

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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(Continued from page 98)

III. _____

A. _____

B. _____

C. _____

1. _____

2. _____

IV. _____

A. _____

B. _____

C. _____

CHAPTER

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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?
