



AFRICAN SOCIETIES AND CIVILIZATIONS UNTIL 1500 CE

To Illustrate
OLSEN'S SCHOOL GEOGRAPHY.

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STAND

1. *Thymus*

1990年12月

3. *Thymus* found in their chambers show the number of branches, normally by which the chamber changes their shape 94-9832007, (date 16-05-2007)



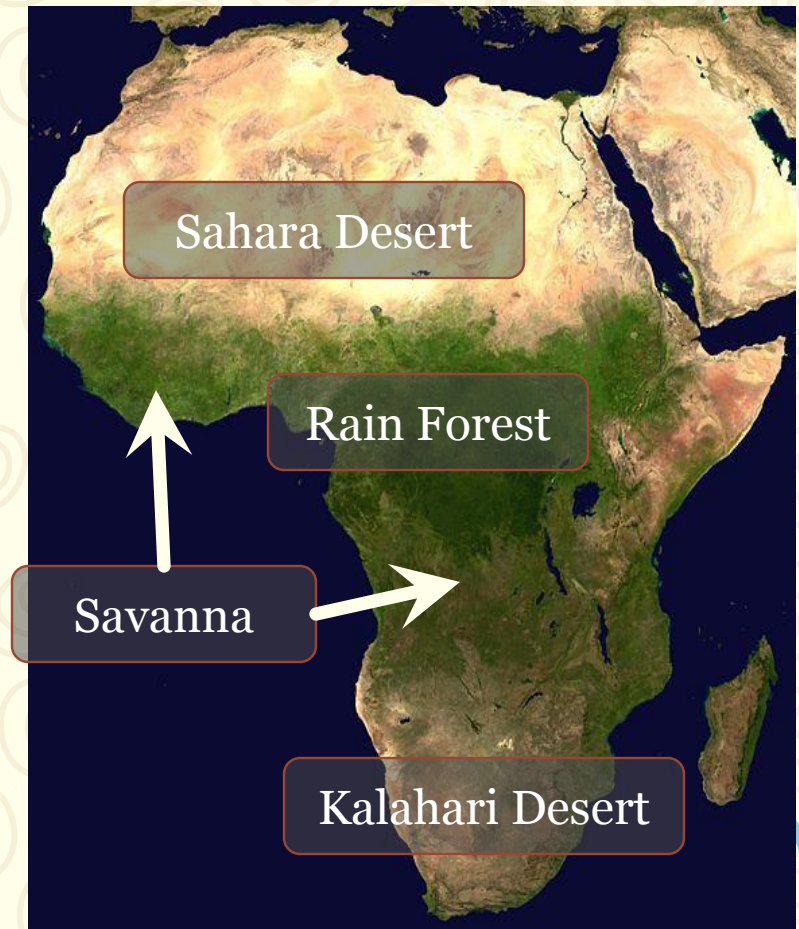
CHALLENGE QUESTION!



What assumptions/predictions can you make about Africa and its history, based solely on this map? Answer using complete sentences!

1. GEOGRAPHIC FEATURES

- ❏ **Deserts:** dry and hot
 - Sahara: northern Africa, size of US
 - Kalahari: southern Africa
- ❏ **Rainforest:** dense, humid forest, found near equator
- ❏ **Savannas:** grassy plains, more mild, 40% of Africa; dry and rainy seasons



CHALLENGE QUESTION!

What challenges do you think the geography of Africa presented, concerning the development of the civilizations and societies on the continent?

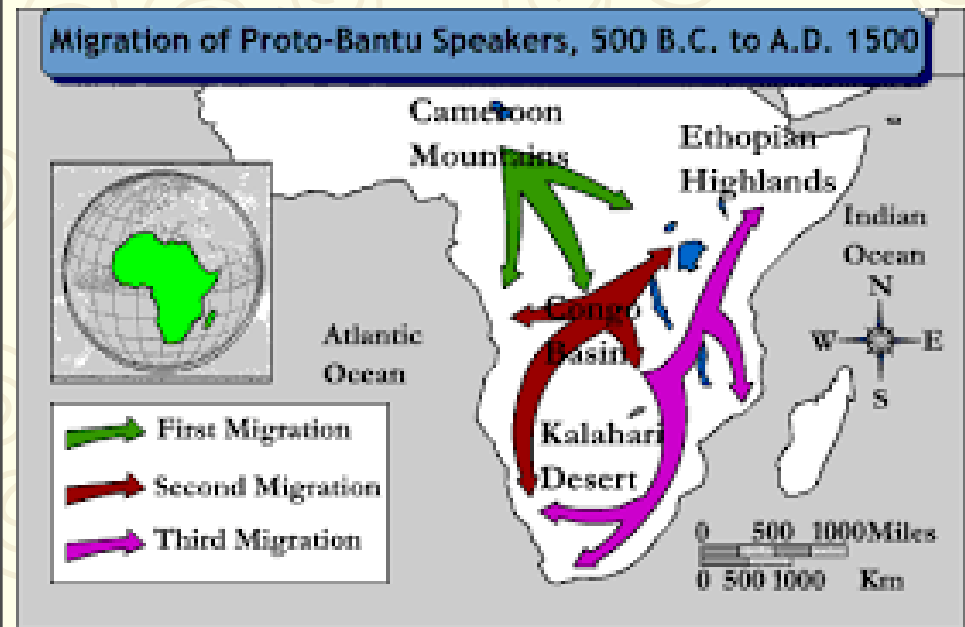
Complete sentences!



2. Early Societies (pre-Post-Classical Period)

-A. Bantu-speaking peoples migrated across Sub-Saharan Africa, spreading iron working and agriculture with them

-Most traditional African languages are derived from Bantu



2. Early Societies (pre-Post-Classical Period)

- i. Many early African societies based on small social units, family
 - Stateless societies – organized around kinship, no formal political organization
 - Lacked ability to respond to larger outside forces, create complex structures, embark on long-distance trade
- ii. Diverse local religious traditions, typically based on animism
- iii. Most lacked formal record keeping
 - Few societies had written language, depended on oral tradition
 - griots (storytellers)



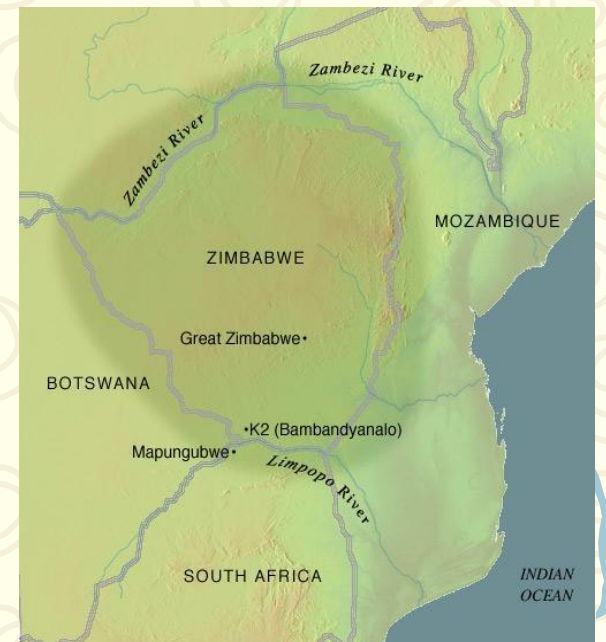
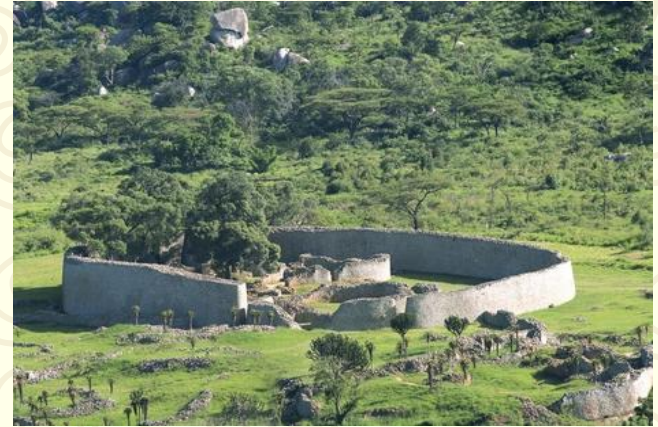
3. Trading Cities of the East

- **A. Trade made cities of eastern coast (like the kingdom of Aksum) diverse**
 - Bantu-speaking people migrated from west
 - Merchants/traders from Arabia, Persia, India
 - Due to diversity: Swahili emerges
 - new language that mixes Arabic and Bantu language
- **B. By 1300, more than 35 trading cities along coast**
 - Powerful, wealthy coastal city-states
 - Controlled trade, including gold and slaves, from Africa to Asia
- **C. Cities fell to European control in late 1400s**
 - Key in giving Europeans control of trade in Indian Ocean



4. Great Zimbabwe (1100-1450)

- A. Established sometime around 1000 C.E., by Shona people in southern savanna
 - Located between rivers in modern-day Zimbabwe
 - Near important gold trade routes
 - Controlled and taxed traders who travelled through area
- B. 1200s-1400s, became economic, political, and religious center for peoples of the region

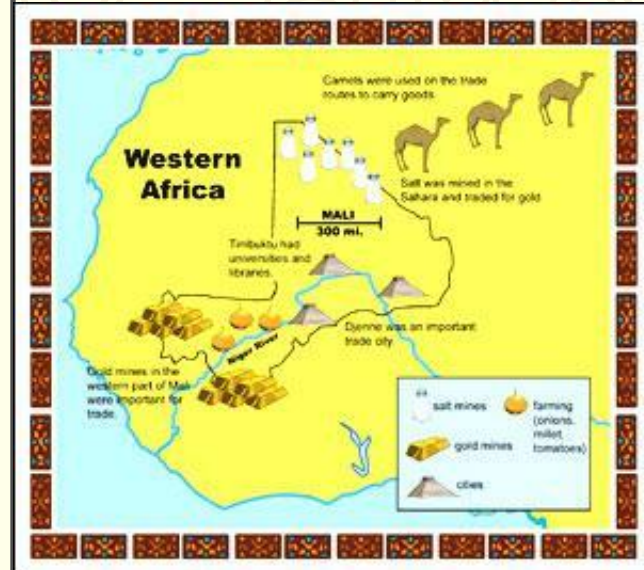




- C. Islam did not have the same impact in southern regions, when compared to northern and western regions
 - Southern peoples retain traditions much longer
- D. Essentially abandoned by 1450, reasons largely unknown
 - Theory: Cattle grazing wore out land, salt and timber used up, could not support large population

5. Kingdom of Ghana (800-1200 C.E.)

- By 700s, area rulers were rich from taxing merchants and traders
 - Agricultural-based society, benefited from geographic position
 - Gold and salt most important
- Many traditions kept from early societies
 - Had a king, but society was fairly egalitarian (social classes not as strict)
 - No writing system
- Rulers peacefully convert to Islam
 - Merchants and travelers brought Islam from North Africa and Middle East



-Much of population did not fully convert, but Islam influential in politics and social life

- Fusion of Islam and traditional African beliefs
- Political and social structures began to resemble that of North Africa and Middle East
- Islam helped spread literacy through learning to read the
Qur'an

- 1100 – Decline

- The Almoravids (Muslim group from northern Africa) seized control of much of Ghana
 - Disrupted gold/salt trade
 - Groups migrated away, merged with other societies

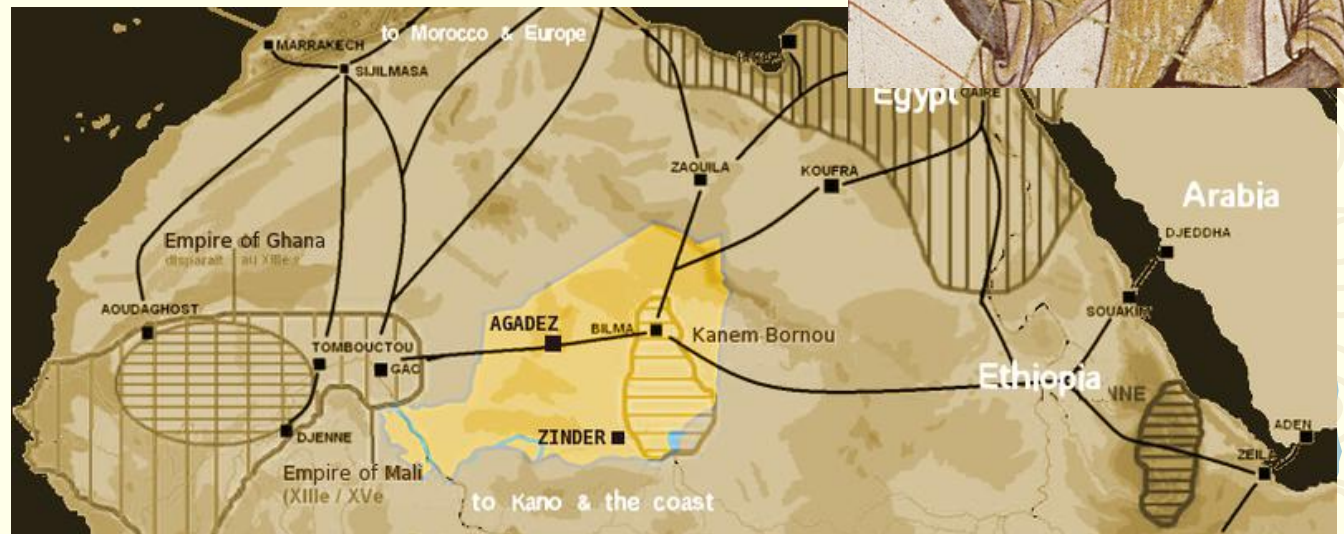
6. Kingdom of Mali (1200s – 1500s C.E.)

- Founded c. 1200 by Malinke people (broke away from Ghana during decline)
 - Trading kingdom, based around gold and salt, connections across Sahara to North and East
- Sundiata
 - Considered Mali's greatest leader
 - Established strong, bureaucratic-style gov
 - Promoted agriculture to increase pop and economy
 - Re-established gold/salt trade after fall of Ghana
- After death of Sundiata (1255), many of Mali's next rulers converted to Islam



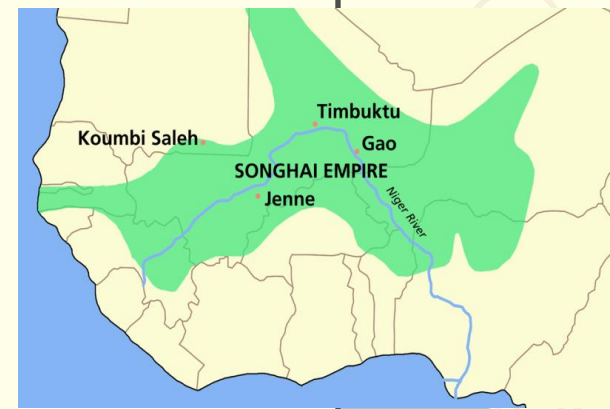
- Mansa Musa (2nd greatest ruler) expanded Mali to almost twice the size empire of Ghana had been
 - Helped establish city of **Timbuktu** as one of the most important trading cities in Africa
 - Attracted Muslim scholars, doctors, religious leaders from neighboring regions
 - Mosques and universities well known

- **Ibn Battuta** — famous Muslim traveler and historian, wrote extensively on Mali and Timbuktu



7. Kingdom of Songhai (1400s – 1500s)

- Mali declining by end of 15th century
 - People break away, form independent kingdoms
- Songhai people in east built up army, extended territory to the Niger River
- Sunni Ali (ruled 1464-1492)
 - Muslim leader, built massive professional army
 - Established bureaucracy to control region
 - Captured two great trading cities
 - Timbuktu, Djenne
- Last major traditional African kingdom



CHALLENGE QUESTION!

Read the article “From Here To Timbuktu: Myth & Reality At The World’s Edge”. Answer the following questions, using complete sentences:

1. According to the article, why was Timbuktu so important? Provide and explain two examples from the reading.
2. Why has Timbuktu been a subject of fascination for so long?