

## African Civilizations

### Lesson 1 The Rise of African Civilizations

#### ESSENTIAL QUESTION

*Why do people trade?*

#### GUIDING QUESTIONS

1. *How did early peoples settle Africa?*
2. *How did trade develop in Africa?*
3. *Why did West African trading empires rise and fall?*
4. *How did trade affect the development of East African kingdoms?*

#### Terms to Know

**savannas** tropical grasslands with small trees and bushes

**plateau** an area of high, mostly flat land

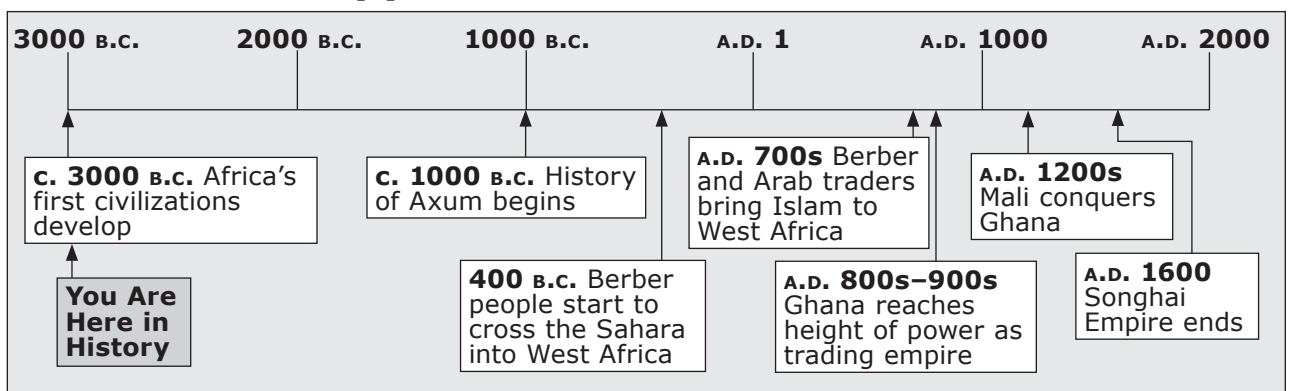
**griot** a traditional African storyteller

**dhow** a sailboat with a special triangle-shaped sail

### Where in the world?



### When did it happen?



## African Civilizations

### Lesson 1 The Rise of African Civilizations, *Continued*

#### African Beginnings

Scientists believe the first humans lived in Africa more than 150,000 years ago. About seven or eight thousand years ago, groups of people began to stay in one place. They tamed animals, grew crops, and formed villages. Later, these villages became more organized. Africa's first civilizations developed. They were called Egypt and Kush.

The geography of Africa affected its early people. Africa is the second largest continent on Earth. It has four geographic zones and climates. These differ a great deal from one another.

Geographic Zone	Description
<b>Rain forests</b> (lush, tropical forests)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Climate is warm with heavy rainfall.</li> <li>• Farmers grow some crops and collect food from forests.</li> </ul>
<b>Savannas</b> (grasslands; cover about 40 percent of Africa)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Climate is hot with uneven rains.</li> <li>• People grow grains and raise animals.</li> </ul>
<b>Deserts</b> (cover about 40 percent of Africa)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Sahara is the largest desert in the world.</li> <li>• Climate is hot and dry.</li> <li>• Africa's deserts limited travel and trade for many years.</li> </ul>
<b>Mild climate areas</b> (on northern coast and southern tip of Africa)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Climate is warm with plenty of rain.</li> <li>• Fertile land and good climate enable farmers to grow many crops.</li> </ul>

Plateaus cover most of Africa's land. A **plateau** is an area of high, mostly flat land. Africa also features many large river systems. Egypt and Kush grew along the Nile River in North Africa. The Niger River is the major river system in West Africa.

#### Trading Empires in Africa

The Sahara separated North Africa from the rest of Africa for thousands of years. Then, about 400 B.C., the Berber people found ways to cross this vast desert. They reached West Africa. Trade began between the two regions.



#### Marking the Text

1. Underline the information about the first humans to come to Africa.



#### Examining Details

2. Choose one of the geographic zones of Africa. List three details about this zone.

Zone: \_\_\_\_\_

- \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_



#### Reading Check

3. How did Africa's climate zones affect people's ability to raise crops?

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## African Civilizations

### Lesson 1 The Rise of African Civilizations, *Continued*

**FOLDABLES®**



**Describing**

4. Place a one-tab Foldable along the dotted line to cover the text to the right. Label the anchor tab *Trade*. From memory, sketch the outline of North Africa on the front of the tab. Label the Sahara, North Africa, and West Africa on your sketch. On the back of the tab, write about the importance of crossing the Sahara to trade.



**Reading Check**

5. Why were camels essential for the Sahara trade?

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**Identifying**

6. How did Islam arrive in Ghana?

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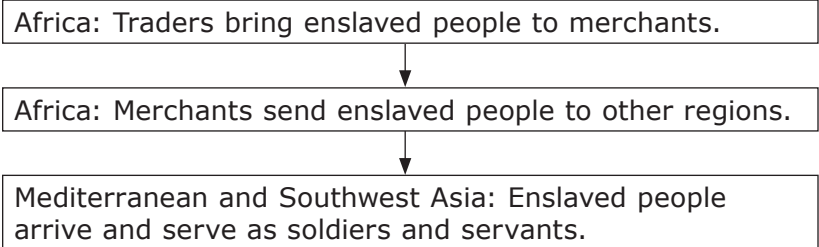
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Berbers used donkeys and horses to cross the Sahara, but these animals often died because of the heat. In A.D. 200, the Romans introduced the camel to North Africa. Camels could better handle the hot, dry conditions. They can travel days without water. The use of camels increased trade between North Africa and West Africa.

Berber traders formed caravans made up of many camels. The caravans carried trade goods, such as ivory, spices, and leather, across the Sahara. At times, the caravans also transported enslaved people who were captured in wars. Merchants sent the enslaved people to the Mediterranean region and Southwest Asia. In these locations, they served as soldiers and household servants.

**Early slave trade in Africa**



### West African Kingdoms

Caravans traveled from North Africa to West Africa. One of the important goods they carried was salt. This salt came from mines located in the Sahara. Traders also brought Islam to West Africa in the A.D. 700s. Many merchants in West Africa became Muslims.

Ghana was the first great trading empire in West Africa. It grew powerful during the A.D. 400s as a center of trade. Ghana was located between the salt mines of the Sahara and the gold mines of West Africa. Ghana's kings became wealthy by taxing traders who passed through the empire. Muslim Arabs and Berber traders brought Islam to Ghana. Many people converted to Islam.

The power of Ghana slowly declined in the A.D. 1100s. One group separated from the empire and formed the empire of Mali. In the A.D. 1200s, Mali conquered what was left of Ghana. **Griots** told how Sundiata Keita ruled well and made Mali great. Griots are traditional African storytellers. Sundiata united people under a strong government. He also conquered new lands that put Mali in control of gold mines in West Africa. The empire built its wealth and power on the gold and salt trade.

## African Civilizations

### Lesson 1 The Rise of African Civilizations, *Continued*

Mali began to weaken in A.D. 1337. The state of Songhai eventually gained control of the gold and salt trade. By A.D. 1492, Songhai had become the largest empire in West Africa. This empire lasted about 100 more years.

#### Effects of Trade on West Africa

- Trade brought wealth to West Africa.
- The population of West Africa grew.
- Powerful African city-states developed. Rulers of these city-states began to build empires.
- African empires became larger and richer than most European kingdoms from the A.D. 500s to A.D. 1300s.

### East African Kingdoms

The East African kingdom of Axum became an important stop on trade routes that connected Africa, the Mediterranean world, and India. In A.D. 334 King Ezana made Christianity the official religion. Islam was introduced later. Both religions had a major impact.

Arab traders had sailed to East Africa for many years. They traveled in sailboats called **dhows**. These ships used a special triangle-shaped sail to catch the wind. In the A.D. 700s, many Arab Muslim traders settled along the Indian Ocean in East Africa. The Indian Ocean trade also reached inland. During the A.D. 900s, Zimbabwe became one of the important inland trading states. Many large stone buildings still stand at the site of the empire's capital, Great Zimbabwe.

#### Check for Understanding

List the two important trading regions separated by the Sahara.

1. \_\_\_\_\_
2. \_\_\_\_\_

List two ways that trade affected African kingdoms.

3. \_\_\_\_\_
4. \_\_\_\_\_

#### Reading Check

7. What were two valuable products traded through Ghana?

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#### Reading Check

8. Why did Axum become a prosperous trading center?

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#### **FOLDABLES**<sup>®</sup>

9. Place a two-tab Foldable along the dotted line. Cut the tabs in half to make four tabs. Label the four tabs *West Coast Kingdom*, *Rain Forest Kingdom*, *East Coast Kingdom*, and *Central and Southern Africa*.

On both sides of the tabs, write about the effects of trade in each. Use your Foldable to help you complete the lists under the tabs.

## African Civilizations

### Lesson 2 African Government and Religion

#### ESSENTIAL QUESTION

*How does religion shape society?*

#### GUIDING QUESTIONS

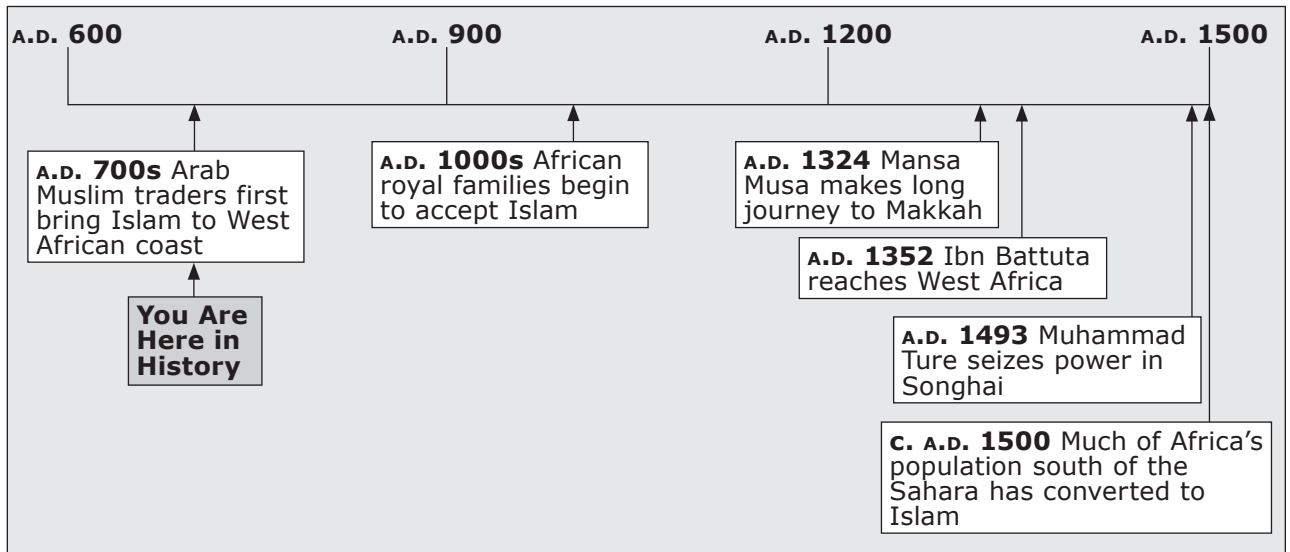
1. *How did African rulers govern their territories?*
2. *How did traditional religions influence African life?*
3. *How did Islam spread in Africa?*

#### Terms to Know

**clan** a group of people who all share the same ancestor

**Swahili** the unique culture of Africa's East Coast and the language spoken there

### When did it happen?



### What do you know?

Write two facts that you have already learned about each African kingdom.

Axum \_\_\_\_\_

Ghana \_\_\_\_\_

Mali \_\_\_\_\_

Songhai \_\_\_\_\_

Zimbabwe \_\_\_\_\_

## African Civilizations

### Lesson 2 African Government and Religion, *Continued*

#### African Rulers and Society

Africans developed different ways to rule their growing empires. Powerful empires such as Ghana and Mali had strong, central governments. Rulers settled disputes, controlled trade, and defended the empire. In return, they expected total loyalty from their people. This relationship was good for everyone.

Ghana had a council of ministers to help the king govern. Kings divided Ghana into provinces as the empire grew. Lesser kings ruled these provinces. Chiefs ruled smaller districts. A district included all the villages in a chief's **clan**, those who shared the same ancestor as the chief.

Ghana's government transferred power between rulers in a unique way. Leadership passed only to the son of the king's sister. This was different from the custom in lands where property passed to a man's sons.

Mali had a government similar to that of Ghana. The kingdom had more territory, people, and trade than Ghana. As a result, its royal officials had extra responsibilities.

The kings of Mali led a strong central government. The empire was divided into provinces. Generals governed these provinces and protected Mali from invaders. They also usually came from the provinces they ruled. People commonly supported the generals for those reasons.

#### Kings of Mali

- Led a strong central government
- Divided empires into provinces
- Hired generals to govern provinces and protect Mali from invaders
- Had the support of the people

The richest and most famous king of Mali was Mansa Musa. He ruled from A.D. 1312 to A.D. 1337. Mansa Musa won people's loyalty by giving them gifts like gold, property, and horses.

Songhai built its government on the political traditions of Ghana and Mali. The empire was at its most powerful under Muhammad Ture, a general and devout Muslim. He divided Songhai into provinces. A governor, a tax collector, a court of judges, and a trade inspector were in charge of each province. Muhammad Ture used a navy and soldiers on horseback to keep peace.



#### Summarizing

1. What were some of the duties of African rulers?

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#### Analyzing

2. Find the definition of the word *clan*. How is a clan different from a family?

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#### Contrasting

3. How was the government of Mali different from the government of Ghana?

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#### Reading Check

4. Why did people in Mali mostly support the generals who ruled the provinces?

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## African Civilizations

### Lesson 2 African Government and Religion, *Continued*

#### Listing

5. List the people who governed each province of Songhai.

1. \_\_\_\_\_
2. \_\_\_\_\_
3. \_\_\_\_\_
4. \_\_\_\_\_

#### Identifying

6. List two important purposes that religious beliefs served in Africa.

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#### Reading Check

7. What was the role of diviners in African religions?

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#### Marking the Text

8. Underline the text that explains how Islam reached West Africa.

## Traditional African Religions

Most African societies shared some common religious beliefs. Many shared a belief in a single creator god. Some wanted to keep their own religious practices. These practices varied in different places.

Traditional African Religion	Location	Belief
Igbo	West Africa	a single creator god
Yoruba	West Africa	chief god sent his son from heaven in a canoe; this son created the first humans
Ashanti	Ghana	a supreme god whose sons were lesser gods

Even though religious beliefs differed, they served similar purposes. They provided rules to live by. They also helped people remember their history. Africans believed that religion could protect them from danger and help them succeed in life. Some believed that a group of people called diviners could foretell the future. Kings hired diviners to guarantee good harvests and protect their kingdoms.

## Islam Arrives in Africa

The arrival of Islam began to challenge traditional religions starting in the A.D. 700s. Berber and Arab merchants took Islam to West Africa as they traded.

African rulers welcomed the Muslim traders. They allowed their people to accept Islam. During the A.D. 1000s, African rulers themselves finally began to accept Islam. Much of Africa's population south of the Sahara converted to Islam by the end of the 1400s.

Mansa Musa became Mali's most famous ruler. He worked hard to spread Islam. He used his wealth to build mosques. He also set up libraries in the capital, Timbuktu.

Mansa Musa became well-known for his journey to the Muslim holy city of Makkah. In Makkah, Mansa Musa made sure the people knew he was the ruler of a great empire.

**African Civilizations**

**Lesson 2** African Government and Religion, *Continued*

He brought a large caravan of camels carrying gold. Mansa Musa gave this gold to the poor he met along his journey.

In Makkah, Mansa Musa met Muslim scholars. He talked them into returning to Mali with him. These scholars helped spread Islam in West Africa.

A young Arab lawyer from Morocco named Ibn Battuta was impressed by Mansa Musa. In 1325 he set out to see the Muslim world. In West Africa, he discovered many people were Muslims. However, some people still followed traditional African religions.

Islam spread slowly in East Africa. A new society called **Swahili** helped it spread beginning in the 1100s and 1200s. The Swahili culture and language are a mixture of African and Muslim cultures. The Muslim influences came from Arab and Persian settlers. Swahili comes from an Arabic word meaning "people of the coast." Swahili culture and language remain important in modern Africa.

Islam had a major impact on Africa. Many people accepted the laws and ideas of Islam. Muslim schools introduced the Arabic language. Islam also had an effect on art and architecture in Africa. Muslim builders created beautiful mosques and palaces in African cities such as Timbuktu.

**Check for Understanding**

List two facts that describe the government of Ghana.

1. \_\_\_\_\_
2. \_\_\_\_\_

List two facts that describe the kingdom of Mali.

3. \_\_\_\_\_
4. \_\_\_\_\_

**? Critical Thinking**

9. How did Mansa Musa help spread Islam in West Africa?

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**✓ Reading Check**

10. What caused a unique brand of Islam to develop in Africa?

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11. Glue a three-tab Foldable along the dotted line to cover the Check for Understanding. Label the anchor tab *West Africa Kingdoms*. On the three tabs write *Ghana, Mali, and Songhai*.

Use both sides to describe each kingdom.

Glue Foldable here



## African Civilizations

### Lesson 3 African Life and Culture

#### ESSENTIAL QUESTION

*How do religions develop?*

#### GUIDING QUESTIONS

1. *Why do people in different parts of Africa have similar traditions and cultures?*
2. *How did the slave trade affect Africans?*
3. *Why were art forms important to Africans?*

#### Terms to Know

**extended family** a family made up of several generations

**matrilineal** tracing family history through mothers instead of fathers

**oral history** stories told out loud and passed down from generation to generation

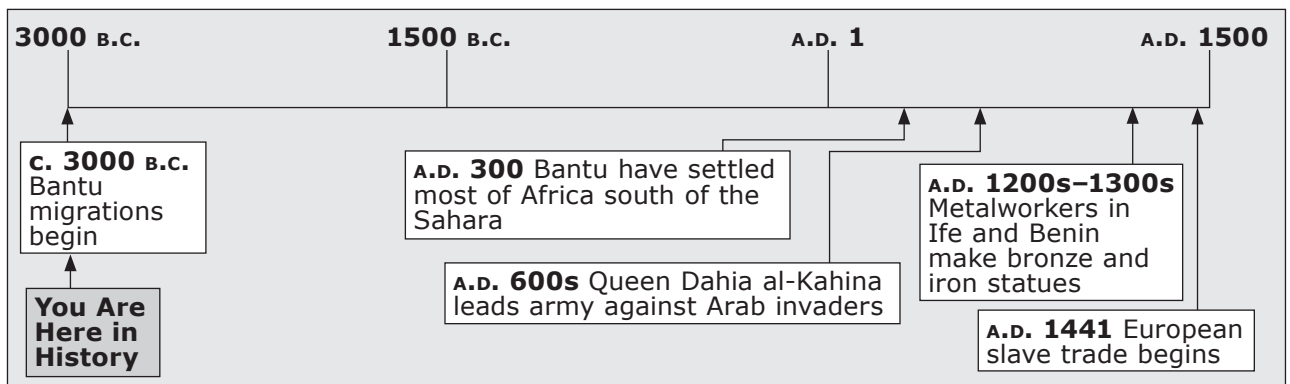
**sugarcane** a grassy plant that is grown as a source of sugar

**spiritual** a gospel song

#### Where in the world?



#### When did it happen?



## African Civilizations

### Lesson 3 African Life and Culture, *Continued*

#### African Society

Family was the basis of African society. Many people lived in **extended families**. These were families made up of several generations. Extended families belonged to larger groups of people called lineage groups. All of the people in a lineage group could trace their family history to one common relative. Members of these groups supported and cared for each other.

Rural villages	Cities and towns
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Most people in early Africa lived in communities in the countryside.</li> <li>• People lived in small mud homes.</li> <li>• People usually worked as farmers.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Cities and towns often grew from smaller villages.</li> <li>• They often had protective walls around them.</li> <li>• They became centers of government and trade.</li> <li>• Many people worked as artisans in metalworking, woodworking, and pottery making.</li> </ul>

A group of people called the Bantu began to migrate from West Africa around 3000 B.C. The migrations lasted hundreds of years. The Bantu shared common cultures, languages, and technologies, such as farming and ironworking. These migrations spread similarities throughout Africa. Today, more than 200 million Africans speak Bantu languages.

Many villages were **matrilineal**. This means that people traced family history through mothers instead of fathers. However, women joined their husbands' families when they married. Women's families would receive gifts to make up for this loss. Gifts might include cattle, metal tools, goats, or cloth.

African families valued children. Children meant that families would live on and prosper. Family members and other villagers educated children.

In West Africa, griots taught children through **oral history**. These are stories told out loud and passed down from generation to generation. The stories often contained a life lesson. These lessons were told as proverbs, or short sayings that are easy to remember. Children also learned basic skills they would need when they grew up.



#### Contrasting

1. What are two ways in which rural villages in Africa differed from towns and cities?

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_



#### Examining Details

2. Record three details about the Bantu migrations.

1. \_\_\_\_\_

2. \_\_\_\_\_

3. \_\_\_\_\_



#### Marking the Text

3. Underline the word *matrilineal* and its definition.



#### Reading Check

4. What were families like in early Africa?

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\_\_\_\_\_

## African Civilizations

### Lesson 3 African Life and Culture, *Continued*

#### **Identifying**

5. What were some of the jobs in which enslaved people worked for African rulers?

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\_\_\_\_\_

#### **Drawing Conclusions**

6. Why do you think European plantation owners wanted to use enslaved Africans as workers?

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\_\_\_\_\_

#### **Explaining**

7. What caused the slave trade to grow in Africa?

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#### **Reading Check**

8. How did increased contact with other parts of the world affect the slave trade in Africa?

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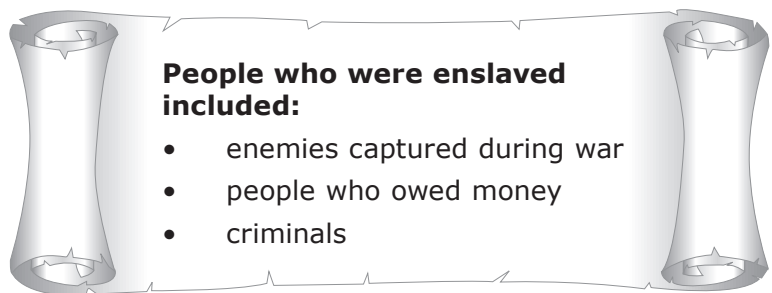
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African women acted mostly as wives and mothers. They had fewer rights than men. However, some women served as soldiers and rulers. Queen Dahia al-Kahina led an army to fight off Arab invaders who attacked her kingdom. Another woman ruler was Queen Nzinga. She spent many years fighting the Europeans and the slave trade.

### The Slave Trade

Slavery had existed in Africa since ancient times. It was a common practice in many parts of the world. Bantu warriors often raided villages for captives. These people worked for African rulers as laborers, servants, or soldiers. Their lives were hard, but enslaved Africans could still win their freedom. Sometimes they were able to work for their freedom or they might marry a free person.



Enslaved people became part of the African trade. This trade grew as contact with the Muslim world increased. The Quran forbid Muslims to enslave other Muslims. They could, however, enslave non-Muslims. This caused Arab Muslim merchants to trade goods for enslaved Africans who were not Muslim.

The arrival of Europeans caused the slave trade to grow even more. The European slave trade began in 1441 when African captives were taken to Portugal. Most enslaved Africans worked as laborers in Portugal at first.

Portugal later settled islands in the Atlantic Ocean. On these islands, they grew crops such as **sugarcane** on huge farms called plantations. Sugarcane is a grassy plant used to make sugar. Harvesting this crop was hard work. The enslaved workers received no pay.

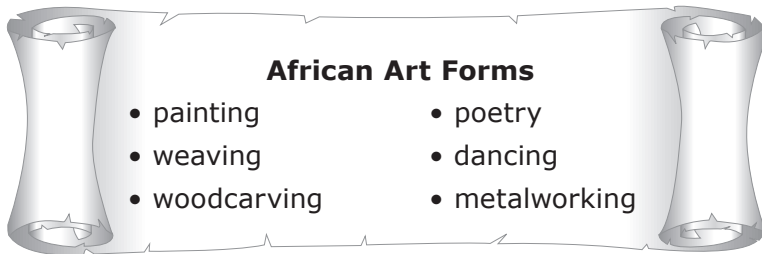
Other European countries began to join Portugal in the slave trade. These countries started to settle in the Americas during the late 1400s. They brought enslaved Africans to the Americas to help grow crops such as sugar, tobacco, rice, and cotton.

## African Civilizations

### Lesson 3 African Life and Culture, *Continued*

#### Culture in Africa

African works of art had a religious purpose. Artists made these works to help people connect with gods, spirits, or ancestors. Art also helped teach people about their history.



Rock paintings were the earliest form of art in Africa. Later, woodcarvers made masks and statues. In the A.D. 1200s and 1300s, people in Benin made statues of bronze and iron.

Music and dance in Africa related to everyday life. These arts could express religious feelings. Enslaved Africans used music to remember their homeland. In America, songs that told of hard times became known as the blues. **Spirituals** are gospel songs. They developed from songs of religious faith and hope for freedom. Ragtime, jazz, rock and roll, and rap are all forms of African-based music.

Dance offered a way for Africans to communicate with the spirits. Dance also reflected community life and marked important stages of life.

Africans also kept alive their storytelling tradition. Some enslaved Africans shared their stories after they escaped. Those who heard the stories told them again and again.

#### Check for Understanding

List two common beliefs or customs that the Bantu introduced to Africa.

1. \_\_\_\_\_
2. \_\_\_\_\_

List two ways that the slave trade affected Africans.

3. \_\_\_\_\_
4. \_\_\_\_\_



#### Identifying

9. What were two important purposes of African works of art?

\_\_\_\_\_

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#### Reading Check

10. What role did music and dance play in the everyday lives of early Africans?

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\_\_\_\_\_



11. Place a three-tab Foldable to cover the Check for Understanding. Write *Slave Trade* on the anchor tab. Label the tabs *Bantu*, *Muslims*, and *Europeans*.

Use both sides to write key points you remember about each group. Use your Foldable to help you complete the lists under the tabs.