

Guided Notes – Chapter 8 (1500 B.C. – 700 A.D.)

<p>Geography</p> <p><i>Animism</i></p>	<p>Africa is the second largest continent in the world. It stretches <u>4,600</u> miles from east to west and <u>5,000</u> miles from north to south.</p> <p>The largest deserts are the <u>Sahara</u> in the north and the <u>Kalahari</u> in the south.</p> <p>Most people in Africa live on the grassy plains, also known as the <u>savannas</u>.</p> <p>Africa's four climate zones: <u>Rain forest</u> <u>Savanna</u> <u>Desert</u> <u>Mediterranean</u></p>
<p>Early Societies</p>	<p>Families that shared common ancestors sometimes formed groups known as <u>clans</u>.</p> <p><u>Animism</u> 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.</p> <p>Few African societies had written languages. Instead storytellers shared orally the history and literature of a culture. In West Africa, these storytellers were called <u>griots</u>. (gri-oh-z)</p>
<p>West African Iron Age</p>	<p>West Africa's earliest known culture was that of the <u>NOK</u> ^(nah-ohk) people who lived in present-day <u>Nigeria</u> between 500 B.C. and 200 A.D.</p> <p>The ancient city of <u>Djenné-Djenné</u> ^(jeh-nay jeh-noh) 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 <u>Sahara</u>.</p>
<p>Migration</p>	<p><u>Migration</u> is the permanent move from one country or region to another.</p> <p><u>Push-pull</u> factors can either <u>push</u> people out of an area or <u>pull</u> them into an area.</p> <p>War and earthquakes are <u>push</u> examples.</p> <p>New resources, good climate and political freedom are <u>pull</u> examples.</p> <p>Starting in the first few centuries A.D. and continuing over <u>1,500</u> years, small groups massively migrated and moved southward throughout Africa, spreading their <u>language</u> and culture. Historians refer to these people as the <u>Bantu-speaking</u> peoples.</p>
<p>Kingdom of Aksum</p>	<p>The kingdom of <u>Aksum</u> arose and conquered the East African kingdom of <u>Kush</u>.</p> <p>The area located south of Kush on a rugged plateau on the Red Sea in what is now the</p>

...tries of Eritrea and Ethiopia is called the Horn of Africa.

The Kingdom of Aksum reached its height between 325 A.D. and 360, when an exceptionally strong ruler, Ezana (Ay-zah-nah), occupied the throne. When Ezana became ruler of Aksum, he converted to Christianity (as he was educated by a young Christian man from Syria) and he established it as the kingdom's official religion.

Aksumites created Terrace Farming, 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? Swahili

Guided Notes – Chapter 15 (800 – 1500)

North and Central African Societies

Hunting - Gathering societies is the oldest form of social organization in the world.

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

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

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

By 670, Muslims ruled Egypt and had entered the Maghreb, 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 Almoravid Empire.

In the mid-1100s, the Almohadi 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 taxing the goods that traders carried through their territory.

Two most important trade items were salt and gold.

By 1235, the Kingdom of Mali emerged. Its wealth, like Ghana's, was built on Gold. Mali's first great leader, Sundiata (Sun-JAH-ah), came to power by

	<p>crushing a cruel, unpopular leader. He became Mali's mansa, or <u>emperor</u>. The most famous of Mali's next rulers was <u>Mansa Musa</u> who ruled from 1312-1332. He was a devout Muslim who was generous with his gold.</p> <p>As Mali declined in the 1400s, people who had been under its control began to break away. Among them were the <u>Songhai</u> people to the east. Despite its wealth and learning, the Songhai Empire lacked modern weapons.</p> <p>The Hausa, <u>Yoruba</u> 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 <u>African</u> beliefs.</p> <p>These empires grew by controlling trade.</p>
<p>Eastern City-States and Southern Empires</p>	<p>Arabic blended with the Bantu language to create the <u>Swahili</u> language.</p> <p>Muslim <u>traders</u> introduced <u>Islam</u> to the East African coast and the growth of commerce caused the religion to spread.</p> <p>Along with luxury goods, Arab Muslim traders exported <u>enslaved</u> persons from the East African coast and had been doing this since the <u>9th</u> century. (800s)</p> <p>The <u>gold</u> and <u>ivory</u> that helped the coastal city-states grow rich came from the interior of southern Africa. <u>Great Zimbabwe</u> became a city that grew into an empire built on the gold trade.</p> <p>By the time of Mutota's death, the <u>Mutapa</u> Empire had conquered all of what is now Zimbabwe except the eastern portion.</p>
<p>Summary</p>	<p>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.</p>