The Geography & Early Civilizations of Africa

Starting Points Map: Environments of Africa
The Geography of Africa
Early African Societies
Africa’s Iron Age
Map: Bantu Migrations
Three Kingdoms of West Africa

Geography & Early Civilizations in Africa

Preview
- Starting Points Map: Environments of Africa
- The Geography of Africa
- Early African Societies
- Africa’s Iron Age
- Map: Bantu Migrations
- Three Kingdoms of West Africa

Geography, Culture and Early Civilizations in Africa

Main Idea
Africa’s earliest people adapted to a wide range of geographic conditions to establish societies based on family ties, religion, iron technology, and trade. Yet, Africa today largely remains divided, economically poor and devastated by epidemics such as AIDS.

ESSENTIAL QUESTIONS:
- 1) How does Africa’s diverse geography shape life on the continent?
- 2) What cultural patterns did Africa’s early societies share?
- 3) What major changes affected societies during Africa’s Iron Age?
- 4) Why did the Kingdoms of West Africa prosper during the Medieval period and then decline?
- 5) How has Africa’s cultural and ethnic diversity actually proven to be a dividing force?
- 6) Why does Africa remain poor and can sustainable development help?
- 7) What can be done to stop the spread of the AIDS epidemic?
A Satellite View

Q: What can this map tell us about the geography of Africa?

Africa's Size

- Second largest continent → 11,700,000 sq. mi.
- 10% of the world's population.
- 2 ½ times the size of the U. S.
Africa's large size—more than three times the size of the United States—and its location have led to a wide variety of climates and vegetation. As a result, distinct cultures and ways of life developed.

**Landforms**
- Continent has varied landscape
- Plateaus cover much of central, southern interior
- Low, wide plains across northern, western interior

**Valleys, Mountains**
- East, region of deep, steep-sided valleys, narrow lakes
- Mountain ranges rim Africa, example Ethiopian Highlands in northeast

**Coastal Plains**
- Near coastline, land drops off to coastal plains
- Some provide fertile farmland, others desert, swamp, sandy beaches

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**Work on this Homework Assignment in Class:**
Complete the topographical map of Africa
Mountains

- Sub-Saharan Africa does not have large mountain ranges, but there are several tall mountains that are volcanoes.
- The tallest mountain is Mt. Kilimanjaro in Tanzania at 19,341 feet.
- The second tallest mountain is Mt. Kenya at 17,058 feet.
The rivers in Sub-Saharan Africa are difficult to navigate because they have many waterfalls and rapids. Sub-Saharan Africa has several major rivers:

A. Niger River
B. Congo River
C. Zambezi River
D. Orange River
Map showing major rivers in Africa

**The Niger River Basin**

- Covers 7.5% of the continent.
- Extends over 10 countries.
- 2,600 miles long.

Niger River in West Africa
The Congo River Basin

- Covers 12% of the continent.
- Extends over 9 countries.
- 2,720 miles long.
- 99% of the country of Zaire is in the Congo River basin.

Congo River in Central Africa

Congo River and Tributaries
Cataracts or rapids on the Zambezi River

Orange River in South Africa

Rapids on the Orange River
The Mighty Nile River: "Longest River in the World"
Hydroelectric Power

The Aswan High Dam was built on the Nile River in 1960 - 1970.

Aswan High Dam (Benefits)

A. The dam provides around 15% of Egypt's electricity.
B. The dam has stopped the Nile River from flooding every year.
C. The dam created Lake Nasser, which provides water for irrigation and local use.
Aswan High Dam (Negatives)

A. Around 90,000 people had to move.
B. The dam blocks nutrient rich silt from being deposited on farmland and farmers have to use artificial fertilizers.
C. Poor irrigation practices have led to an increase of salt in surrounding farmland.
D. Fish stocks in the Mediterranean have depleted because the dam blocks nutrients from entering the sea.

ASSIGNMENT:

Complete the National Geographic lesson “The Nile in Crisis” at the website
http://www.nationalgeographic.com/xpeditions/lessons/03/g912/morellcrisis.html
Desertification is an expansion of arid conditions into a non-arid environment.
Desertification

Desertification occurs near deserts. The region directly south of the Sahara Desert in Africa is called the Sahel. This area has suffered from rapid desertification due to over grazing, droughts, and poor water management practices.
Q. How does desertification affect people’s lives in Africa?
Complete this online Research Project: The Sahara and Desertification!

**WEBSITE:**
http://www.curriki.org/wiki/bin/view/Coll_eberymab/LESSONPLANLIFEINTHESAHARA

**Background**
In the world today, 1/6 of the population is being affected by desertification that is forcing people to relocate to other regions and change their lifestyles. For those unable to move away from deserts, such as residents of the Sahara and Sahel regions of northern Africa, the effects can be devastating. Countries such as Mali, Mauritania, Niger, Sudan and many others are suffering the effects of long-term drought and devastating famine. In the world today, 5 million children are dying of hunger each year. Many of these are from the Sahara and Sahel regions of northern Africa. Continued desertification will only cause these numbers to grow. World organizations are working to develop plans to stop desertification and to tap into underground aquifers that could offer people in these areas relief from the drought and famine they have been experiencing.

**Valleys & Plains**

**Physical Geography:**

- Africa is a large plateau with **escarpments** on the edges.
- An escarpment is similar to a cliff although not as steep.
- Africa has a smooth coastline with few natural harbors.
The African Plateau

Map showing escarpments on the edge of the plateau and rift valleys in East Africa.
Rift Valleys

- Divergent plate activity formed the Great Rift Valley in East Africa.
- In some areas the Great Rift Valley is hundreds of miles wide.
- Rift valleys extend from The Red Sea to South Africa.
Rift Valleys

East Africa has several large lakes that formed in the bottom of rift valleys.
A. Lake Victoria
B. Lake Tanganyika
Africa: The "Tropical" Continent

Tropic of Cancer 23° N
Tropic of Capricorn 23° S
Equator 0°

African Trade Winds

Linking Wind, Precipitation, and Vegetation

West Africa: Home of our Hurricanes
Vegetation

Rainforests grow in the tropical wet climates in Africa. Most of the rainforest is located in central Africa in the Congo.

The soil in the rainforest has limited fertility and this area is being deforested by slash and burn farming.
Grasslands

- Savanna is a type of grassland located in tropical wet and dry climates.
- Most of the savanna in Africa is located in east Africa in Kenya or Tanzania.
- Steppe is a dry grassland located on the edges of the deserts.
Vegetation Zones

Africa's climate also quite varied
Northern Africa dominated by Sahara, largest desert in world
Stretches 3,000 miles between Atlantic Ocean, Red Sea
Barren landscape includes mountains, plateaus, plains, sand dunes
Temperatures in desert climb above 120°F, rain rare
Number of oases scattered throughout desert, some support villages

South of Sahara, mighty rivers flow across plains, including Congo, Zambezi, Niger
Region called the Sahel, strip of land dividing desert, wetter areas
Sahel fairly dry, but has vegetation to support hardy grazing animals

Africa's Varied Climate

The Sahel
South of Sahara, mighty rivers flow across plains, including Congo, Zambezi, Niger
Region called the Sahel, strip of land dividing desert, wetter areas
Sahel fairly dry, but has vegetation to support hardy grazing animals

The Savanna
Farther south, band of tropical savanna, open grassland
Extends east from Central Africa, wraps back toward south
Tall grasses, shrubs, trees grow there, variety of herd animals, majority of Africans live there

The Sahel
The African Savannah: 13 million sq. mi.

Climate

- Most of Africa is in the low latitudes. The equator divides Africa in half so the continent has similar climates north and south of the equator.
- Africa has tropical wet and tropical wet and dry climates near the equator.
- There are two deserts in southern Africa, the Namib and the Kalihari.

Map that shows the relative location of the Namib and Kalihari Deserts. Notice how the deserts are in North and South Africa.
Southern Africa consists mainly of hilly grasslands, deserts, high coastal strip of land.
- Region experiences mild Mediterranean climate, warm temperatures and both summer, winter rains.

Tropical Rain Forests
- Tropical rain forests found near equator and on Madagascar, island off southeast coast.
- Hot, humid climate, year-round rainfall of rain forest supports broad range of plant, animal life.

African Rain Forest
- Annual rainfall of up to 17 ft.
- Rapid decomposition (very humid).
- Covers 37 countries, 15% of the land surface of Africa.

The Complete Topography Of AFRICA
ASSIGNMENTS ON CLIMATE:

Objective: Learn how to create climographs and conduct comparisons between Africa and the U.S.

Complete the following:
1) Start by creating simple climographs, with the lesson “Creating a Climograph Assignment.”
2) Then, complete the National Geographic lesson “Climographs: Temperature, Precipitation, and the Human Condition” at the website http://www.nationalgeographic.com/xpeditions/lessons/15/g912/pgafica4.html

Varied Climates
• First people to live in Africa had to adapt to varied climates, features
• Insufficient water supplies, poor soil in some places made farming difficult
• Rainfall—too much, too little—presented problems that continue today

Rains
• Heavy rains erode soil, wash away nutrients important for growing crops
• Insufficient rainfall leads to drought, poor grazing land
• Farmers must decide which crops to grow based on expected rainfall

Insects, Parasites
• Parasites thrive in tropical areas; transmitted by mosquitoes to humans, animals; can lead to deadly diseases like malaria
• Tsetse fly, sub-Saharan Africa, carries parasite than can kill livestock, infect humans with sleeping sickness, potentially fatal illness

How does the climate affect Africa’s people?

How do people impact the African rainforests?

Qs: Can you name some threats to the rainforest? What are the causes of deforestation?

Complete the National Geographic Lesson:
• “Human Impacts in the African Rain Forest: What Can We Do?”

WEBSITE: http://www.nationalgeographic.com/xpeditions/lessons/14/g912/fgafrica4.html
Analyze

What challenges can Africa’s environment pose to people living there?

Answer(s): Insufficient water supplies, poor soil, and too much or too little rain can cause problems for farmers; tropical parasites can spread disease.

By about 2500 BC many people in these regions practiced herding and mixed farming.

Anthropologists think that the first humans lived in East Africa. Over thousands of years, people spread out over the continent, forming distinct cultures and societies.

• During early phase of their history, Africans lived as hunter-gatherers.
• About 9,000 years ago, some began to grow native crops
• In some parts, pastoralism, practice of raising herd animals, arose before farming

Early Farming Societies

Pastoralists in Sahara

• First farmers likely pastoralists of Sahara—wetter 8,000 years ago
• 5,000 years ago climate changed, Sahara became drier
• As land became desert, people migrated to Mediterranean coast, Nile Valley, parts of West Africa

By about 2500 BC many people in these regions practiced herding and mixed farming.
The spread of iron technology after the 500s BC changed farming practices in sub-Saharan Africa. As a result, African society changed.

**Iron Technology**
- 500 BC, techniques for refining iron from iron ore changed
- Now possible to produce tools, weapons superior to those they had made before
- Nok—one of earliest known peoples to practice ironworking
- Lived in what is now Nigeria, West Africa, learned to make iron tools, weapons

**Population Growth**
- As better-equipped farmers, hunters, warriors, Nok grew in power
- Became known for making fine sculptures out of terra-cotta
- Iron tools enabled Africans to cut down trees, clear land, and live in new areas
- Survival easier, Africa’s population increased

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**The Bantu Migrations**
Agriculture, ironworking technology spread throughout Africa because of migration

- Number of groups in Africa spoke related languages
  - Originated from language called Proto-Bantu
  - Developed in what is now Cameroon, Nigeria
  - Over time more than 2,000 Bantu languages developed
By AD 900s, Bantu-speaking peoples had established complex social systems. Women farmed, men mostly tended cattle. Cattle were an important food source and were used in ritual sacrifices. Status in Bantu societies was determined by the size of cattle herds.

Bantu Social Systems

**Migration**
- Bantu-speaking people gradually migrated east, south during first centuries AD
- As they traveled, Bantu speakers carried knowledge of agriculture, ironworking
- Because of knowledge, they established themselves as a dominant group when they reached southern Africa

**Bantu Social Systems**
- By AD 900s, Bantu-speaking peoples had established complex social systems
- Women farmed, men mostly tended cattle
- Cattle were an important food source and were used in ritual sacrifices
- Status in Bantu societies was determined by the size of cattle herds

An Ancient Bantu Village

Bantu-speaking Peoples

An Ancient Bantu Village

**Summarize**

How did African societies change with the spread of ironworking?

**Answer(s):** Ironworking enabled Africans to live in places where they could not before the population grew.
Warm Up on African Culture:

- Read the following quotes and then answer the questions which follow:

- According to Ina Corinne Brown in Understanding Other Cultures:
  - “… no custom, belief or behavior can be understood out of its social or cultural context. That is, any item of behavior, any tradition or pattern, can be evaluated correctly only in the light of its meaning to the people who practice it, its relation to other elements of the culture, and the part it plays in the adaptation of the people to their environment or to one another. No custom is "odd" to the people who practice it.”

- "The nsima looks like mashed potatoes and you take a piece of it and roll it in your hand, indent it with your thumb, and scoop the meat or soup. I am still learning and usually have more food on my face and arms than in my stomach. Today I helped kill a chicken for the first time. It is supposed to be an honor, so I tried, but it made me feel sad. Then we plucked the feathers and are going to cook it. Very different from America’s way of eating chicken!”
  - Emily Harker

- “We're all on the same planet together, breathing the same air. We're all living in the same community.”
  - Dan Barutta

Questions: Based on the statements above, how should we define culture? How should we react to cultural differences?

Definition of Culture:

- Cultures are systems of behaviors and customs passed from one generation to the next. The rules, language, religion, family systems, recreation, and education that a group of people share provide predictability and safety in their daily lives. When people are bound together by common beliefs and practices, they understand each other and the world around them has meaning.

- A culture is a complex and evolving pattern of life, rooted in tradition as well as place. Culture is indelibly a part of each person’s identity, but individuals also influence culture. It defines how we see ourselves and how we perceive others.

- Question: How can we, then, ever understand a culture other than our own?
- One way is to view differences through a neutral framework that organizes cultural traits around a set of common functions. Over the years anthropologists have developed lists of cultural universals, or functions, that are found in some form in every culture on earth.
  - For example, all cultures have customs and taboos related to food. In some cultures, families may slaughter their own chickens while in U.S. families buy a precooked chicken from a local fast-food restaurant, but each action has the same function to acquire food.
Introductory Activity on Culture: Padyas vs. Chispas

We will complete a roleplay activity in which you act as members of tribes with very different customs!

Wait for instructions…

The Life Cycle and Sex Roles of Traditional Africans:

Social Structures

Common Features
- Many societies developed village-based cultures
- At heart, extended family living in one household
- Families with common ancestors formed clans to which all members loyal

Age-Sets
- In some areas, people took part in type of group called age-sets
- Men who had been born within same two, three years formed special bonds
- Men in same age-set had duty to help each other

Specific Duties
- Loyalty to family, age-sets helped village members work together
- Men hunted, farmed; women cared for children, farmed, did domestic chores
- Even very old, very young had own tasks; elders often taught traditions to younger generations

An African’s “Search for Identity”

1. Nuclear Family
2. Extended Family
3. Age-Set
4. Clan
5. Lineage (ancestry)

TRIBE (communal living)
Mask With Headcloth, Zaire (19c)

Tribal Mark → scarification

Kisokolo Initiation Costume, Democratic Republic of the Congo

Kisokolo Initiates, Democratic Republic of the Congo, 1990
Music and Dance
- In many societies, music, dance central to many celebrations, rituals
- Carving, wearing of elaborate masks part of these rituals as well
- Early Africans excelled in sculpture, bronze as well as terra cotta
- Traditional music performed with variety of wind, stringed instruments

Griots
- Many early societies did not develop systems of writing
- Maintained sense of identity, continuity through oral traditions
- Included stories, songs, poems, proverbs
- Task of remembering, passing on entrusted to storytellers, griots

Generalize
What role did family ties play in early African culture?

Answer(s): Families were the heart of village life. Each person was expected to be loyal to his extended family, and each member of a family had his or her own tasks.

Africa : Tribe :: America : Ethnic Group
Traditional Family Structures

**Nuclear Family:**

**Extended Family:**

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Woman & Child, Kongo

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Family Group, Tanzania
Problems of Tribalism Today

1. The tribe is more important than the nation.
2. Communication problems.
3. Inter-tribal warfare → civil wars.
4. Tribal favorites for government jobs: Nepotism
   Urbanization: Breaks down tribal traditions. Tribal intermingling on the job.

Religion and Culture

Many early Africans shared similar religious beliefs and shared common features in the arts as well.

Examples of Beliefs
- Many believed that unseen spirits of ancestors stayed near sacred places, put specially carved statues there
- Families gathered to share news, food with ancestors, hoping spirits would protect them

Animism
- Many Africans also practiced animism—belief that bodies of water, animals, trees, other natural objects have spirits
- Animism reflected Africans' close ties to natural world

Traditional African Religion

ANIMISM

1. Belief in one remote Supreme Being.
2. A world of spirits (good & bad) in all things.
3. Ancestor veneration.
4. Belief in magic, charms, and fetishes.
5. Diviner → mediator between the tribe and God.
African Diviner (Shaman)

World of the Spirits

Ancestors
Other Religions in Africa

ISLAM → 25%
* Nigeria → largest sub-Saharan Muslim countries.

CHRISTIANITY → 20%

Common Traits or Characteristics of Traditional African Tribal Life

1. The good of the group comes ahead of the good of the individual.
2. All land is owned by the group.
3. Strong feeling of loyalty to the group.
4. Important ceremonies at different parts of a person's life.
5. Special age and work associations.
7. Religion is an important part of everyday life.
8. Government is in the hands of the chiefs [kings].

Video Clip on the Maasai

Q. How do the Maasai continue to maintain their traditional way of life through ceremonies, such as bloodletting? What’s the importance of this?
ASSIGNMENTS:

- Complete the following:
  1) “African Tribalism”
  2) “African Art”
Niger-Congo Diffusion

- proto-Bantu peoples originated in Cameroon-Nigeria
- They spread throughout southern Africa AD 1 - 1000
- Bantu peoples were agriculturalists who used metal tools
- Khoisan peoples were hunter-gatherers and were no match for the Bantu.
- Pygmies adopted Bantu tongue and retreated to forest
- Hottentots and Bushmen retained the clicks of Khoisan languages

Language Complexity

In Nigeria ethnic conflict between southern Ibos and western Yoruba led the government to move the capital to a more neutral central location (Abuja). Many other ethnic battles rage continuously.

In Switzerland, four official languages, a history of peace and tolerance, and a political system that puts power in the hands of local leaders ensure peace.

Nigeria has more than 200 individual languages!

How does Pidgin facilitate communication across different cultures?

**PIDGIN** - a form of speech that adopts simplified grammar and limited vocabulary from a lingua franca, used for communication between speakers of two different languages.

Examples include Hawaiian Pidgin and the creoles of West Africa that resulted from the slave trade.

"No eat da candy, Bruddah, it's pilau. Da thing wen fall on da ground."
Give us da food we need fo today an every day.
Hemmo our shame, an let us go
Fo all da kine bad stuff we do to you,
Jalke us guys let da odda guys go awready.
And we no stay huhu wit dem
Fo all da kine bad stuff dey do to us.
No let us get chance fo do bad kine stuff,
But take us outa dea, so da Bad Guy no can hurt us.
Cuz you our King.
You get da real power,
An you stay awesome foeva.
Dass it!”
Matthew 6:9-13 “The Lord’s Prayer”

Challenge: What language is this? Defend your choice!

The Language Families of Africa Reflect its Ethnic Diversity but also real divisions!

What kinds of problems does this cause today?

ASSIGNMENT:

Complete my lesson “African Language Diversity Webquest and PowerPoint Presentation”

Modified from http://www.nationalgeographic.com/xpeditions/lessons/18/g912/afrolanguage.html
Next up…

We will watch the movie “The Gods Must be Crazy.” As you watch the film, you will complete “The Gods Must Be Crazy Study Guide” which challenges you to identify and explain the 5 Themes of Geography as presented in the film!

The Golden Age of African Kingdoms

Q: What made these Kingdoms so successful before the arrival of Europeans?
### African Kingdoms Timeline:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Event</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1000 AD</td>
<td>Stone people lose vigor because of a population explosion</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>200 AD</td>
<td>Stone founded</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>600 AD</td>
<td>Stone leaves way to iron and copper</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>800 AD</td>
<td>Stone caravans are in West Africa</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1000 AD</td>
<td>Stone caravans are in West Africa</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1200 AD</td>
<td>Stone part of Mali</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1300 AD</td>
<td>Stone part of Mali</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1400 AD</td>
<td>Stone part of Mali</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1500 AD</td>
<td>Stone part of Mali</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Video Introduction: “Three Kingdoms in West Africa”
Ancient African Kingdoms: Ghana, Mali, Songhai

- Ancient African trading kingdoms developed in West Africa. Ghana was the first.
- Ghana was later absorbed into the larger kingdom of Mali, which was later replaced by the Songhai Empire.
- Some of the kingdoms in the Sudan were rich in salt, while others were rich in gold. The Sahara Desert had rich salt deposits. Salt was valued because it was used for flavoring and preserving food and for keeping moisture in the body.

**Ghana** 300 A.D. to 1100 A.D.

- Ghana was the first of three powerful trading states in West Africa.
- Ghana had learned to smelt iron and using iron swords and lances Ghanaian warriors expanded their borders and gained control over West Africa’s trade routes.
- Most people in Ghana earned a living from farming, but gold was the reason for Ghana’s wealth and power.

**Gold and Salt Trade**

- Arab merchants traveled to Ghana by camel caravan from North Africa to trade salt, copper, clothing, tools, and figs. The Arabs traded their goods for gold, slaves, ivory, jewelry, and leather goods. Only gold dust could be used in trade. Nuggets became the property of the king. Legend has it that one nugget was so heavy it was used as a hitching post for the king’s horses. Some have called the Kingdom of Ghana the “land of gold.”
- The Ghanaian kings controlled the gold that was mined in their kingdom and implemented a system of taxation for their people.
- The Ghana Empire enjoyed its “Golden Age” between 800 and 1000 A.D. It had an efficient government and an army to guard its trade routes.
In 1042 AD Arabs from North Africa started a war against Ghana. They destroyed the capital and made Ghana give them tribute.

In 1054 AD, the Almoravid rulers came south to conquer the Kingdom of Ghana and convert the people to Islam. This opened the way for the Kingdom of Mali to gain power.

**Mali 1300-1400**

- **Sundiata Keita** ("Hungering Lion") was a Mali King who expanded the kingdom to include the Kingdom of Ghana and West African gold fields.
- He organized a permanent army.
- He divided the kingdom into provinces each headed by a general.
- Moved his capital from place to place. Trumpeters announced his arrival.
Gold and Salt Trade

- The rulers of Mali grew rich from the gold-salt trade.
- Mali controlled the salt trade in the north and many caravan trade routes.
Mansa Musa

The empire reached its peak during the 1300's under Mansu Musa, was one of the most famous Mali kings.

He made a pilgrimage to Mecca in 1324-1325 AD.

- 60,000 people accompanied him, with eighty camels each carrying 300 lbs. of gold (24,000 lbs.)
- 12,000 servants each carried a 4 lb. bar of gold (48,000 lbs)

Mansa Musa handed out gold on the streets of Cairo.

A Spanish architect built a university in Timbuktu.

The emperors after Mansa Musa lacked the skill and power necessary to hold the empire together.
Timbuktu, the capital city, became the center of government, learning, and trade.

Religion

The emperors of Mali became Muslims, but most people continued to worship tribal religions.

Although many people in Mali still practiced the old religions, Islam was becoming well established throughout the kingdom.

Learning

The Kingdom of Mali established several great centers of Islamic learning.

Among them were the legendary Timbuktu. Scholars came to study religion, mathematics, music, law, and literature.
End of the Empire

- Civil war weakened Mali and enabled the Kingdom of Songhai to become the most powerful trading state in West Africa.

SONGHAi 1400’s to 1500’s

- Songhai, another west African trading state, took control of the West African caravan routes during the 1400’s and 1500’s.
- Traders from Songhai exchanged gold and other products for goods from Europe and the Middle East. Most of the people of Songhai were farmers, fishermen, and traders.

Sultan Sunni Ali

- Sultan Sunni Ali came to power in 1464 AD and ruled from the city of Gao.
- He maintained a huge army equipped with armor, camels, and horses. He also had a navy that patrolled the Niger River.
- He strengthened his empire by establishing a central government and unified system of law and order.
- He seized Timbuktu and Djenne, which had been parts of the Kingdom of Mali.
- He appointed officials to oversee trade, agriculture, and justice. Sonni Ali was not a devout Muslim himself, but was sympathetic to indigenous religious practices.
King Askia Muhammad

King Askia Muhammad succeeded Sunni Ali in 1493 AD.

- He expanded the kingdom even further and set up an even more advanced and strongly centralized government.
- He developed a new system of laws, expanded the military, and encouraged scholarship and learning.
- He invited Muslim scholars, doctors, and judges to Timbuktu, which became a great cultural center.
- He was a devout Muslim, who used the combination of Islam and commerce to build his kingdom.
- Askia Muhammad brought peace and stability to the kingdom during his reign.

Timbuktu

- The city of Timbuktu became a major center of trade.
- It was also the site of an influential Islamic school specializing in history and law.
- Askia Muhammad invited Muslim scholars, doctors, and judges to Timbuktu, which became a great cultural center.

End of the Empire

- In 1591 AD, an army from Morocco crossed the Sahara and seized Songhai's gold mines.
- Only ½ of the Moroccan soldiers survived the trip across the desert.
- The Moroccan soldiers had guns and defeated the Songhai soldiers who only had swords and spears.
- By 1600 AD, the days of the great kingdoms of West Africa were over.
On a Safari to an African Kingdom
An Internet Social Studies WebQuest

- First, read “Mr. Dowling’s study sheet on Ancient Africa” (Yes, I borrowed it) and the “African Kingdoms” reading guide.
- Introduction: You and a team of explorers have the opportunity to explore one of the following African kingdoms - Axum, Ghana, Mali, Songhai, Zimbabwe, or Benin. Your group will investigate the kingdom using the Internet. In this WebQuest, you will use the power of teamwork and the abundant resources on the Internet to learn all about one of these African kingdoms. Each explorer on your team will be responsible for examining one aspect of the kingdom. Then you will come together to present your findings to the class in a PowerPoint presentation.
- The Quest: How have the geographic, historic, economic, and cultural characteristics of your African kingdom influenced Africa and the world?
- The Process and Resources: In this WebQuest, you will be working together with a group of students in class. Each group will represent a group of explorers sent to Africa to study the kingdom.

FINAL ASSESSMENT!

Document-Based Essay Question [50 points]

This task is based on the accompanying documents 2-6. Each of these documents have been selected for the purpose of this task. The task is designed to test your ability to work with historical documents. As you analyze the documents, take into account both the source of each document and the author’s point of view.

Directions: Read the documents and answer the questions after each document. Then write your answer to the essay question below, using the information from those documents and your general knowledge of Global Studies.

Question:

It has been said that African culture did not exist until the coming of the Europeans. Evaluate the achievements of the Afromericans, longhorns, and slave trading as factors in the culture of Europeans and explorers.

Sub-Saharan Africa Today
Economic Geography
**Resources**

- Africa is rich in mineral resources such as gold, diamonds, and alloys.
- Timber is limited to countries with tropical rainforests.
- Countries on the coast have fish.
- Some countries have large amounts of arable land.

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**Natural Resources**

Map that shows distribution of minerals in Sub-Saharan Africa.
Bauxite is used to make aluminum. West Africa has large deposits of bauxite.

Africa is the world's largest producer of diamonds.
Diamond mining in West Africa.

The green dot indicates that South Africa is the world’s leading producer of gold.

Resources

- Some countries in Sub-Saharan Africa export oil such as Nigeria, Gabon, and Angola.
- Nigeria is a member of OPEC, the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries.
Agriculture

A large percentage of the population of Sub-Saharan Africa is engaged in agriculture.

- **Subsistence Farming** - People have small farms and grow just enough food to live.
- **Slash and Burn Farming** - This method of farming is used in the rainforest.
In the purple countries more than 90% of the labor force is engaged in agriculture.

This map shows that the most productive agricultural areas in the world are in middle latitude areas.

Plantation Farming

Sub-Saharan Africa does have plantation farming, which are large farms that employ many people. These farms grow cash crops such as:

A. Tea
B. Cocoa
C. Palm Oil
Kenya is one of the world's leading producers of tea. Several other East African countries also grow tea on plantations.

Tea plantation in Kenya

Cocoa production is clustered in West Africa in countries such as Ghana and Cote D'Ivoire.
Nigeria is a leading producer of Palm Oil in the world. People in the U.S. tend to use vegetable oil but soybean oil and palm oil are used far more in tropical countries.

Palm plantation in West Africa.

Nomadic Herding

- A nomad is someone without a permanent home. A nomadic herder has herds of animals such as goats, sheep, or cattle.
- There are many nomadic herders in Africa who live on the fringes of the deserts or in tropical wet and dry climates.
Developed or Developing?

Most countries in Sub-Saharan Africa are developing so they have:

A. Low per capita GDP
B. Low life expectancy
C. High population growth rate
D. High infant mortality
E. Large percentage of population under 15
F. Low literacy rates

Developed or Developing?

South Africa is now considered developed, however, there is a large disparity of income. The rich people live in gated neighborhoods with armed guards in the modern city cores. There are many shantytowns or squatter settlements on the fringes of the modern cities.

This map clearly indicates that Africa has some of the poorest countries in the world.
Why is Africa Poor?

Africa has substantial mineral wealth but the countries have a wide range of per capita incomes for several reasons:

A. Lack of modern infrastructure
B. Corrupt governments
C. Civil wars
D. Colonization
E. Large number of landlocked states
F. Environmental problems such as desertification and droughts

This airport outside of Nairobi, Kenya is the busiest airport in East Africa. The lack of modern infrastructure makes it difficult to conduct business.

Population Growth

One of the biggest reasons why Africa is poor is that population growth is high. African countries cannot expand their economies fast enough to create enough jobs for young and unskilled workers.
ASSIGNMENT:

1) Complete the National Geographic lesson “SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT AND AFRICA’S WILDLIFE RESERVES” at the website: http://www.nationalgeographic.com/xpeditions/lessons/16/g912/sustdevafrica.html


The Legacy of Colonization: Why does Africa continue to remain poor and ethnically divided?

- Africa was colonized by European countries in the 19th century. African countries did not gain independence until after the 1950s.
- European countries extracted mineral wealth from Africa but they did not invest heavily in the infrastructure or education programs.
Colonization

When European countries colonized Africa they drew lines on maps to make countries. These countries combined ethnic groups that were traditional enemies. Therefore, many modern African countries have experienced ethnic conflicts.

Africa’s Language and Ethnic Diversity: A Source of Division!

Imperial powers did not pay attention to language or tribal divisions when they divided Africa up politically!

What kinds of problems does this cause today?

Ethnic and Religious Conflicts

The following countries have experienced major ethnic or religious conflicts:
A. Rwanda
B. Sudan
C. Nigeria
D. South Africa (Between white and black South Africans)
Assignment:

Complete the National Geographic lesson “DARFUR AND THE JANJAWEED” at the website:
http://www.nationalgeographic.com/xpeditions/lessons/03/g912/africadarfur.html

An exclusive PowerPoint interactive!
Get ready to interpret different kinds of graphs to answer questions about the impact of AIDS on different African populations!

Analyze these Political Cartoons!
Why does the AIDS virus continue to plague Africa more than any other continent in the world? What has been the economic, cultural, and social impact of the disease upon different African countries and communities?

What does the total of HIV cases indicate about the future of Africa’s people?

What do these projections indicate about the future of South Africa’s people?
Estimated increase in adult death rates relative to the 1985 rates

At what age did the majority of women die in 1999/2000? How will this fact impact Africa's population?

All orphans & orphans due to AIDS by HIV prevalence in Uganda

Challenging question: Hypothesize about why the percentage of AIDS orphans leveled out by 2000.


Compute the exact decrease in life expectancy for at least four countries.
Changing life expectancy in African countries with high and low HIV prevalence: 1950-2005

1) Which countries is life expectancy increasing? Decreasing? What might account for these differences?

Projected Population Structure: Botswana 2020

Using a population pyramid:
Compute the exact deficits in population for at least four age groups.

Adults and Children Estimated to be Living with HIV as of end 2004

Total: 39.4 (35.9 – 44.3) million
Estimated Number of Adults and Children Newly Infected with HIV during 2004

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Region</th>
<th>Estimated Number</th>
<th>Range</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Western &amp; Central Europe</td>
<td>21,000</td>
<td>[14,000–38,000]</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>North Africa &amp; Middle East</td>
<td>32,000</td>
<td>[22,000–55,000]</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>South &amp; Southeast Asia</td>
<td>3,1 million</td>
<td>[1.5–4.5 million]</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Eastern Europe &amp; Central Asia</td>
<td>62,000</td>
<td>[39,000–97,000]</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>East Asia</td>
<td>290,000</td>
<td>[84,000–830,000]</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>South &amp; South-East Asia</td>
<td>890,000</td>
<td>[480,000–2.0 million]</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sub-Saharan Africa</td>
<td>3.1 million</td>
<td>[2.7–3.8 million]</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Oceania</td>
<td>5,000</td>
<td>[2,100–13,000]</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>North America</td>
<td>44,000</td>
<td>[16,000–120,000]</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Caribbean</td>
<td>53,000</td>
<td>[27,000–140,000]</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Latin America</td>
<td>240,000</td>
<td>[170,000–430,000]</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Estimated Adult and Child Deaths from AIDS during 2004

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Region</th>
<th>Estimated Number</th>
<th>Range</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Western &amp; Central Europe</td>
<td>6,500</td>
<td>&lt;8,500</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>North Africa &amp; Middle East</td>
<td>28,000</td>
<td>[12,000–72,000]</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sub-Saharan Africa</td>
<td>2.3 million</td>
<td>[2.1–2.6 million]</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Eastern Europe &amp; Central Asia</td>
<td>60,000</td>
<td>[39,000–87,000]</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>East Asia</td>
<td>51,000</td>
<td>[25,000–86,000]</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>South &amp; South-East Asia</td>
<td>490,000</td>
<td>[300,000–750,000]</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Oceania</td>
<td>700</td>
<td>&lt;1,700</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>North America</td>
<td>16,000</td>
<td>[8,400–25,000]</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Caribbean</td>
<td>36,000</td>
<td>[24,000–61,000]</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Latin America</td>
<td>95,000</td>
<td>[73,000–120,000]</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
ASSIGNMENTS ON AIDS:


2) "AIDS IN AFRICA II: MORE THAN SYMPATHY" AT THE WEBSITE: http://www.nationalgeographic.com/xpeditions/lessons/01/g912/africaaidsII.html
Project: “African Country Study and Power Point Presentation Creation”

**INTRODUCTION:** How does geography affect the lives of the people of Africa? Compare and contrast various countries of the world. How would your life be different if you lived in another country and not in the United States of America? What is the most effective way to learn and gather information on another country and its citizens?

**PROJECT:**

Students will use the Internet and other sources to research information on a country in Africa. Students will then use that information to create a PowerPoint presentation which they will present to the class.

*PLEASE DOWNLOAD THE ASSIGNMENT FOR FURTHER INSTRUCTIONS.*