



North and Central African Societies

Name: _____ date: _____ hr: _____ class # _____
 GROUP **SOLO** Due on: _____

In Unit 2 you learned about 3 West African trading empires. Name them: _____

We will now add to the list of states and kingdoms in Africa. But first, more about the fabric of African societies.

STATELESS SOCIETIES (pg 410)

WHAT ARE STATELESS SOCIETIES?

Family organization is important in African society. In many African societies, families form groups called lineages. Members of a lineage believe that they are all descended from a common ancestor. Lineage also includes relatives of the future. These are the children who are not yet born.

Lineage groups sometimes take the place of rulers. They do not have central governments. Such societies are called stateless societies. Power in these societies is spread among more than one lineage. This prevents any one family from having too much control and power.

The Igbo people are from southern Nigeria. They first began living in a stateless society in the 800s. Sometimes there were disagreements within an Igbo village. Then the older members from different villages would meet. Together they would solve the problem.

In patrilineal societies, lineages are traced through fathers. In matrilineal societies, lineages are traced through mothers.

In some societies, children of similar ages belong to groups called age sets. All members of the age set take part in ceremonies. These rites mark the movement from one stage of life to the next. Men and women have different life stages. **1. HOW DOES LINEAGE HELP BALANCE THE POWER IN SOME STATELESS SOCIETIES?**

MUSLIM STATES (pages 410–412) HOW DID ISLAM SPREAD IN NORTH AFRICA?

Islam was an important influence on African history. Muslims came to northwest Africa in the 600s. By 670, Muslims ruled Egypt. They entered the Maghrib, a part of North Africa. This area today is the Mediterranean coast of Libya, Morocco, Tunisia, and Algeria.

In their new states, the Muslims set up theocracies. In them, the ruler served as both political and religious leader. The Islamic tradition of obeying the law was important. It helped promote order in the government. The common influence of Islamic law also set up ties between the different North African states.

The Berbers were a group of North Africans. They converted to Islam. In the 11th century, a group of Berbers devoted themselves to spreading Islam. They were called the Almoravids. They had many conquests. They conquered modern Morocco, the empire of Ghana, and parts of Spain.

The Almohads were another group of Berbers. They overthrew the Almoravids in the 1100s. The Almohads also captured Morocco and then Spain. Their empire reached east to the cities of Tripoli and Tunis. This empire lasted about 100 years. Then it broke up into smaller states. **2. WHO WERE THE BERBERS?**

TERMS AND NAMES

lineage Group of people descended from a common ancestor

stateless societies Societies without central governments

patrilineal Tracing ancestry through the father

matrilineal Tracing ancestry through the mother

Maghrib Part of North Africa that is today the Mediterranean coast of Morocco

Almoravids Islamic group that established an empire in North Africa and southern Spain during the 11th century

Almohads Islamic group that overthrew the Almoravids in the 12th century



Almoravid warriors

West African Civilizations

Name: _____

Date: _____ hr: _____

Empire of Ghana

How did the kingdom of Ghana

Traders crossed the Sahara Desert of North Africa as early as A.D. 200. The desert was harsh. This limited trade. Then the Berbers

began using camels. Trade increased.

By the 700s, the rulers of the kingdom of **Ghana** were growing rich. They taxed the goods that traders carried through their land. The two most important trade goods were gold and salt. Gold was taken from mines and streams in the western and southern parts of West Africa. It was traded for salt from the Sahara region. Arab traders also brought cloth and manufactured goods. These came from cities on the Mediterranean Sea.

The king of Ghana was powerful. Only the king could own *gold nuggets*. He was the religious, military, and political leader. By the year 800, Ghana had become an empire. It controlled the people of nearby lands.

Over time, Muslim merchants and traders brought their religion to Ghana. By the 1000s, the kings converted to Islam. Many common people in the empire, though, kept their traditional beliefs. Later, Ghana fell to the Almoravids of North Africa. Ghana never regained its former power.

TERMS AND NAMES

Ghana West African empire that grew rich from trade

Mali West African empire that grew rich from trade

Sundiata Founder and first emperor of the kingdom of Mali

Mansa Musa Mali ruler who created a large kingdom and adopted Islam

1. What goods were traded in Ghana?

Empire of Mali *How did Mali rise to power?*

By 1235, a new kingdom began—**Mali**. It arose south of Ghana. Mali's wealth and power were also based on the gold trade. **Sundiata** became Mali's first emperor. He was a great military and political leader.

Later Mali rulers adopted Islam. One of them was **Mansa Musa**. He made Mali twice the size of the old empire of Ghana. To rule this large empire, he named governors to head several *provinces*. Mansa Musa was a devoted Muslim. He built *mosques* in two cities. One was Timbuktu. It became a leading center of Muslim learning.

Ibn Battuta was a later traveler to the area. He described how peaceful Mali was. Mali, though, declined in the 1400s. Mali was replaced by another empire that grew wealthy from gold.

2. What did Mansa Musa achieve?

Empire of Songhai *HOW DID SONGHAI ARISE?*

The next trading empire was **Songhai**. It was farther to the east than Mali. Songhai arose in the 1400s. It had two great rulers. One was Sunni Ali. He gained control of new areas. His conquests included the city of Timbuktu.

Songhai's other great ruler was Askia Muhammad. He was a devoted Muslim. He ran the government well.

The Songhai Empire fell, however. Its army lacked modern weapons. In 1591, Moroccan troops used gunpowder and cannons to beat Songhai soldiers. They had only swords and spears. This defeat ended the period when empires ruled West Africa.

3. Why did Songhai fall?

MORE!

West African Civilizations

OTHER PEOPLES OF WEST AFRICA (pages 417–419)

WHAT OTHER STATES AND KINGDOMS AROSE?

In other parts of West Africa, city-states developed. The Hausa people lived in the region that is now northern Nigeria. Their city-states first arose between the years 1000 and 1200. The Hausa rulers depended on farmers' crops. They also relied on trade goods. These included salt, grain, and cotton cloth.



Bracelet dagger from the Hausa tribes of Western Africa

The Yoruba people also first lived in city-states. These were located in what is now Benin and southwestern Nigeria. Over time, some of the small Yoruba communities joined together. Many Yoruba kingdoms were formed. Yoruba people believed their kings were gods.

The kingdom of Benin arose in the 1200s. It was located near the delta of the Niger River. In the 1400s, a ruler named Ewuare led Benin. He made the kingdom more powerful. During his reign, Benin became a major West African state. He strengthened Benin City, his capital. High walls surrounded the city. The huge palace contained

many works of art.

In the 1480s, trading ships from Portugal came. They sailed into a major port of Benin. Their arrival was historic. It marked the start of a long period of European involvement in Africa. **3. WHAT WAS IMPORTANT ABOUT BENIN?**

TERMS AND NAMES

Ibn Battuta 14th century traveler who visited most of the Islamic world

Hausa West African people who lived in several city-states of what is now northern Nigeria

Yoruba West African people who formed several kingdoms in what is now Benin

Benin Kingdom that arose near the Niger River delta and became a major West African state

Eastern City-States and Southern Empires

CH. 15 Sec. 3

EAST COAST TRADE CITIES (pages 422–424)

WHAT CULTURES BLENDED IN EAST AFRICA?

The east coast of Africa became a region where cultures blended. Africans speaking Bantu languages moved to this area from central Africa. Muslim Arab and Persian traders settled in port cities along the coast. A new blended language formed. It was called Swahili.

Arab traders sold porcelain bowls from China. They sold jewels and cotton cloth from India. They bought ivory, gold, and other African goods. The traders took these goods back to Asia. By 1300, trade was thriving in over 35 cities on the coast.

Some cities also manufactured products for trade. These goods included woven cloth and iron tools. Kilwa was one of the richest trading ports. It was located far to the south. Trade goods from southern lands passed through Kilwa.

In 1497, though, the situation changed. Ships arrived on the east coast of Africa from Portugal. Portuguese sailors were looking for a route to India. They wanted to join in the trade for spices and other goods desired in Europe. Soon the Portuguese attacked Kilwa. They also attacked other trading centers along the East African coast.

For the next two centuries, the Portuguese remained a powerful force in the region.

4. WHY DID KILWA BECOME AN IMPORTANT CENTER OF TRADE?

TERMS AND NAMES

Swahili Language that is a blend of Arabic and Bantu

Great Zimbabwe City that grew into an empire built on the gold trade

Mutapa Southern African empire established by the leader Mutota

English	Swahili
Nice to meet you	Nafurahi kukuona
How are you?	Habari gani? Uhali gani?
Good, fine	Njema, Nzuri, Salama
Bad	Mbaya
So so	Hivi, hivi
Please	Tafadhali
Excuse me	Samahani
So long	Tutaonana
Yes	Ndiyo
No	Hapana

ISLAMIC INFLUENCES (pages 424–425) HOW DID MUSLIM TRADERS INFLUENCE EAST AFRICA?

On the east coast of Africa, contact with Muslim traders grew. This resulted in the spread of Islam. A sultan, or governor, ruled each city. Most government officials and wealthy merchants were Muslims. As in West Africa, though, most common people kept their traditional beliefs.

Muslim traders also sold slaves from the East African coast. These slaves were brought to markets in areas such as Arabia and Persia. Some slaves did household tasks. Others were sent to India to be soldiers. This slave trade was still small. Only about 1,000 slaves a year were traded. The later European-run slave trade was much larger.

5. DESCRIBE THE MUSLIM SLAVE TRADE.

SOUTHERN AFRICA AND GREAT ZIMBABWE (pages 425–426)

WHAT EMPIRES AROSE IN SOUTHERN AFRICA?

In southern Africa, a great city-state arose in the 1000s. The Shona people grew crops in their rich land. They also raised cattle. Their city, Great Zimbabwe, linked the gold fields inland with the trading cities on the coast. From the 1200s through the 1400s, the city controlled this trade. The city grew wealthy.

Around 1450, though, the people left the city. No one knows why. One explanation is that overuse had destroyed the grasslands, soil, and timber. About 60 acres of ruins remain. The ruins include stone buildings. A high wall carved with figures of birds also still stands.

6. WHAT HAPPENED TO GREAT ZIMBABWE AROUND 1450?



Great Zimbabwe

THE MUTAPA EMPIRE (page 427) WHO FOUNDED THE MUTAPA EMPIRE?

The Mutapa Empire followed. It began around 1420. A man named Mutota left the area. He moved farther north looking for salt. Mutota and his successors took control of a large area. It was almost all of the land of the modern Zimbabwe. This empire gained wealth from its gold. The rulers forced the conquered to mine the gold. The southern region of the empire formed its own kingdom. In the 1500s, the Portuguese moved in. They failed to conquer the empire. Later, through political schemes, they took over the government.

7. HOW DID MUTAPA RULERS OBTAIN LUXURY GOODS FROM COASTAL CITY-STATES?

TRADE GOODS		
Point of Origin	Raw Materials	Products Made
• savanna region	• leopard skins	• saddles
• shells of hawksbill sea turtles	• tortoiseshell	• combs
• mines in southern Africa	• gold	• coins, jewelry
• tusks from elephants in savanna region	• ivory	• carved chess pieces and sword hilts

Skillbuilder

Use the chart to answer the questions.

1. Which raw materials came from South African mines?

2. What do most of the raw materials have in common?
