READ THE DOCUMENT *KING AFFONSO I LETTER TO KING JOHN OF PORTUGAL*. THEN ANSWER THE FOLLOWING QUESTIONS

1. USE A DICTIONARY IF NEEDED; DEFINE THE TERM (CONVERT). ____

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2. WHAT YEAR DID AFFONSO CONVERT? _____

3. HOW MANY YEARS PASSED BETWEEN HIS CONVERSION AND WHEN THIS LETTER (DOCUMENT) WAS WRITTEN? _____

4. NAME THE COUNTRY KING AFFONSO I CALLED HOME _____

5. NAME THE CONTINENT WHERE HIS COUNTRY IS LOCATED_____

_____

6. NAME PORTUGAL'S KING. _____

WHAT WAS PORTUGAL'S MAIN GOAL IN DEALING WITH AFRICA? (TO ANSWER THIS QUESTION YOU MIGHT WANT TO THINK ABOUT DIAS, PRINCE HENRY, AND VASCO DA GAMA). _____

_____

7. WHAT DID THE PORTUGUESE INTRODUCE TO EUROPE? _____

8. WHAT DID KING AFFONSO WANT FROM PORTUGAL? _____
& _____

9. WHY IS AFFONSO COMPLAINING ABOUT DEPOPULATION?_____

_____

10. DID AFFONSO'S COMPLAINT WORK?_____ DISCUSS YOUR ANSWER _____

_____

King Affonso I:
Letter to King John of Portugal

In 1490, the Portuguese converted the son of a Kongo king to Christianity and then helped him to assume his father's throne. The king, born Nzinga Mbemba, was renamed Affonso. King Affonso soon realized that his relationship with Portugal had extremely negative consequences, as can be seen from his letter in 1526 to King John of Portugal.

Sir, Your Highness of Portugal should know how our Kingdom is being lost in so many ways. This is caused by the excessive freedom given by your officials to the men and merchants who are allowed to come to this Kingdom to set up shops with goods and many things which have been prohibited by us. Many of our vassals, whom we had in obedience, do not comply because they have the things in greater abundance than we ourselves. It was with these things that we had them content and subjected under our jurisdiction, so it is doing a great harm not only to the service of God, but to the security and peace of our Kingdoms and State as well.

And we cannot reckon how great the damage is, since the mentioned merchants are taking every day our natives, sons of the land and the sons of our noblemen and vassals and our relatives. The thieves and men of bad conscience grab them wishing to have the things and wares of this Kingdom which they are ambitious of; they grab them and get them to be sold. And so great, Sir, is the corruption and licentiousness that our country is being completely depopulated, and your Highness should not agree with this nor accept it as in your service. And to avoid it we need from those your Kingdoms no more than some priests and a few people to teach in schools, and no other goods except wine and flour for the holy sacrament.

That is why we beg of Your Highness to help and assist us in this matter, commanding your factors that they should not send here either merchants or wares, because it is our will that in these kingdoms there should not be any trade of slaves nor outlet for them. Concerning what is referred to above, again we beg of Your Highness to agree with it. . . .