

Medieval Africa – Section One: The Rise of African Civilizations

I. Geography

A. Sahara Desert

1. World's Largest Desert
2. Nomads
 - a. Know where oases were
3. Swirling Winds
4. Sand Dunes
5. Little Water
6. Extreme Temperatures
 - a. Hot During the Day
 - b. Cold at Night

B. Divided by the Equator

C. Second Largest Continent

D. Savannas

1. Grasslands
2. Good for Herd Animals
3. Along the Equator
4. Sahara Desert to the North
5. Kalahari Desert to the South
6. Herders
 - a. Cattle
 - b. Sheep

E. Fertile Areas

1. Mild Climate
2. Along Mediterranean Sea
3. Northwest
4. South

F. African Plateau

1. Area of High Flat Land
2. Huge Waterfalls
3. Rapids
4. The Nile River
5. The Congo River
6. The Great Rift Valley
 - a. Some of the Oldest Human Fossils
 - b. Formed by a crack in the Earth's Crust Millions of Years Age
 - c. From the East (Mozambique) to the Red Sea

II. People

A. Berbers

1. First Known People Here
2. North Africa
3. Crossed Sahara to Trade with People in Western Africa
 - a. 400 B.C.
 - b. Horses
 - c. Donkeys

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- d. Romans Conquered Them
 - 1) Introduced Camels
 - i. Ships of the Desert
 - ii. Large Groups Were Called Caravans
 - 2) Trade Goods
 - i. North Africa
 - 1) Salt
 - 2) Cloth
 - ii. Sahara (West)
 - 1) Gold
 - 2) Ivory
 - a) Elephants
 - b) Rhino Horns

III. West African Empires

A. Ghana

1. 400's A.D. – 1200's A.D.
2. "Crossroads of Trade"
 - a. Across Sahara
 - b. Northern Africa
 - c. Niger River
 - d. Rain Forest
 - e. Taxed by Ghana's Rulers
3. They Had Iron Weapons
 - a. Conquered Neighbors
 - b. Took Over Gold Mines
 - c. Huge Army
 - 1) Claimed over 200,000
4. People Wanted Their Goods
 - a. Salt
 - 1) Berber Mines
 - i. Sahara
 - 2) Needed by the Body
 - 3) To Flavor Food
 - 4) To Preserve
 - b. Gold
5. Decline
 - a. Over Taxation
 - b. Over Farming
 - 1) Robbed Soil of Nutrients
 - 2) Caused Famine
 - c. Conflict
 - 1) Ghana's Muslims V/S North Africa Muslims
 - d. 1200's A.D.

B. Mali

1. 1200's A.D. – 1468 A.D.

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2. Griots

- a. West African Storytellers
- b. Credited Sundiata Keita
 - 1) The "Lion Prince"

3. Sundiata Keita

- a. The "Lion Prince"
- b. Ruled From 1230 A.D. – 1255 A.D.
- c. 1240 A.D. Conquered Ghana
- d. Controlled from Atlantic to Timbuktu and beyond
- e. Took Over Gold Mines
 - 1) Reestablishment of Gold and Salt Mines.
- f. Decline
 - 1) Death of Mansa Musa
 - i. Last Strong King
 - ii. 1332 A.D.

C. Songhai

1. 1468 A.D. – 1591 A.D.

2. Sunni Ali

- a. Ruled from 1468 A.D. – 1492 A.D.
- b. Stormed Timbuktu
 - 1) Drove out Berbers
- c. Built the Largest Empire in West Africa
 - 1) Used Niger River
 - i. War Canoes
 - ii. Controlled River
 - 2) Took Over Berber Salt Mines
 - i. Sahara
- d. Decline
 - 1) 1591 A.D.
 - i. Morocco
 - 1) Crossed Sahara
 - 2) Gun
 - 3) Cannons
 - 4) Gunpowder
 - ii. Songhai
 - 1) Swords
 - 2) Spears
 - 3) Bows and Arrows

IV. Kingdoms of the Rain Forest

A. Benin

1. Geography

- a. Farmable Soil
- b. Warm-Wet Climate
- c. Produce
 - 1) Bananas

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- 2) Yams
 - 3) Rice
 - B. King Ewuare
 - 1. 1440 A.D
 - C. Artisans
 - 1. Congo Weavers
 - a. Fabric from Plant Fibers and Bark
 - 1) Like Velvet
 - b. Sculpting and Carving
 - 1) Metal
 - 2) Wood
 - 3) Ivory
 - c. Traders
 - 1) Savannas
 - i. Copper
 - ii. Salt
 - iii. Leather
 - 2) Slaves
 - i. Captives
- V. East Africa
 - A. Sheba
 - 1. Queen Makeda
 - a. 1005 B.C
 - b. Me
 - 2. *Glory of Kings*
 - a. Ethiopia
 - b. Oldest Written History
 - c. Makena Meets King Solomon
 - 1) King of Israel
 - 2) Son of David
 - 3) Wisest King
 - d. Introduced Judaism
 - 3. Sheba Declines
 - B. The Rise of Axum
 - 1. Located on the Red Sea
 - 2. Trading Center
 - a. Along the Mediterranean
 - b. Between Africa and East Asia
 - 3. Fought Kush
 - a. For Trade Routes to Inland Africa
 - b. 300 A.D.
 - 1) King Ezana Defeated Kush
 - i. 334 A.D.
 - 1) Introduced Christianity
 - C. Coastal City States

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1. Arab Traders

- a. From the Arabian Peninsula
 - 1) Before the Rise of Islam
- b. Early 600's A.D.
 - 1) Sailed to Africa
 - i. Invented Sails
 - 1) Triangular
 - 2) Wind Catching
 - 3) Use on Dhows
- c. 700's A.D.
 - 1) Arab Muslims
 - i. East African City-States
 - 1) African and Arab Muslims
 - a) Shared Goods
 - b) Exchanged Ideas
- d. 1300's A.D.
 - 1) Trading Posts
 - i. Down East African Coast
 - 1) Mogadishu
 - 2) Kilwa
 - 3) Mombasa
 - 4) Zanzibar
 - ii. Major Links
 - 1) Indian Ocean
 - 2) China

D. Great Zimbabwe

1. Inland Southern Africa

2. Founding

- a. Around 700 A.D.
- b. Shona People
- c. Trade Items
 - 1) Gold
 - 2) Copper
 - 3) Ivory
 - 4) To the East African Coast
 - i. From Coast
 - 1) Arabia
 - 2) Persia
 - 3) India
 - 4) China

3. 1400's

- a. Made Great by Two Kings
 - 1) Mutota
 - i. Father
 - 2) Matope

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- i. Son
- 3) Made Zimbabwe Great
 - i. South of Zambezi River to Indian Ocean
 - ii. Evidence Still Visible at Great Zimbabwe
 - 1) Empire's Capital
 - 2) More Than 300 Huge Stone Buildings