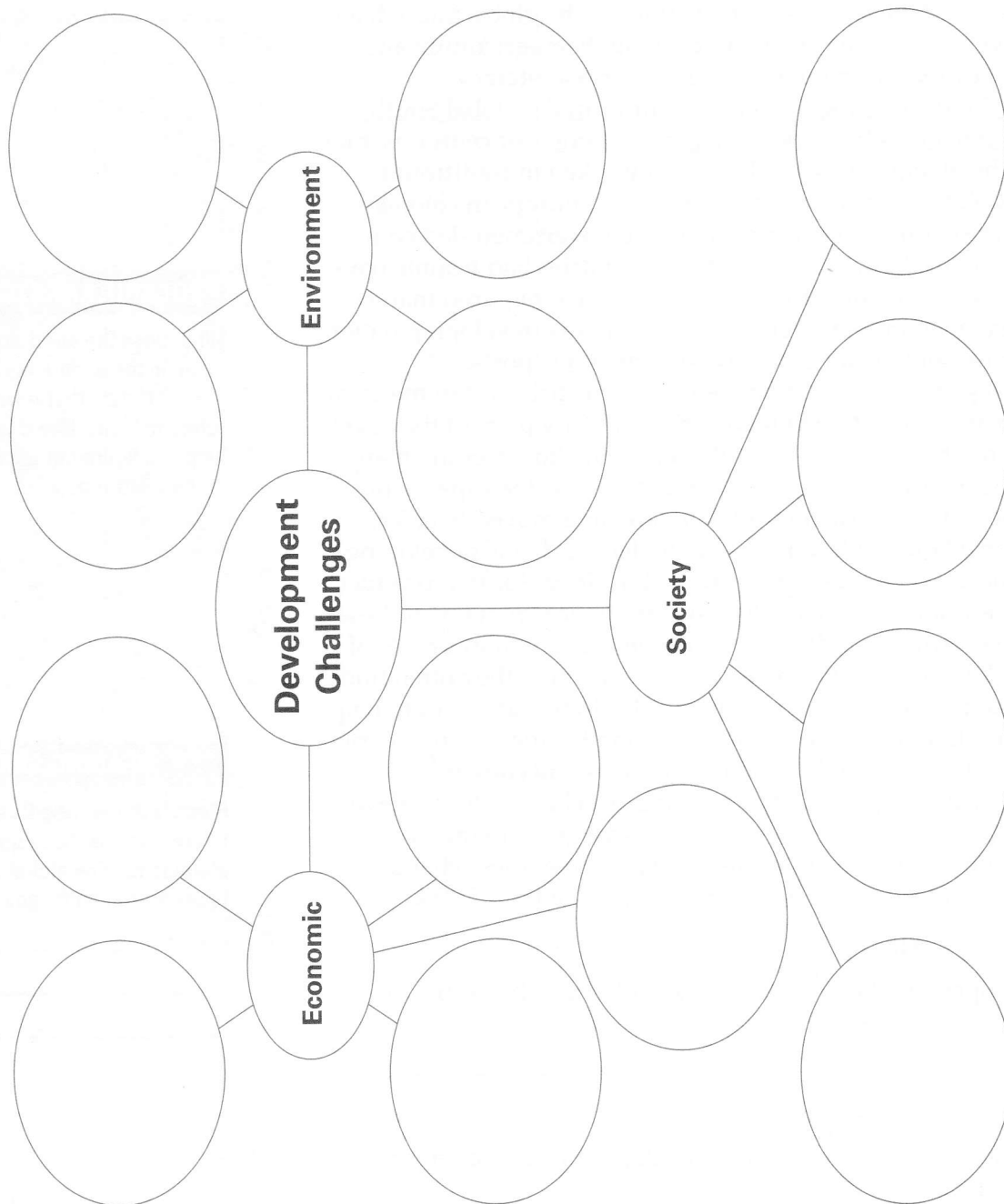


**CHAPTER**  
**33**  
**SECTION 2****Note Taking Study Guide****AFRICA SEEKS A BETTER FUTURE**

**Focus Question:** What challenges have African nations faced in their effort to develop their economies?

*As you read this section in your textbook, complete the concept web below to record the main ideas about challenges faced by African nations, and details that support those main ideas.*



## CHAPTER

## 33

## SECTION 2

## Section Summary

## AFRICA SEEKS A BETTER FUTURE

After World War II, African nations had little capital to invest, so they had to make difficult economic choices. Some nations chose **socialism**, a system in which the government controls parts of the economy. The leaders of these governments hoped to end foreign influence in their countries and to close the gap between the rich and the poor. However, socialism sometimes led to large, inefficient bureaucracies. Other nations relied on capitalism, or market economies. These economies were often more efficient, but foreign owners of businesses took profits out of the country. Some governments tried to fund development by growing crops for export, rather than food crops. However, this forced them to import food to replace the food crops. Governments then had to subsidize part of the cost of importing food from overseas.

African nations faced many obstacles to development. Droughts led to famine in parts of Africa. This was especially true in the Sahel, where overgrazing and farming led to **desertification**. People in African nations also faced the devastating disease AIDS. In the early 2000s, more than 2 million Africans died of the disease each year. **Urbanization** has also created problems in Africa. This shift from rural areas to cities has meant hardship for many and has weakened traditional cultures and ethnic ties. However, in West Africa, the growth of urban markets has increased opportunities for women.

Another concern in Africa is environmental threats. Nearly 70 percent of Africa's animal habitats have been destroyed, causing many animals to become **endangered species**. Other animal species are being killed for their tusks or fur. One environmental activist, **Wangari Maathai**, has fought back by starting the Green Belt Movement. This organization promotes reforestation. It also helps local women with projects of **sustainable development** that aim to provide lasting benefits for future generations.

A close look at Tanzania reveals the problems that many African counties have faced. In the 1960s, the government embraced "African socialism." However, attempts to build on African traditions of cooperation failed to increase agricultural production. In 1985, new leaders introduced economic reforms. However, Tanzania remains poor and has had to rely on foreign loans to avoid economic crisis.

## Review Questions

1. Why did some African nations choose socialism?

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2. Why are many animal species in Africa endangered?

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## READING CHECK

What is urbanization?

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## VOCABULARY STRATEGY

What does the word *subsidize* mean in the underlined sentence? *Subsidize* comes from a Latin word that means "aid" or "support." Use this clue to help you figure out the meaning of the word *subsidize*.

## READING SKILL

**Identify Main Ideas** What is the main idea of this Summary?

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