

Section 1 The Rise of African Civilizations

Vocabulary

plateau
griot
dhow

Focusing on the Main Ideas

- Africa has a vast and varied landscape. (page 445)
- West African empires grew rich from trade. (page 447)
- Africa's rain forests blocked invaders and provided resources. (page 450)
- East African kingdoms and states became centers for trade and new ideas. (page 451)

Section 2 Africa's Government and Religion

Vocabulary

clan
sultan
Swahili

Focusing on the Main Ideas

- The growth of West African empires led to the growth of centralized governments ruled by kings. (page 461)
- Traditional African religions shared certain beliefs and provided a guide for living together. (page 463)
- Islam played an important role in medieval Africa, but long-held African beliefs and customs still remained strong. (page 464)

Section 3 African Society and Culture

Vocabulary

extended family
matrilineal
oral history

Focusing on the Main Ideas

- The Bantu migrations helped shape many cultures in Africa south of the Sahara. (page 469)
- The African slave trade changed greatly when Muslims and Europeans began taking captives from the continent. (page 472)
- Enslaved Africans developed rich cultures that influenced many other cultures, including our own. (page 474)



▲ Family life in the Congo

Assessment and Activities

Review Vocabulary

Write *True* for each true statement. Replace the word in italics to make false statements true.

- ___ 1. Wooden boats known as *griots* were powered by triangular sails.
- ___ 2. An area of high, flat land is a *plateau*.
- ___ 3. Each district in Ghana usually included a chief's *clan*.
- ___ 4. African *dhow*s are storytellers.
- ___ 5. *Matrilineal* societies trace their descent through mothers.
- ___ 6. *Swahili* culture and language exist in Africa today.

Review Main Ideas

Section 1 • The Rise of African Civilizations

- 7. What were the advantages of living in Africa's rain forests?
- 8. Why were East African kingdoms and states important?

Section 2 • Africa's Government and Religion

- 9. How were West African empires governed?
- 10. Describe the religious beliefs of medieval Africans.

Section 3 • African Society and Culture

- 11. What was the result of the Bantu migrations?
- 12. How did slavery in medieval Africa change?

Critical Thinking

- 13. **Predict** What do you think would have happened in Ghana if the people had been allowed to trade with gold nuggets instead of gold dust?
- 14. **Explain** What caused the decline of Ghana and Songhai?
- 15. **Analyze** Why do you think the Bantu language changed as people moved into different parts of Africa?



Compare and Contrast

Making Comparisons

- 16. Read the paragraph below, then create a Venn diagram that shows similarities and differences between the continents of Africa and North America.

Africa is the world's second-largest continent. The United States fits into Africa three times, with room to spare. The Equator slices through the middle of the continent. Hot, steamy rain forests stretch along each side of it. Yet the rain forests cover only 10 percent of the land.

To review this skill, see pages 442–443.

Geography Skills

Study the map below and answer the following questions.

- Human/Environment Interaction** What obstacle did the empires in western Africa have to overcome in order to trade with cities in northern Africa?
- Location** In which parts of Africa do you think people had the best opportunities to trade by sea?
- Movement** How do you think more inland water routes would have changed the cultures of Africa?



Read to Write

- Descriptive Writing** Write an essay describing evidence of the African Diaspora in your community, city, or state. Make note of music, dance, literature, art, and other aspects of culture.
- Using Your FOLDABLES** Use the answers in your foldable to create a poster that shows what Africa was like in the past. Draw sketches, create maps, find pictures of artifacts, and so on to visually describe the cultures.

Using Technology

- Multimedia Presentation** Choose a present-day African country to research. Use the Internet to find information on that country from its early history to the present. Then create a multimedia presentation about that country, including images and a time line of important events in the country's history. Be sure to include aspects of culture, natural resources, and government.

Linking Past and Present

- Narrative Writing** Even though people record many things on paper or on a computer, they often tell stories about their lives as oral histories. Ask a family member, neighbor, teacher, or other adult to tell a story that has been passed down in his or her family. Record that oral history in narrative form.

Primary Source Analyze

This report was written by the first engineer ever to see the ruins of Great Zimbabwe.

"The ruins are . . . terraces, which rise up continually from the base to the apex [highest point] of all the hills. . . The way that the ancients seem to have levelled off the contours of the various hills . . . is very astonishing, as they seem to have been levelled with as much exactitude as we can accomplish with our best mathematical instruments."

—Telford Edwards, as quoted in *The Mystery of the Great Zimbabwe*

DBQ Document-Based Questions

- What in particular amazes the engineer about Great Zimbabwe?
- How do you think the people of Great Zimbabwe accomplished such precision?