

CHAPTER 6 - AFRICA

Guiding Questions & Answers

1. How did early people settle Africa? (p. 126)

Hunters and gatherers in Africa began to settle in villages. They learned to tame animals and grow crops. These small villages eventually grew into the first civilizations of Africa.

2. How did trade develop in Africa? (p. 129)

Around 400BC, the Berber people of North Africa found ways to cross the Sahara desert to West Africa. For hundreds of years, the Berbers carried goods across the Sahara on donkeys and horses, but these animals often did not survive the heat. In 200AD, the Romans introduced camels and this greatly changed trade in Africa. The Berbers formed caravans of many camels and these caravans were used to trade and transport goods across many miles.

3. How did traditional religions influence African life? (p. 136)

Most African societies believed in a single creator god. While many groups carried out their own religious practices. Nevertheless, the beliefs of these groups provided rules for living and helped people honor their history and ancestors.

4. Why do people in different parts of Africa have similar traditions and cultures? (p. 140)

In early Africa, most people lived in rural villages. Africa's urban areas became centers of trade and government. One way that culture spread throughout Africa was through the Bantu Migrations. These migrations began in West Africa around 4000BC and lasted for hundreds of years. The Bantu people shared similar languages, cultures, and technologies. They migrated to West Africa from the south and east, spreading their farming and iron-working skills along with their languages.

5. Why were art forms important to Africans? (p. 144)

Art forms were important to Africans because they served a religious purpose and also taught people the history of their communities.

Unit 3 Vocabulary

Savannas - tropical grasslands dotted with small trees and shrubs

Plateau - an area of high and mostly flat land

Griot - traditional storyteller

Dhow - sailboat using wind-catching triangular sails

Clan - a group of people descended from the same ancestor

Swahili - the unique culture of Africa's East coast and the language spoken there

Extended family - families made up of several generations, often including parents, children, grandparents, aunts, uncles, and cousins

Matrilineal - tracing descent through mothers, not fathers

Oral history - stories passed down from generation to generation

Sugarcane - a grassy plant that is a natural source of sugar

Spiritual - a gospel song

Commerce - activities that relate to the buying and selling of goods and services

Labor specialization - the division of jobs and skills in a society

Kinship - connection among people by blood, marriage, or adoption