

CHAPTER
11
SECTION 1

Note Taking Study Guide
EARLY CIVILIZATIONS OF AFRICA

Focus Question: How did geography and natural resources affect the development of early societies throughout Africa?

As you read this section in your textbook, complete the following outline to record the important effects of Africa's geography and natural resources.

I. The influence of geography

A. Geographic patterns

1. _____

2. _____

3. _____

B. Resources spur trade

1. _____

2. _____

II. _____

A. _____

1. _____

2. _____

3. _____

4. _____

5. _____

B. _____

1. _____

2. _____

(Outline continues on the next page.)

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EARLY CIVILIZATIONS OF AFRICA

(Continued from page 98)

III. _____

A. _____

B. _____

C. _____

1. _____

2. _____

IV. _____

A. _____

B. _____

C. _____

CHAPTER 11
SECTION 1

Section Summary
EARLY CIVILIZATIONS OF AFRICA

READING CHECK

What led to Nubia’s decline?

VOCABULARY STRATEGY

What does the word *utilized* mean in the underlined sentence? A related word is *utility*, which means “having a use.” Use this information and your prior knowledge to figure out the meaning of *utilized*.

READING SKILL

Identify Causes and Effects
 Identify the effects mentioned in the Summary of each of these causes:

Rome conquered Carthage.

Muslim Arabs took North Africa.

Africa includes tropical rain forests, grassy plains called **savannas**, and deserts such as the vast **Sahara**. Deserts, rain forests, the interior plateau, and rivers with **cataracts**, or waterfalls, limited travel and trade. On the other hand, an interior valley and the Mediterranean and Red seas provided overseas trade routes to Asia and Europe. By A.D. 200, camel caravans helped transport goods across the Sahara. Valuable minerals also encouraged trade.

Before 2500 B.C., there were forests and rivers in the Sahara. A climate change, however, slowly resulted in the area drying up and becoming desert—a process called **desertification**. As a result, people migrated to find new farmland. Between 1000 B.C. and A.D. 1000, people from West Africa moved south and east. They spoke forms of a root language known as **Bantu**. These Bantu people merged with existing cultures and brought skills in farming and ironworking.

About 2700 B.C., the civilization of **Nubia**, or Kush, developed on the upper Nile. Egypt controlled Nubia for about 500 years beginning in 1500 B.C. Early Nubian culture was influenced by Egyptian architecture and religion.

Forced to move by Assyrian invaders, the Nubians established a new capital in **Meroë** about 500 B.C. Meroë developed into a successful trade center. Nearby areas were rich in iron ore and timber. Using wood to fuel smelting furnaces, the Nubians made iron tools and weapons, improving their defense. The Nubians also established a new religion and a system of writing. In A.D. 350, Nubia was conquered by an invader from the south, King Ezana of Axum.

While Nubia was thriving along the Nile, Carthage emerged along the Mediterranean in North Africa. Founded by Phoenician traders, Carthage forged a huge empire from 800 B.C. to 146 B.C. At the end of the Third Punic War, however, Rome destroyed Carthage. The Romans then utilized North Africa’s farmlands to provide grain for their armies. They also built roads and cities, and later brought Christianity to the area.

Muslim Arabs took control of North Africa in the 690s. Islam replaced Christianity, and traders later carried the religion to West Africa. Arabic replaced Latin as North Africa’s main language.

Review Questions

1. How did the Bantu migrations affect existing cultures?

2. How did Meroë’s resources strengthen Nubia?

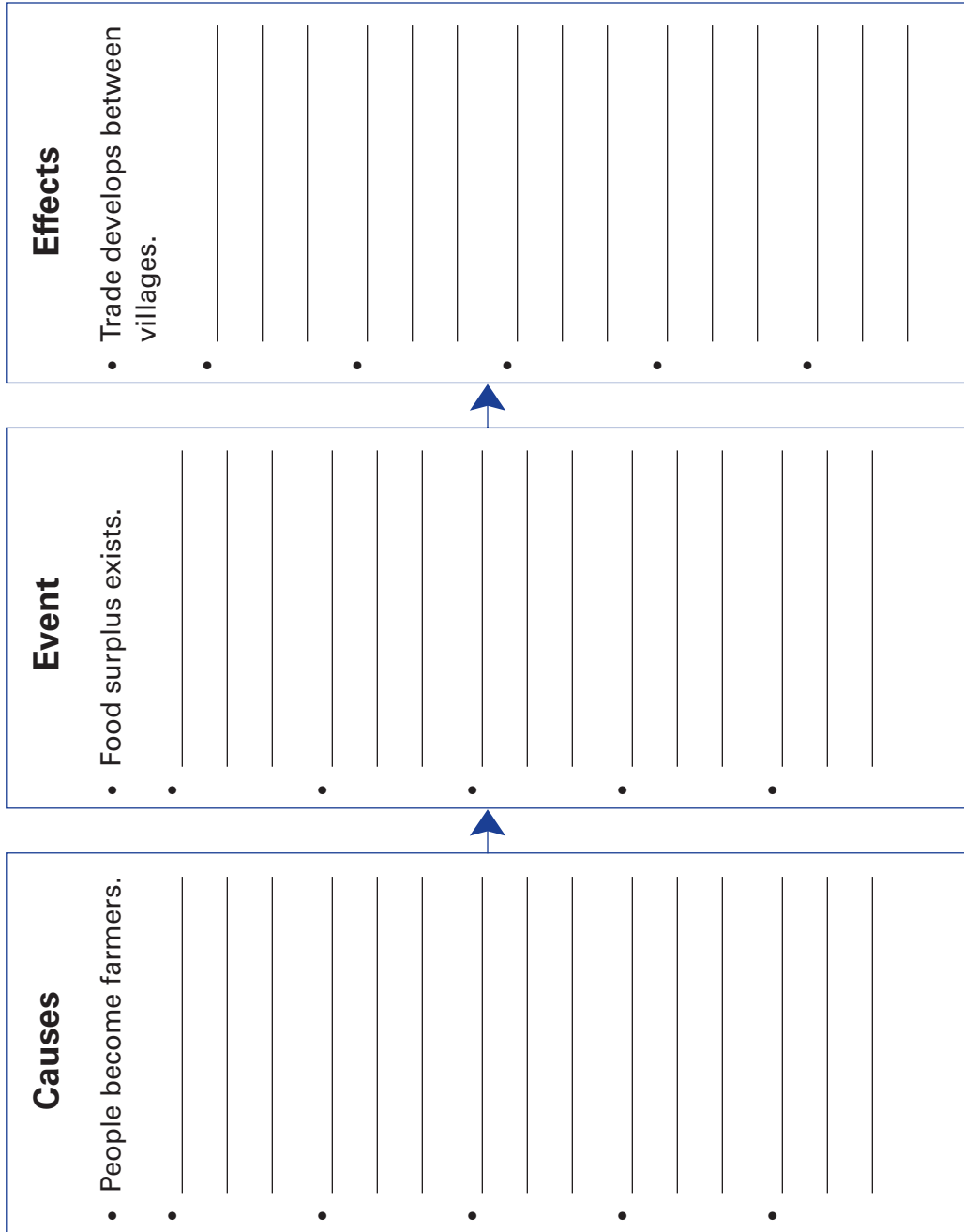
CHAPTER
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SECTION 2

Note Taking Study Guide

KINGDOMS OF WEST AFRICA

Focus Question: How did the kingdoms of West Africa develop and prosper?

As you read this section in your textbook, complete the following flowchart to record the causes and effects related to the development of West African kingdoms.



CHAPTER
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SECTION 2

Section Summary

KINGDOMS OF WEST AFRICA

READING CHECK

Who were the Hausa?

VOCABULARY STRATEGY

What does the word *administered* mean in the underlined sentence? It is related to the word *administration*. Think of where you may have heard either word used before. Use this prior knowledge to help you write a definition of *administered*.

READING SKILL

Identify Causes and Effects

Identify the cause and effect of Songhai's decline.

After early farmers moved from the Sahara to more fertile lands to the south, they began to produce more food than they needed, or a **surplus**. They were then able to trade surplus food for goods from other villages. A trade network developed that eventually connected Africa with Asia and Europe. Cities developed along the trade routes.

Much of the trade exchanged gold for salt, each a valuable product or **commodity**. Gold was common in West Africa, while salt was plentiful in the Sahara. However, people needed salt to stay healthy and preserve food. In fact, traders might exchange one pound of salt for one pound of gold.

About A.D. 800, the ancient West African kingdom of **Ghana** became a center of trade. From there, the king controlled the salt and gold trade. In addition, the king administered justice and other government activities, and kept the peace. Ghana was very prosperous and attracted Muslims from the north. They brought new ideas about military technology and business. Later, Ghana was swallowed up by a new power, the rising kingdom of Mali.

About 1235, **Sundiata** established the empire of **Mali**. He gained control of trade routes, the gold mining regions, and the salt supplies. **Mansa Musa**, Mali's greatest ruler, came to power about 1312. He fostered justice and religious freedom. His pilgrimage to Mecca created ties to Muslim states and brought Islamic scholars to Mali to provide religious instruction.

After Mali weakened, another kingdom, **Songhai**, developed in West Africa. After 1492, Songhai's emperor Askia Muhammad established a Muslim dynasty, expanded the territory, and improved the government. He strengthened ties to other Muslim states and built mosques and schools. However, internal conflicts weakened the empire, which was conquered by the sultan of Morocco around 1591.

Smaller societies, such as Benin, also flourished in the region from A.D. 500 to 1500. In the rain forests of the Guinea coast in the 1300s, the people of Benin built farming villages. They also traded pepper, ivory, and slaves to neighbors. At the same time, the Hausa built clay-walled cities. These cities grew into commercial centers, where artisans produced goods, and merchants traded with Arabs. Many Hausa rulers were women.

Review Questions

1. The king of Ghana controlled the trade of which two commodities?

2. What were Mansa Musa's contributions to Mali?

CHAPTER
11
SECTION 3

Note Taking Study Guide

KINGDOMS AND TRADING STATES OF EAST AFRICA

Focus Question: What influence did religion and trade have on the development of East Africa?

As you read this section in your textbook, complete the following flowchart to record the effects of trade on the societies of East Africa.

Effects of Trade on East African Societies	Great Zimbabwe	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • _____ • _____ • _____
	Coastal City-States	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Swahili language is developed. • _____ • _____ • _____ • _____
	Ethiopia	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • _____
	Axum	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Christianity is brought to region. • _____ • _____

CHAPTER
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SECTION 3

Section Summary

KINGDOMS AND TRADING STATES OF EAST AFRICA

READING CHECK

What was Great Zimbabwe?

VOCABULARY STRATEGY

What does the word *unifying* mean in the underlined sentence? Its prefix *uni-* means “one.” Use this word-part clue to help you write a definition of *unifying*.

READING SKILL

Understand Effects How was Swahili an effect of mixed cultures in East Africa?

The kingdom of **Axum** conquered Nubia about A.D. 350. Axum included two main cities—the upland capital city of Axum and the port of **Adulis** on the Red Sea. The peoples of Axum were descended from African farmers and people from the Middle East. By about A.D. 400, Axum controlled a rich trade network connecting Africa, India, and the Mediterranean. Traders exchanged many cultural influences in their travels.

Axum became a Christian kingdom in the 300s. At first, this helped strengthen trade ties with other Christian countries. When Islam began spreading across North Africa in the 600s, however, Axum became isolated and lost power. Civil war and economic decline combined to weaken Axum.

Axum’s legacy, however, survived for centuries in a portion of present-day **Ethiopia**. There, Christianity was a unifying influence that helped give Ethiopia a unique identity among Muslim neighbors. A distinct culture developed in Ethiopia. In the 1200s, under **King Lalibela**, Christian churches were carved below ground into mountain rocks. Ethiopian Christianity absorbed local customs.

After Axum declined, Arab and Persian traders established Muslim communities along the East African coast. By the 600s, ships regularly took advantage of monsoon winds to sail to India and back, and the cities in East Africa grew wealthy by trading goods with Africa, Southeast Asia, and China. The cities were independent, and although they competed for power, relations among them were generally peaceful. By the 1000s, the mixture of cultures created unique architecture, as well as a new language and culture, both called **Swahili**. The language was Bantu-based, using some Arabic words and written in Arabic.

Great Zimbabwe, the capital of a great inland Zimbabwe empire, was built by a succession of Bantu-speaking peoples between 900 and 1500. It reached its height around 1300. The city included great stone buildings, and its people mined gold and traded goods across the Indian Ocean. By the 1500s, the empire of Zimbabwe was in decline. Later, Portuguese traders tried, but failed, to find the region’s source of gold.

Review Questions

1. How did the spread of Islam in North Africa affect the Axum empire?

2. How did Axum’s decline affect trade in East Africa?

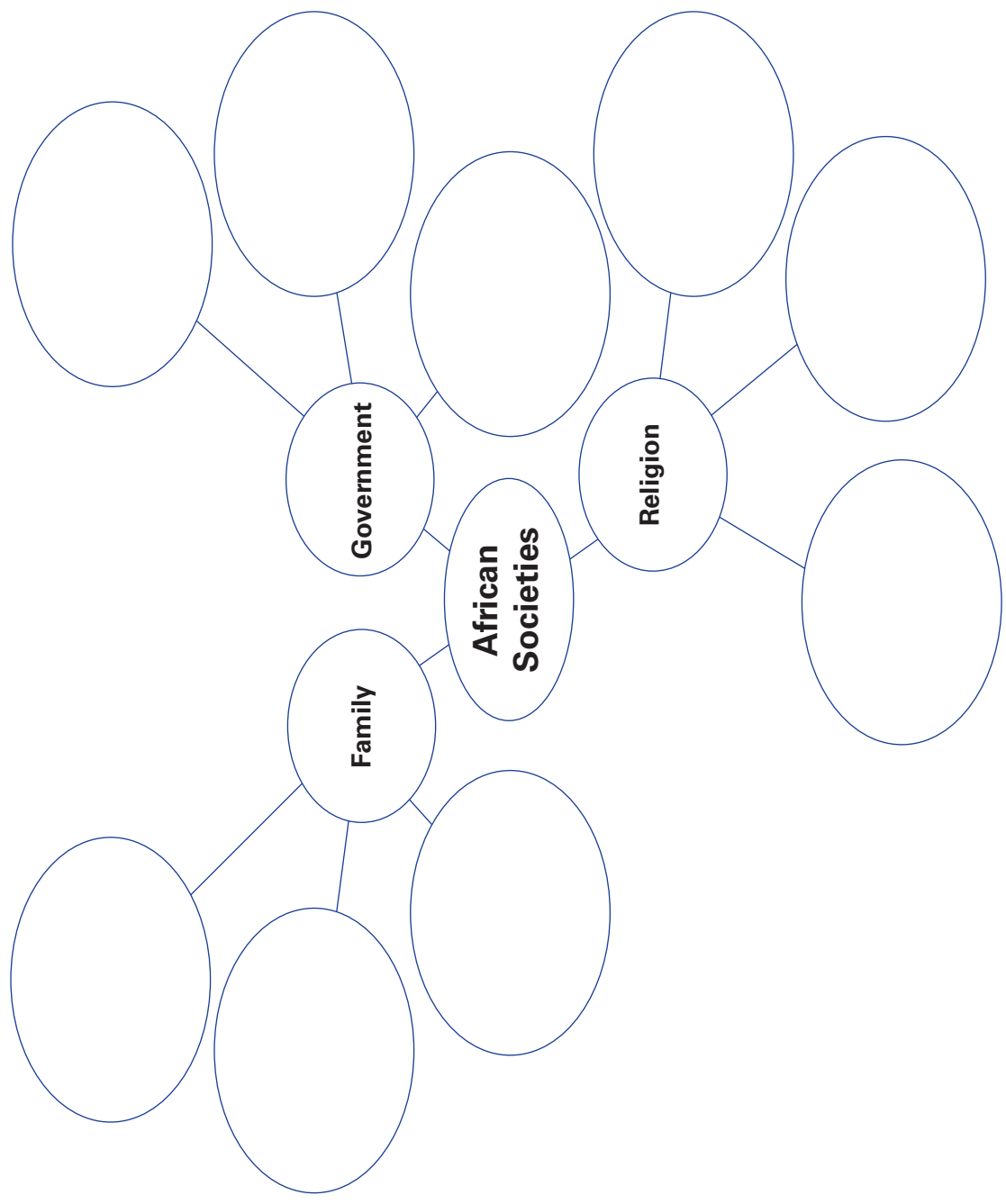
CHAPTER
11
SECTION 4

Note Taking Study Guide

SOCIETIES IN MEDIEVAL AFRICA

Focus Question: What factors influenced the development of societies in Africa?

As you read this section in your textbook, complete the following concept web to record the factors that influenced the development of African societies.



CHAPTER
11
SECTION 4

Section Summary

SOCIETIES IN MEDIEVAL AFRICA

READING CHECK

Who were the griots?

VOCABULARY STRATEGY

What does the word *complex* mean in the underlined sentence? Look for clues to its meaning in that sentence and the following sentences. Use these context clues to help you write a definition of *complex*.

READING SKILL

Recognize Multiple Causes

What caused different political patterns to develop?

In small societies in medieval Africa, the **nuclear family**, or one set of parents and their children, lived and worked together. In other societies, the family included several generations. **Patrilineal** families passed inheritances through the father's side of the family, while **matrilineal** families passed property down through the mother's side. Each family belonged to a **lineage**, a group of households with a common ancestor, and a clan included several lineages descended from a common ancestor.

Political patterns depended on the size and culture of a community. In small societies, political power was often shared among a number of people. Village decisions were often made by **consensus**, or general agreement, after open discussions. Because elders had experience, their opinions usually carried the greatest weight. Women sometimes took strong roles in the marketplace or as peacemakers.

Large empires usually required villages to obey decisions made by distant rulers and their courts. Another form of government that developed grouped many villages into districts and provinces governed by the king's officials. Around A.D. 1500, Kongo, a kingdom in central Africa, governed in this way. The king had limited powers. Villagers were governed by appointed royal officials, but each village had its own chief.

Early African religions were varied and complex. They involved many gods, goddesses, rituals, and ceremonies. Many people believed in one supreme being, and some honored the spirits of ancestors. By A.D. 1000, Christianity and Islam had spread and absorbed many local practices and beliefs.

The tradition of African arts includes the Egyptian pyramids, built 4,000 years ago. Much art served decorative, religious, or ceremonial purposes, such as cloths, pottery, and jewelry. Objects often had symbolic meanings, such as the bright blue-and-gold kente cloth of West Africa, which was reserved for the wealthy and powerful.

Medieval written histories from Africa provide records of laws, religion, and society. Arabic provided a common written language in Muslim areas, and Muslim scholars gathered in important cities. In West Africa, **griots**, or professional storytellers, kept traditions alive by reciting ancient stories and histories. Folktales and other stories encouraged a sense of community and common values.

Review Questions

1. What are a lineage and a clan?

2. How did the rulers of the Kongo control their lands?
