a word being spoken either to one individual to another or from one African country to another, looked at the European, looked at one another, and knew that in relation to the Europeans they were one.”

Julius Nyerere

TEACHING AFRICAN IDENTITY

QUESTION: Did European colonialism cause division among the people of Africa—or did it cause unity?

It is wrong to think that all black people were “Africans” until the colonists split them into Kikuyu, Tanzanian, Ugandan, etc. In fact, they were tribal states (Kikuyu vs. Masai, Ibo vs. Hausa, etc.) that united to overthrow the foreign rulers. Africans did not put their continent back together after colonization. There was never an united Pan-African Identity until colonization.

Creating a New Identity

The “African-American”

uch of the way you and I think about ourselves is based on the country and nationality our families came from, but black people in America were systematically and purposely cut off from this sense of identity. When African slaves were brought to America, our heritage was forever erased along with our names from the slave books. Alex Haley in his book Roots tells how Kunta Kinte was forced to surrender his tribal name for the name “Toby.” Slavers purposefully set out to destroy any reminders of our African heritage. We were taught to be ashamed of the rich traditions of the Mandinka and Yoruba peoples and to look down at the very place where we were born. Slavery was a “deliverance” from the “primitives” and “savage” of our homes. Witness the names of most people in America provide a clue about their cultural heritage, most African-Americans can never know their own home culture.

Even “African-American,” while more accurate than “Black-American,” still does not carry the cultural roots of knowing the tribe of your ancestor.

What Marzui calls the “re-Africanization of Black America” has really just begun. Maybe these “soul to soul” stirrings will become a real attempt for people of both continents to reach out their hands to each other across the vast expanse of ocean and rejoi the links of this chain broken by history.

“African Americans were the only group in the U.S. to be named by a physical characteristic the color of our skin rather than by a nationality. White other groups are Greek-Americans, Italian-Americans, Jewish-Americans. People from Africa were called “indians,” “darkies,” “Negroes,” or “Black Americans.”
The Eurocentric Point of View

In his provocative book *The Africans*, Ali A. Mazrui shows how Africa is at war with both itself and the world, fighting to lay or erase its own "ancient world views" while at the same time being thrust into a world culture which is, at its heart, "Eurocentric."

In reality, it was Europeans who invented the identity of Africa. And it was Europeans who shaped our conceptions of the world.

Today what African people know about each other still comes through a mass media inherited from the Western world. African politicians rule their people with laws generated by Europeans. Schools teach in European languages (English, French and Portuguese) which shape the possibilities of young peoples' minds. Morality is shaped, in part, by the Christian religions of Europe. Even time, as Mazrui points out, is distorted. The world sets its clocks based on an imaginary line drawn through a city in England — Greenwich Time.

The Afrocentric Point of View

"Africa is a peninsula so large that it comprises the third part, and lets the most southerly, of our (European) continent."

— The Geographer Royal of France, 1669

Looking at life from the Eurocentric point of view of the 19th Century, Africa (in fact, the whole world) was seen to be an extension of Europe. Historically, however, Europe was not the center of this "civilized world." Early "Western" civilization was centered around the Mediterranean Sea, and — as Mazrui claims — it is just as logical to think of Europe as an extension of North Africa as it is to think of North Africa as an extension of Europe.

In fact, it wasn't until the 19th Century that the concept of "Europe" was invented. In earlier times there was no "Europe." The Roman Empire was, truthfully, a Mediterranean world and "the West" included North Africa along with what's now called Europe.

Why not turn the world upside down?

The actual location of the world's continents on our maps reflects the bias of the European. Why is Europe on top and Africa at the bottom? If you were an astronaut circling our earth and looked down, you would see no signs saying "North Pole" or "South Pole." The "Far East" and the "West" are also concepts based from a European point of view. Why is Africa not seen "on top" and "Europe" at the bottom?

Why not make Africa, the birthplace of man, the center of our maps?

*Distorted* proportion of continental areas

- 8½ times as big as the United States
- Larger than China and India put together
- And large enough to include all of the colonial nations that conquered it
AFRICA’s Geography

After Asia, Africa is the largest of the continents.

- includes several distinct geographical zones (overhead)
  - The northern fringe, by the Med Sea, is mostly mountainous
  - south of the mountains is the largest desert on earth, the Sahara
  - to the East is the Nile River
  - sub-Saharan Africa (Africa south of the Sahara Desert) is divided into a number of regions
    - west - hump of Africa, where the Sahara gives way to grasslands in the interior and tropical jungles along the coast. This area is rich in natural resources
    - East - snow-capped mountains, upland plateaus, and lakes. Much of this region is grassland populated by wild animals.
    - further to the south is the Congo basin, and the Zaire river. The jungles of equatorial Africa (Africa near the equator) gradually fade into the hills, plateaus, and deserts of the south. This land contains some of the most valuable mineral resources known today.

- Africa includes 4 distinct climate zones, which helps to explain the different lifestyles of the people of Africa.
  - mild climate zone stretches across the northern coast and southern tip of Africa. moderate rainfall and warm temperatures result in fertile land that produces abundant crops. This crop production can support large numbers of people. more crops = more people
  - deserts - Sahara in north and Kalahari in south, cover about 40% of Africa.
    - makes travel hard but not impossible - camel helps (because they don’t need much water, can travel long distances)
  - third climate zone is the rainforest that stretches along the equator and makes up about 10% of the continent. Heavy rains and warm temperatures produce dense forests where little farming and little travel are possible.
    - rainforest is also home to disease-carrying insects, especially the tsetse fly, which infects humans and animals with sleeping sickness. as a result, people who live in the rainforest don’t raise cattle or use animals
  - final climate zone is the savannahs, broad grasslands dotted with small trees and shrubs.
    - about 40% of land area
    - enough rainfall to allow for farming and herding of animals, but rain is unreliable. heavy rains one year might be followed by drought the next, making faming difficult at times.
### Western African Empires

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<tr>
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<th>Ghana</th>
<th>Mali</th>
<th>Songhai</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Approximate Dates</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Location</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Type of Government</strong></td>
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<td><strong>Important Leaders</strong></td>
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<td><strong>Basis of Economic Life</strong></td>
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<td><strong>Reasons for Decline</strong></td>
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<td><strong>Islamic Influences</strong></td>
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## Geography

Africa is the second largest continent in the world. It stretches ____________ miles from east to west and ________________ miles from north to south.

The largest deserts are the ________________ in the north and the ________________ in the south.

Most people in Africa live on the grassy plains, also known as the ________________.

Africa’s four climate zones: ________________ _____________ _____________

## Early Societies

Families that shared common ancestors sometimes formed groups known as ____________.

___________ is a religion in which spirits play an important role in regulating daily life. Believers of this religion believe that spirits are present in animals, plants and other natural forces, and also take the form of the souls of their ancestors.

Few African societies had written languages. Instead storytellers shared orally the history and literature of a culture. In West Africa, these storytellers were called ____________.

## West African Iron Age

West Africa’s earliest known culture was that of the ____________ people who lived in present-day ______________________ between 500 B.C. and 200 A.D.

The ancient city of ______________________ was located on the tributary of the Niger River in West Africa, had 50,000 residents at its height, and is one of the oldest known cities in Africa south of the ________________.

## Migration

______________ is the permanent move from one country or region to another.

______________ factors can either ____________ people out of an area or ____________ them into an area.

War and earthquakes are ____________ examples.

New resources, good climate and political freedom are ________________ examples.

Starting in the first few centuries A.D. and continuing over ____________ years, small groups massively migrated and moved southward throughout Africa, spreading their ____________ and culture. Historians refer to these people as the ________________ peoples.

## Kingdom of Aksum

The kingdom of ________________ arose and conquered the East African kingdom of ________________.

The area located south of Kush on a rugged plateau on the Red Sea in what is now the
The Kingdom of Aksum reached its height between 325 A.D. and 360, when an exceptionally strong ruler, _______________, occupied the throne. When ______________ became ruler of Aksum, he converted to ________________ (as he was educated by a young Christian man from Syria) and he established it as the kingdom’s official ________________.

Aksumites created ________________, which was a method of agriculture that allowed them to increase productivity and adapt creatively to their hilly, rugged environment.

Summary

Interaction with the African environment has created unique cultures and societies. Each group found ways to adapt to the land and the resources it offers.

Miscellaneous question:

After Arabic, what is the most commonly spoken language in Africa? ________________

Guided Notes – Chapter 15 (800 – 1500)

North and Central African Societies

_________________________ societies is the oldest form of social organization in the world.

Many African groups developed systems of governing based on ________________. In some societies, _______________ groups took the place of rulers. These societies, known as _______________ societies, did not have a centralized system of power – instead it was balanced among equal power so that no one family had to much control.

Members of a patrilineal society, trace their ancestors through their _______________.

Members of a matrilineal society, trace their ancestors through their _______________.

By 670, _______________ ruled Egypt and had entered the _______________, the part of North Africa that is today the Mediterranean coast of Libya, Tunisia, Algeria and Morocco.

In the 11th century, Muslim reformers founded the _______________ Empire.

In the mid-1100s, the _______________ another group of Muslim reformers, seized power from the Almoravids.

West African Civilizations

By the 700s, Ghana was a kingdom. Its rulers were growing rich by _______________ the goods that traders carried through their territory.

Two most important trade items were _______ and _________.

By 1235, the Kingdom of _______________ emerged. Its wealth, like Ghana’s, was built on _____________. Mali’s first great leader, ______________, came to power by ______________.
crushing a cruel, unpopular leader. He became Mali’s mansa, or _____________.

The most famous of Mali’s next rulers was ____________ ____________ who ruled from 1312-1332. He was a devout Muslim who was generous with his gold.

As Mali declined in the 1400s, people who had been under its control began to break away. Among them were the ____________ people to the east. Despite its wealth and learning, the Songhai Empire lacked modern weapons.

The Hausa, ____________ and the Benin were three other city-states that developed in other parts of West Africa. Their development were either influenced by Muslim traditions or traditional ____________ beliefs.

These empires grew by controlling trade.

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Eastern City-States and Southern Empires</th>
<th>Arabic blended with the Bantu language to create the ____________ language.</th>
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<tr>
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<td>Muslim ____________ introduced ____________ to the East African coast and the growth of commerce caused the religion to spread.</td>
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<td>Along with luxury goods, Arab Muslim traders exported ____________ persons from the East African coast and had been doing this since the ____________ century.</td>
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<td>The ____________ and ____________ that helped the coastal city-states grow rich came from the interior of southern Africa. ____________ ____________ became a city that grew into an empire built on the gold trade.</td>
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<td>By the time of Mutota’s death, the ____________ Empire had conquered all of what is now Zimbabwe except the eastern portion.</td>
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| Summary | African groups have found different ways to organize themselves to meet political, economic and social needs. In the varied regions of Africa, climate and topography (landforms) influenced how each community developed. |