Africa

Africa is the world's second largest continent. Its unique location—almost centered over the equator—affects its vegetation, climate, and population patterns.

LOCATION
A man prays in front of the pyramids at Giza in Egypt.

MOVEMENT
People travel to a market outside of Mali's Great Mosque in Djenné. The mosque is one of the world's largest mud-brick buildings.
Africa has about one billion people, with the majority of them living south of the Sahara. More than 800 ethnic groups can be found in Africa. Each has its own language and culture.

**HUMAN-ENVIRONMENT INTERACTION**
Roughly two-thirds of all Africans live in rural areas or small villages and earn a living as farmers.

**PLACE**
The ancient Romans called the continent Africa, possibly from the Latin *aprica*, meaning "sunny," or the Greek *aphrike*, meaning "without cold."

For more information on Africa . . .

**PLACE**
Africa’s tallest mountain, Mount Kilimanjaro, towers above northeastern Tanzania as a giraffe roams the grassy plain below.
Africa faces the issues previewed here. As you read Chapters 18 and 19, you will learn background information. You will study the issues themselves in Chapter 20. In a small group, answer the questions below. Then have a class discussion of your answers.

**Exploring the Issues**

1. **Economic Development** Make a list of some of the pros and cons of economic development. How would economic development benefit people living in Africa?

2. **Health Care** Search the Internet for information about how African nations are trying to slow the spread of various diseases. What strategies and actions are being employed by these countries?

3. **Effects of Colonialism** Find one news story about political or ethnic violence. How might colonialism be a cause or have contributed to the problem?

For more on these issues in Africa . . .

**ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT**

How can African nations develop their economies?

African nations rely too much on the exportation of natural resources. These miners in Johannesburg, South Africa, mine gold, one of the country’s main exports.
How can African countries eliminate the diseases that threaten their people and cultures?

A health clinic in Nairobi, Kenya, attempts to slow the spread of AIDS through various education programs.

**CASE STUDY**

How can African nations bring peace and stability to their people?

Many African countries are still suffering from the effects of colonialism. Africa's problems after colonialism are shown in this cartoon about the Democratic Republic of the Congo (formerly known as Zaire). This cartoon shows that there are no easy solutions.
Use the Unit Atlas to add to your knowledge of Africa. As you look at the maps and charts, notice geographic patterns and specific details about the region. After studying the graphs and physical map on these two pages, jot down in your notebook the answers to the questions below.

**Making Comparisons**

1. Compare Africa’s size and population to that of the United States. How much larger in terms of population and size is Africa compared to the United States?

2. Compare Africa’s longest river, the Nile, to the Mississippi. How much difference is there in the lengths?

3. How much bigger is the Sahara than the largest desert in the United States? What is the difference in size between the Sahara and the continental United States?
In the years preceding World War I (1914–1918), the political map of Africa changed dramatically. European colonial powers had replaced traditional African states and empires. Study the political maps of Africa in 1913 and Africa today to see how the continent changed by the end of the 20th century. Then answer these questions in your notebook.

**Making Comparisons**

1. What independent nations appear on the map of Africa in 1913 and also appear on the map of Africa today?

2. Which two European powers controlled the most land in Africa in 1913? Which country controlled the least amount?

3. Which countries in Africa today formed French West Africa in 1913?

4. Which three African countries emerged from colonialism with the most territory?
These two pages contain a graph and two thematic maps. The graph shows the religions of Africa. The maps show other important features of Africa: its diversity of languages and its population distribution. After studying these two pages, jot down in your notebook the answers to the questions below.

Making Comparisons
1. Where are most of the people in Africa living? In what areas of Africa are the fewest people living?
2. What geographic factors may account for these population patterns?
3. What do you notice about the number of languages in Africa? Do they belong to one language group or several?

Religions of Africa
- Hinduism, Baha’ism, nonreligious, and other 1.3%
- Protestantism 11.3%
- Ethnic African Religions 12.4%
- Catholicism 15.3%
- Other forms of Christianity 19.2%
- Islam 40.5%

SOURCE: Britannica Book of the Year 2000

Population Distribution of Africa

Metropolitan Areas
- One dot represents 100,000 people
- Greater than 10 million
- 6 to 10 million
- 2 to 6 million

Lambert Azimuthal Equal-Area Projection
Study the charts on the countries of Africa. In your notebook, answer these questions.

**Making Comparisons**

1. Which three African countries have the most people? Locate them on the map. Are they also the largest countries in terms of total area?

2. Which two African countries have the fewest people? Locate them on the map. Are they the smallest countries in terms of total area?

3. Look at Angola’s life expectancy, infant mortality, and number of doctors. Judging from these statistics, does Angola have good health care?

(continued on page 410)
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Making Comparisons (continued)

4. Use the map on page 405 to choose a country in East Africa. How many televisions and cars does it have per 1,000 people? How does that compare to the United States?

5. Make a list of the top three African countries in GDP. Where are these countries located? Do you notice any pattern?

6. Use the map on page 405 to identify two countries in Southern Africa. For each of those countries, calculate per capita GDP by dividing total GDP by population. Which country has the higher per capita GDP?

(continued on page 412)

### Regional Data File

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Making Comparisons (continued)

7. Choose three countries and examine their GDP and life expectancy figures. What might be the relationship between a country’s GDP and its life expectancy?

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Sources:
- World Health Organization (WHO), 2007

Notes:
- a GDP (purchasing power parity) is defined as the sum value of all goods and services produced in the country valued at prices prevailing in the United States.
- b Includes land and water, when figures are available.
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*GDP = Gross Domestic Product

**Total Area**
Chapter 18

PHYSICAL GEOGRAPHY OF AFRICA

The Plateau Continent

Essential Question
How has the physical geography of Africa affected the lives of the continent’s people?

What You Will Learn
In this chapter you will read about how Africa’s landforms, climate, and resources affect life there.

SECTION 1
Landforms and Resources

SECTION 2
Climate and Vegetation

SECTION 3
Human–Environment Interaction

The Zambezi River plunges over Victoria Falls on the border between Zambia and Zimbabwe.
A HUMAN PERSPECTIVE Angola’s rebel leader Jonas Savimbi kept his forces fighting by bargaining with arms dealers and haggling with international diamond traders. Diamonds—one of the world’s most precious and valuable gems—have enriched some of Africa’s countries, including Botswana and South Africa. However, in other diamond-rich countries such as Angola, people use diamonds to fund costly and bloody civil wars. Rebel groups in Angola and the Angolan government sold diamonds on the world market and then used the money from the sale to buy weapons. The sale of diamonds funded a war that killed more than 500,000 Angolans and left more than 4 million homeless. A country’s or continent’s resources are used for a variety of purposes.

A Vast Plateau

Africa’s shape and landforms are the result of its location in the southern part of the ancient supercontinent of Pangaea, which you read about in Chapter 2. About 200 million years ago, Pangaea began to break up. Over thousands of years, North and South America, Antarctica, Australia, and India drifted into their current positions. Present-day Africa, however, moved very little.

AFRICA’S PLATEAU A huge plateau covers most of Africa. It rises inland from narrow lowlands along the coast. Except for the coasts of Mozambique and Somalia, much of the continent lies at least 1,000 feet above sea level. This plateau is Africa’s most prominent physical feature. As a result, geographers sometimes refer to Africa—the world’s second largest continent—as the “plateau continent.”

BASINS AND RIVERS Throughout this plateau lie several huge basins, or depressions, which you’ll notice on the map on the right. Each basin spans more than 625 miles across and is as much as 5,000 feet deep. Water collects in the Chad Basin, and rivers flow through the Sudan, Congo, and Djouf basins.
The world’s longest river, the Nile River, flows more than 4,000 miles through Uganda and Sudan and into Egypt. Its waters have provided irrigation for the region for thousands of years. More than 95 percent of Egyptians depend on the Nile for their water. In fact, the average population density along the Nile is more than 3,320 people per square mile. Compare that to the average population density of 216 people per square mile in all of Egypt.

Africa’s rivers contain many waterfalls, rapids, and gorges. These features make the rivers less useful for transportation than shorter rivers on other continents. The 2,900-mile-long Congo River forms the continent’s largest network of waterways. But a series of 32 cataracts, or waterfalls, makes large portions of that river impassable.

Furthermore, meandering courses also make Africa’s rivers difficult to use for transportation. For example, the Niger River begins in West Africa and flows north toward the Sahara, where it forms an interior delta and turns to the southeast. It then cuts through Nigeria and forms another huge delta as it empties into the Gulf of Guinea.

**Distinctive African Landforms**

Africa does not have a long chain of mountains, such as the Rocky Mountains in North America or the Himalayas in Asia. However, Africa’s valleys and lakes add to the continent’s varied landscape.

**RIFT VALLEYS AND LAKES** The continent’s most distinctive landforms are in East Africa. As the continental plates pulled apart over millions of years, huge cracks appeared in the earth. The land then sank to form long, thin valleys—called rift valleys. The rift valleys, which you can see on the map on page 415, show that the eastern part of Africa is pulling away from the rest of Africa. These rift valleys stretch over 4,000 miles from Jordan in Southwest Asia to Mozambique in Southern Africa.
A cluster of lakes formed at the bottoms of some of these rift valleys. These African lakes are unusually long and deep. Lake Tanganyika, the longest freshwater lake in the world, stretches about 420 miles and reaches a depth of more than 4,700 feet.

However, Africa’s largest lake, Lake Victoria, sits in a shallow basin between two rift valleys. It is the world’s second largest freshwater lake but is only 270 feet deep.

MOUNTAINS Africa contains mainly volcanic mountains. Mount Kenya and Mount Kilimanjaro, Africa’s highest mountain, are both volcanoes. Volcanic activity also produced the Ethiopian Highlands, the Tibesti Mountains in the Sahara, and Mount Cameroon in West Africa. In addition, volcanic rock covers the Great Escarpment in Southern Africa. An escarpment is a steep slope with a nearly flat plateau on top. The Great Escarpment marks the edge of the continent’s plateau in Southern Africa.

Africa’s Wealth of Resources

The story of Africa’s natural resources is at once a story of plenty and one of scarcity. Africa has a huge amount of the world’s minerals. But many African countries lack the industrial base and money to develop them.

A WEALTH OF MINERALS Africa’s minerals make it one of the world’s richest continents in terms of resources. African nations contain large amounts of gold, platinum, chromium, cobalt, copper, phosphates, diamonds, and many other minerals. For example, South Africa is the world’s largest producer of chromium. Chromium is an element used in manufacturing stainless steel.

South Africa also produces nearly 80 percent of the world’s platinum and has 30 percent of the world’s gold reserves. Another important resource, cobalt, is used in high-grade steel for aircraft and industrial engines. African nations produce about 50 percent of the world’s cobalt, mostly from the Democratic Republic of the Congo. Ores and minerals account for more than half of the total value of Africa’s exports.

Africa’s great mineral wealth, however, has not meant economic prosperity for most of its population. In the 19th and 20th centuries, European colonial rulers developed Africa’s natural resources for export to Europe to manufacture goods there. As a result, many African nations have been slow to develop the infrastructure and industries that could turn these resources into valuable products.

OIL RESOURCES Nigeria, Libya, Algeria, and Angola are Africa’s leading petroleum producers. Other countries, such as Gabon, have huge untapped oil reserves. Nigeria, Libya, Algeria, and Angola combine to produce about one-tenth of the world’s oil.

Angola illustrates why valuable resources don’t always benefit most Africans. Recently discovered offshore oil deposits will likely enable...
Angola to surpass Nigeria as Africa’s most oil-rich country. American oil companies pay Angola a fee for drilling rights and the oil. However, the Angolan government spent much of the money on fighting a civil war. This war, which raged from 1975 to 2002, may have claimed half a million lives. With loans from abroad, Angola has started to rebuild its schools, hospitals, and other public infrastructure.

**Diversity of Resources**

From rain forests to roaring rivers, Africa possesses an incredible diversity of resources.

**MAJOR COMMODITIES** After oil, coffee is the most profitable commodity in Africa. Even though few Africans drink coffee, the continent grows 10 percent of the world’s supply.

Lumber is another important commodity. Ethiopia leads African nations in lumber exports and ranks eighth worldwide in that area. However, logging is depleting Africa’s forests.

Every year loggers clear an area of land in Africa about twice the size of New Jersey. Other major commodities include sugar, palm oil, and cocoa. Côte d’Ivoire is the world’s largest exporter of cocoa beans, the main ingredient in chocolate.

Agriculture is the single most important economic activity in Africa. About two-thirds of Africans earn their living from farming. In addition, farm products typically account for a third of the continent’s exports. Farmers benefit from Africa’s climate, which you will read about in the next section.

**MOVEMENT** Kenyan workers carry coffee berries to a pulping machine.

**ASSessment**

1. **Places & Terms**
   - Identify and explain where in the region these would be found.
     - basin
     - Nile River
     - rift valley
     - Mount Kilimanjaro
     - escarpment

2. **Taking Notes**
   - **PLACE** Review the notes you took for this section.

<table>
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   - What types of landforms are found in Africa?
   - What kinds of resources does Africa possess?

3. **Main Ideas**
   - a. Why is Africa called the “plateau continent”?
   - b. What are some of Africa’s distinctive landforms?
   - c. Why do you think Africa’s abundance of natural resources has not translated into economic wealth for most of its population?

4. **Geographic Thinking**
   - **Seeing Patterns** How has Africa’s physical geography affected its ability to use its resources for economic development? **Think about:**
     - its use of rivers for transportation

   **EXPLORING LOCAL GEOGRAPHY** Examine a physical map of your state or region. Then study the map on page 403 to determine which African country has the most similar physical geography to your region or state. Create a **Venn diagram** identifying which physical features your state or region has in common with that country and the features that are different.

**GeoActivity**
Reading an Economic Activity Map

Subsistence farming and nomadic herding are the primary economic activities in large sections of Africa. Even though African nations have a wealth of natural resources, mining and drilling for these resources are not evenly distributed throughout the continent. The thematic map below shows a wide variety of economic activities in Africa.

THE LANGUAGE OF MAPS An economic activity map is a thematic map that shows the location of economic activities over a large area such as a continent.

**Economic Activities in Africa**

- Manufacturing and trade
- Commercial farming
- Livestock raising
- Subsistence farming
- Nomadic herding
- Commercial fishing
- Hunting, fishing, and forestry
- Little or no economic activity

- Copper
- Diamonds
- Gold
- Hydroelectric power
- Manganese
- Natural gas
- Petroleum
- Phosphate
- Platinum
- Uranium

1. Each color represents the economic activity in which the majority of people are engaged.
2. The black symbols represent major drilling and mining for natural resources.
3. The symbols and colors show the combination of economic activities and natural resources in a particular location. For example, this map shows that Southern Africa contains livestock raising, mining, commercial fishing, and commercial farming.

**Map and Graph Skills Assessment**

1. **Making Generalizations**
   In what region of Africa does most of the livestock raising take place?

2. **Making Inferences**
   Why do you think so many manufacturing and trade centers are located near rivers or on the coasts?

3. **Drawing Conclusions**
   What is the most common type of farming done in Africa?
Main Ideas

• Africa contains dry and hot deserts, warm tropics, and permanently snow-capped mountains.
• Africa’s vegetation includes thick rain forests, tall grasslands, and desert areas.

Places & Terms

Sahara Serengeti Plain
aquifer canopy
oasis

Connect to the Issues
Economic Development

Africa’s tropical rain forests are being cut down for farmland and valuable timber.

A HUMAN PERSPECTIVE

In 1352, 48-year-old Ibn Battuta, a great traveler from Morocco, set out for the empire of Mali in West Africa. His most challenging obstacle was the Sahara, a desert nearly the same size as the continental United States. Battuta and his caravan set out in February. They traveled only in early morning and early evening to avoid the midday heat. Even so, they battled brutally high temperatures and the constant threat of thirst. Reaching Mali around April, Battuta had covered more than 1,000 miles, all on foot. The Sahara today remains just as hazardous—fewer than 2 million of Africa’s approximately one billion people live in it.

A Warm Continent

You can see from the map on page 421 that Africa lies almost entirely between the tropic of Cancer and the tropic of Capricorn. This location gives most of Africa warm, tropical temperatures.

THE DESERTS

Two deserts, the Kalahari and Namib, can be found in Southern Africa. In North Africa lies the Sahara, the largest desert in the world. (Sahara actually means “desert” in Arabic.) It stretches about 3,000 miles across the continent, from the Atlantic Ocean to the Red Sea, and also runs 1,200 miles from north to south. Temperatures can rise above 130° in the summer, hot enough to cook an egg on the sand. But in winter, temperatures can fall below freezing at night.

Only about 20 percent of the Sahara consists of sand. Towering mountains, rock formations, and gravelly plains make up the rest. For instance, the Tibesti Mountains, located mostly in northwestern Chad, rise to heights of more than 11,000 feet.

Travel in the Sahara is risky because of the extreme conditions. Many travelers rely on the camel as desert transportation. A camel can go for
up to 17 days without water. In addition, its eyelashes protect the eyes from blowing sand, and the nostrils can be squeezed shut.

Ironically, as much as 6,000 feet under this hottest and driest of places lie huge stores of underground water called aquifers. In some places, this water has come to the surface. Such a place is called an oasis. It supports vegetation and wildlife and is a critical resource for people living in the desert.

**THE TROPICS** Africa has a large tropical area—the largest of any continent. In fact, nearly 90 percent of the continent lies within the tropics of Cancer and Capricorn, as you can see on the map to the right. Temperatures run high most of the year. A town in eastern Ethiopia holds the world record for the highest average annual temperature—93.9°F (34.4°C). In that same town the average daily high temperature was 106°F (41.1°C).

In humid regions of the tropics, variance in temperature between winter and summer are slight. Differences in night and day temperatures tend to be greater than differences between seasons. An African saying describes nighttime as the “winter” of the tropics.

### Sunshine and Rainfall

Rainfall in Africa is often a matter of extremes. Some parts get too much rain, while other parts receive too little. The amount of rainfall can vary greatly from year to year as well as season to season. These variations have had a tremendous impact on East Africa, which endured several droughts in the 1980s and 1990s, and again in 2005–2006.

**RAINFALL PATTERNS** The rain forest in Central Africa receives the most precipitation, as rain falls throughout the year. Most of the rest of Africa, however, has one or two rainy seasons. Africa’s tropical savanna stretches through the middle of the continent. It covers nearly half the total surface area of Africa. Rainy seasons in this area can last up to six months. The closer an area is to the equator, the longer the rainy season. The closer an area is to the desert, the longer the dry season.

Africa’s west coast also receives a great deal of rain. The region around Monrovia, Liberia, experiences an average annual rainfall of more than 120 inches. In contrast, many parts of Africa barely get 20 inches of rain over the course of a year. In the Sahara and other deserts, rain may not
fall for years. Children living in those areas may not see rain until they are five or six years old!

**AFRICA’S MODERATE AREAS** A Mediterranean climate exists on the northern and southern tips of the continent. Clear, blue skies in these places are normal. Rain falls usually only in the winter—December and January in North Africa and June and July in Southern Africa. Summer temperatures in Johannesburg, South Africa, average around 68°F.

**A Grassy Continent**

Africa’s vegetation—like its climate—is almost mirrored north and south of the equator. Africa’s vegetation consists of grasslands, rain forests, and a wide variety of other plant life.

**TROPICAL GRASSLAND** Tropical grassland covers most of the continent. One example of this grassland is the *Serengeti Plain* in northern Tanzania. Its dry climate and hard soil prevent the growth of trees and many crops, but these conditions are perfect for growing grass. Serengeti National Park, located within the Serengeti Plain, contains some of the best grasslands in the world. Some of these grasses can grow taller than the average person. The abundance of grass makes Serengeti National Park an ideal place for grazing animals. Huge herds of wildebeests, gazelles, and zebras roam there. It is the place where the largest numbers of land mammals still make annual migrations.

**Africa’s Extremes**

An enormous tropical rain forest stretches across Central Africa.

**RAIN FOREST** The major rain forests of Africa sit on the equator in the area of the Congo Basin. One square acre of rain forest can contain almost 100 different kinds of trees. It may also be home to hundreds of species of birds. The massive number of plants, leaves, and trees block out much of the sunlight that would otherwise hit the floor of the rain forest. Beneath this umbrella of vegetation, the air is hot and filled with moisture. As a result, plants and other vegetation quickly decompose, or decay. For example, a fallen leaf in Europe decomposes in about a year. A leaf on the jungle floor in Africa decomposes in about six weeks.

Most animals in a rain forest live in the **canopy**. The canopy refers to the uppermost layer of branches, about

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**Background**

Serengeti means “endless plains” in the Masai language.
150 feet above the ground. Birds, monkeys, and flying foxes move from tree to tree and enjoy the bounty of the rain forest. A large number of snakes live in these rain forests, too. The Gaboon viper, the largest African viper, can weigh as much as 18 pounds and have fangs more than two inches long. Another snake, the black-necked cobra, can shoot its venom more than eight feet through the air.

However, farmers using slash-and-burn agricultural methods are endangering the existence of the rain forest. As you read in Chapter 9, slash-and-burn farming is a method in which people clear fields by cutting and burning trees and other vegetation, the ashes of which fertilize the soil. After farmers have exhausted the soil, they burn another patch of forest. Slash-and-burn farming is responsible for the nearly complete destruction of Madagascar’s rain forest. Experts estimate that over half of Africa’s original rain forest has been destroyed.

### Varieties of Plantlife

All of Africa’s regions contain a variety of vegetation. North Africa contains sizable oak and pine forests in the upper reaches of the Atlas Mountains. The mangrove tree of West Africa sprouts up along river banks in swamps and river deltas. Mangrove tree roots are breeding grounds for fish. They also help to build up dry land by holding silt. In the next section, you will read about different ways that people in Africa have interacted with their environment.

### Background

The National Cancer Institute estimates that 70 percent of the plants found useful for cancer treatment are found only in rain forests.
A HUMAN PERSPECTIVE  Akierou Awe lives in a mud-brick house in Nigeria’s Niger delta, a region that contains most of Nigeria’s oil. On the morning of July 10, 2000, Awe’s four sons had been collecting fuel from a leaking pipeline to help scrape out a living in this poverty-stricken region. They hoped to resell the fuel for more than the going rate of 21 cents a quart. Suddenly, an explosion shook the area, and a fire spread along a mile-long stretch of the pipeline. The blast killed more than 300 people, including three of Awe’s sons. This accident is one of many in the recent past that have claimed the lives of hundreds of Nigerians. Nigeria has become one of the top oil producers in the world, but at the cost of thousands of lives and major environmental ruin in the region.

Desertification of the Sahel

Sahel means “shore of the desert” in Arabic. You can see from the physical map on page 403 that the Sahel is a narrow band of dry grassland that runs east to west along the southern edge of the Sahara. People use the Sahel for farming and herding. Since the 1960s, the desert has spread into the Sahel. This shift of the desert is called desertification.

HUMAN CAUSES OF DESERTIFICATION  Geographers and other scientists have identified several human activities that increase the pace of desertification. For example, allowing overgrazing of vegetation by

Main Ideas

- The Sahara’s expansion is causing problems for Africa’s farmers.
- The Nigerian oil industry has caused serious environmental damage in the Niger delta.

Places & Terms

Niger delta
Sahel
desertification
Aswan High Dam
silt

Connect to the Issues

colonialism  European colonialism has caused political, economic, and environmental problems in Africa today.

The Process of Desertification

1. The Sahel receives little rainfall. The vegetation lives in a fragile state, having barely enough water and food to survive.
2. Farming, overgrazing by livestock, and burning wood for fuel all contribute to desertification.
livestock exposes the soil. Animals also trample the soil, making it more vulnerable to erosion.

Farming also increases the pace of desertification. When farmers clear the land to plant crops, they expose the soil to wind, which can cause erosion. In addition, when farmers drill for water to irrigate crops, they put further stress on the Sahel. Widespread drilling and more irrigation increase salt levels in the soil, which prevent the growth of vegetation.

Increasing population levels are an indirect cause of desertification. More people require more food. As a result, farmers continue to clear more land for crops, burn more wood for fuel, and overfarm the land they already have.

RESULTS OF DESERTIFICATION Desertification has affected many parts of Africa. For example, large forests once existed around Khartoum, Sudan. In addition, desertification is slowly destroying a tropical rain forest around Lake Chad in the southern edge of the Sahel. Slowing desertification is difficult. Some African countries have increased tree planting and promoted more efficient use of forests and farmland in hopes of slowing the process.

Harming the Environment in Nigeria

Another environmental issue concerns the discovery of oil in Nigeria in 1956. Rich oil deposits in the Niger delta made Nigeria one of Africa’s wealthiest countries. However, in drilling for oil, the Nigerian government and foreign oil companies have often damaged the land and harmed the people living in the Niger delta.

A MAJOR OIL PRODUCER Nigeria is the sixth leading oil exporter in the world. Two million barrels are extracted each day, much of it shipped to the United States. Oil accounts for 80 to 90 percent of Nigeria’s income.

During the 1970s, high oil prices made Nigeria one of the wealthiest nations in Africa. As a result, the government borrowed heavily against the future sale of its oil. However, oil prices eventually fell, and the Nigerian government owed millions of dollars to other nations, including the United States. Mismanagement, poor planning, corruption, and a decline in oil prices left Nigeria poorer than before the oil boom.
DESTROYING THE LAND AND PEOPLE The damage caused by oil companies and the Nigerian government has been severe. More than 4,000 oil spills have occurred in the Niger delta over the past four decades. Cleanup operations have been slow and sometimes non-existent. Fires often resulted, causing acid rain and massive deposits of soot, and people in the region contracted respiratory diseases. In addition, between 1998 and 2000, oil pipeline explosions killed more than 2,000 people. Many of these explosions were not accidents but were caused intentionally. Bandits, in cooperation with corrupt government officials and the military, drain fuel from the pipelines and then resell it. Once the bandits finish draining oil, local villagers arrive. They use small cans to collect any spilled oil and then sell it.

A NEW START In 1999, Nigeria adopted a new constitution, and in May, Olusegun Obasanjo became Nigeria’s new president. Although a former Nigerian military leader himself, he distanced himself from the armed forces. He started many economic reforms and fired corrupt government officials.

In April 2007, Nigeria elected a new president, Umara Musa. When Musa took office it was the first time a Nigerian civilian-run government changed hands. Now he faces the task of finding ways for Nigeria to benefit from oil.

Controlling the Nile

Egypt faces environmental challenges caused by another resource—water. Throughout history, the Egyptians have tried to control the floodwaters of the Nile River. Ancient Egyptians built canals and small dams. In spite of these efforts, though, the people still experienced cycles of floods and droughts. To solve these problems, Egyptians completed the first Aswan Dam on the Nile in 1902, which quickly became outmoded.

THE ASWAN HIGH DAM Four miles upriver from the first Aswan Dam, the Egyptians cut a huge channel through the land beside the Nile River. The builders used the rocks from the channel as a base for their new creation—the Aswan High Dam—which was completed in 1970. Lake Nasser, which Egypt shares with Sudan, is the artificial lake created behind the dam. It stretches for nearly 300 miles.
The dam gives farmers a regular supply of water. It holds the Nile's floodwaters, releasing them as needed so that farmers can use the water effectively for irrigation. As a result of the dam, farmers can now have two or three harvests per year rather than one. Irrigation canals even keep some fields in continuous production through the use of artificial fertilizers. The dam has increased Egypt's farmable land by 50 percent. The dam has also helped Egypt avoid droughts and floods.

PROBLEMS WITH THE DAM Though the dam has provided Egypt with many benefits, it has also created some problems. During the dam's construction, many people had to be relocated, including thousands of Nubians, whose way of life was permanently changed. In addition, one of ancient Egypt's treasures, the temples at Abu Simbel, had to be moved. Other smaller ancient treasures could not be saved and now lie at the bottom of Lake Nasser.

The dam also decreased the fertility of the soil around the Nile. First, the river no longer deposits its rich silt, or sediment, on the farmland. Farmers must now rely on expensive artificial fertilizers to enrich the soil. Second, this year-round irrigation has resulted in a rising water table in Egypt. As a result, salts from deep in the earth have decreased the fertility of the soil. Before the dam was built, floodwaters flushed out the salt. Now expensive field drains have to be installed.

Rates of malaria and other diseases have increased due to greater numbers of mosquitos, which thrive in the still waters of Lake Nasser and the irrigation canals. Furthermore, because Lake Nasser holds the floodwaters, Egyptians lose millions of gallons of fresh water every year to evaporation. Measuring the success of the Aswan High Dam is difficult. For all the ways it has helped Egyptians, it has also created new problems.
Reviewing Places & Terms

A. Briefly explain the importance of each of the following.
1. Nile River
2. rift valley
3. escarpment
4. Sahara
5. oasis
6. Serengeti Plain
7. Sahel
8. desertification
9. Aswan High Dam
10. silt

B. Answer the questions about vocabulary in complete sentences.
11. What is sediment that is deposited on farmland by rivers and also acts as a fertilizer?
12. What is the longest river in the world?
13. What does the pulling apart of continental plates create?
14. What is the largest desert in the world?
15. What is the process in which dry conditions spread into areas that are moist?
16. Where do Africa’s large mammal migrations take place?
17. What supports vegetation and is a critical resource for people living in the desert?
18. What is a narrow region of grassland on the southern edge of the Sahara?
19. What marks the edge of Africa’s plateau in Southern Africa?
20. Which of the terms above is an example of how humans have adapted to the environment?

Main Ideas

Landforms and Resources (pp. 415–419)
1. In what ways does the Nile River support life?
2. What are some of the abundant resources in Africa?
3. Why does oil in Angola not always benefit Angolans?

Climate and Vegetation (pp. 420–423)
4. What is the physical geography of the Sahara?
5. What is the general pattern of rainfall in Africa?
6. How does the Serengeti Plain help support much of Africa’s wildlife?
7. What are some of the benefits of rain forests?

Human–Environment Interaction (pp. 424–427)
8. How might desertification affect people’s lives in the Sahel?
9. What are some problems created by the Nigerian oil industry?
10. What are some of the problems created by the Aswan High Dam?
Critical Thinking

1. Using Your Notes
Use your completed chart to answer these questions.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Landforms</th>
<th>Resources</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

a. Why has Africa not been able to take advantage of its abundant resources?
b. What are some of the problems facing Africa’s rain forests?

2. Geographic Themes

a. REGION What are some of the aspects of Africa’s physical geography that make interior transportation difficult?
b. LOCATION In what way does Africa’s location impact its climate?

3. Identifying Themes
How does desertification alter Africa’s surrounding environment? Which of the five themes of geography apply to this situation?

4. Making Generalizations
How has the Aswan High Dam affected the lives of Egyptians?

5. Seeing Patterns
Has the Nigerian oil industry and the Aswan High Dam had positive or negative effects on the surrounding environment? Explain.

Geographic Skills: Interpreting Maps

Profile of Africa
Use the profile to answer the following questions.

1. PLACE What is the tallest landform on the map?
2. MOVEMENT How many feet would a person have to climb to reach the peak of the Ahaggar Mountains from the lowest point at this latitude?
3. REGION How does this profile illustrate Africa’s nickname as the plateau continent?

Sketch your own profile of Africa. Use this profile as a model for your own map. Examine the physical map on page 403 and choose a latitude from which to draw your profile.

MULTIMEDIA ACTIVITY

Use the links at hmhsocialstudies.com to do research about desertification. Focus on determining the long-term effects of desertification in the Sahel.

Creating a Multimedia Presentation Combine charts, maps, or other visual images in an electronic presentation showing how the Sahel will be affected by desertification.
Five Subregions of Africa

Essential Question
What role has foreign intervention played in Africa’s past and present?

What You Will Learn
In this chapter you will examine the connections between Africa’s past and present.

SECTION 1
East Africa

SECTION 2
North Africa

SECTION 3
West Africa

SECTION 4
Central Africa

SECTION 5
Southern Africa

TAKING NOTES
Use the graphic organizer online to take notes about the history, economics, culture, and modern life of each subregion of Africa.
A HUMAN PERSPECTIVE  East Africa is called the “cradle of humanity” because of the large number of prehistoric human remains found in the region. In 1931, Louis Leakey, an English archaeologist, began doing research in Olduvai Gorge, located in northern Tanzania. Olduvai Gorge has contained the most continuous known record of humanity. The gorge has yielded fossils from 65 individual hominids, or humans that walk upright. In 1959, Leakey and his wife, Mary Leakey, discovered a fossil there of a species called Homo habilis, the first human creatures to make stone tools. They lived about two million years ago. Throughout history, East Africa has been a crossroads of humanity because of its geographic position near seas and oceans.

Continental Crossroads

Bounded on the east by the Red Sea and Indian Ocean, East Africa includes Burundi, Djibouti, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Kenya, Rwanda, Seychelles, Somalia, Tanzania, and Uganda. Scientists believe that the world’s first humans lived there.

A TRADING COAST  East Africa was also a place where early civilizations developed. An important civilization was Aksum, which emerged in present-day Ethiopia in the A.D. 100s. Its location on the Red Sea and the Indian Ocean made it an important trading center and contributed to its expansion and power. People from Aksum regularly traded with the people of Egypt and the eastern Roman Empire.

During the sixth century, however, Aksum lost many trading partners, and several geographic factors weakened the empire. Traders on routes between the eastern Mediterranean region and Asia began passing through the Persian Gulf rather than

**Main Ideas**

- East Africa is known as the “cradle of humanity.”
- East Africa’s location has made it a trading center.

**Places & Terms**

Olduvai Gorge
Aksum
Berlin Conference
cash crop
Masai
pandemic

**Connect to the Issues**

**ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT**

East Africa’s political conflicts have limited its economic development.
the Red Sea. In addition, the cutting down of forests and overuse of the soil led to a population decline, which reduced the empire’s power.

Around the seventh century, Arab, Persian, and Indian traders once again made East Africa an international trading center. By 1300, many trading cities dotted the eastern coast of Africa. The trading city of Kilwa emerged as one of the most important cities of the time. Kilwa flourished on the southern coast of what is now Tanzania. All this movement of goods, ideas, and people made East Africa a cultural crossroads.

**Colonization Disrupts Africa**

In the 19th century, Europe’s industrialized nations became interested in Africa’s raw materials. Those European nations wanted to colonize and control parts of Africa to obtain those resources.

**SCRAMBLE FOR AFRICA** Europeans did not want to fight over Africa. To prevent European wars over Africa, 14 European nations convened the Berlin Conference in 1884–1885 to lay down rules for dividing Africa. No African ruler was invited to attend this conference, even though it concerned Africa’s land and people. By 1914, only Liberia and Ethiopia remained free of European control.

Nations that attended the Berlin Conference decided that any European country could claim land in Africa by telling other nations of their claims and by showing they could control the area. The European nations divided Africa without regard to where African ethnic or linguistic groups lived. They set boundaries that combined peoples who were traditional enemies and divided others who were not. Europe’s division of Africa is often cited as one of the root causes of the political violence and ethnic conflicts in Africa in the 20th century.

**ETHIOPIA AVOIDS COLONIZATION** Ethiopia is one country that escaped European colonization. Ethiopia’s emperor, Menelik II, skillfully protected his country from the Italian invasion with weapons from France and Russia. In addition, the Ethiopian army had a greater knowledge of the area’s geography than did the Italians. As a result, Ethiopia defeated Italy in 1896.
CONFLICT IN EAST AFRICA By the 1970s, most of East Africa had regained its independence from Europe. However, internal disputes and civil wars became a serious problem. For example, in Rwanda, tensions left over from the colonial era combined with ethnic animosity to set off a massacre in 1994.

One cause of those problems was that European colonial powers had not prepared East African nations for independence. Furthermore, the ethnic boundaries created by the Europeans forced cultural divisions that had not existed before colonialism. Those cultural divisions often caused internal conflicts among native groups. Colonialism also greatly affected the economy of East Africa, which today centers around tourism and farming.

Farming and Tourism Economies

Agriculture forms the economic foundation of East Africa. In addition, East Africa’s world-famous wildlife parks generate millions of dollars of revenue.

FARMING IN EAST AFRICA East Africa is about 60 percent rural. Since European colonization in the 19th century, countries have relied more on cash crops such as coffee, tea, and sugar, which are grown for direct sale. They bring in much-needed revenue but reduce the amount of farmland that otherwise could be devoted to growing food for use in the region. Relying on cash crops for revenue can be risky because the price of crops varies according to the world market.

East Africa’s agricultural balance is changing, however, because people are leaving farms for greater economic opportunities in cities. For example, Addis Ababa, the capital of Ethiopia, has grown by more...
than one million people since 1991. However, such rapid population growth can put a strain on a city’s resources and a country’s agricultural production.

**TOURISM CREATES WEALTH AND PROBLEMS** One of the main economic activities in East Africa is tourism. The region’s vast wildlife parks in Kenya, Uganda, and Tanzania are world famous. In 1938, Europeans created the game reserves because they were killing animals for sport at a high rate. Most African peoples did not need the parks because they hunted only for survival. However, the wild animal parks, which are no longer used for hunting, have now become important sources of income for Africans, generating millions of dollars each year from tourists.

Competing demands for the parkland exist, though. For example, Kenya’s increasing population requires more food. As a result, some groups want to eliminate or reduce the size of the wildlife reserves to create more farmland. Some desperate farmers have even begun to plow the land around the parks.

### Maintaining Traditional Cultures

East Africa’s position as a major trading region has given it a diverse culture. It is a melting pot of more than 160 different ethnic groups.

**Cultures of East Africa** Two major ethnic groups in East Africa are the **Masai** and the Kikuyu. The Masai, whom you read about above, are an East African ethnic group that lives on the grasslands of the rift valleys in Kenya and Tanzania. Most of the Masai herd livestock and farm the land.

Typical Masai dress includes clothes made from calfskin or buffalo hide. Women wear long skirt-like robes, while men wear a shorter...
version of the robe. They often grease their clothes with cow fat to protect themselves from the sun and rain. The Masai are also known for making intricate beadwork and jewelry.

The Kikuyu are the largest ethnic group in Kenya, numbering around 6.6 million. Their homeland is centered around Mount Kenya. Like the Masai, the Kikuyu traditionally were herders. However, today the Kikuyu live throughout the country and work in a variety of jobs. During British colonial rule, the Kikuyu organized a society called the Mau Mau, which fought against the British. The British killed around 11,000 Africans—mostly Kikuyu—during the Mau Mau rebellion between 1952 and 1960.

Health Care in Modern Africa

The people of East Africa face many health care problems. The most critical is acquired immune deficiency syndrome (AIDS), which spread throughout Africa in the 1980s and 1990s.

HEALTH CARE IN AFRICA AIDS has become a pandemic and is having a devastating effect on the continent. A pandemic is an uncontrollable outbreak of a disease affecting a large population over a wide geographic area.

AIDS is caused by the human immunodeficiency virus (HIV). People infected with HIV do not necessarily have AIDS and can carry HIV for years without knowing it. As a result, AIDS statistics can be misleading. The number of people who have AIDS lags behind the number of those infected with HIV. Though AIDS education is increasing, some governments hide the scope of the disease. Many doctors in Africa say that more AIDS cases exist than are reported.

Some medical geographers predict that the populations of Africa’s worst affected countries could decline by 10 to 20 percent.

You will read more about AIDS and other major health issues in Chapter 20. In the next section, you will learn about North Africa.

**Seeing Patterns**

How have the lives of the Kikuyu changed during the last century?

**Health Care in Modern Africa**

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**Taking Notes**

PLACE Review the notes you took for this section.

East Africa

Africa

- How did Aksum’s location help the empire grow?
- What are some of the problems created by tourism?

**Main Ideas**

a. Why did East Africa become an international trading center early in its history?

b. How did the Berlin Conference change Africa?

c. How is AIDS affecting the population of Africa?

**Geographic Thinking**

Making Generalizations
In what way has colonialism affected East Africa? Think about:
- the Berlin Conference
- problems in the 20th century

**GeoActivity**

SEEING PATTERNS Do research to learn about two ethnic groups other than the Masai and the Kikuyu in East Africa. Create a time line tracing the origins of those ethnic groups to the present day. Examine the groups’ history, movement patterns, and evolution of their lifestyles.
Famine in Somalia

Famine—an extreme and long-term shortage of food—causes widespread hunger and sometimes death to millions of people. Natural causes, such as weather, plant diseases, and massive insect infestations, can cause famine. Drought is the most common natural cause. In addition, human beings can cause famine. Wars and political violence often destroy crops and prevent the adequate distribution of food. The worst famines usually involve a combination of both human and natural causes. The Horn of Africa, which includes Ethiopia and Somalia, has been the site of recent famines in the 1980s and 1990s.
Natural Causes
A lack of rain in successive seasons resulted in drought. Drought prevented the growth of enough food to feed the country’s population.

Human Causes
Somali gunmen often looted relief shipments and then extracted payment for protecting relief workers. Other political causes, such as disagreements between warring factions, also prevented the delivery of food supplies.

Thirsty Somalis plead for water delivered by the International Red Cross in Baidoa, Somalia, in 1992. Aid agencies estimated that famine killed between 25 and 50 people a day in this town in 1992.

GeoData
Famine in Somalia
In the early 1990s, more than 300,000 Somalis died of famine, and another 30,000 died in a related civil war.
• Principal causes included drought, desertification, and civil war.
• Underlying causes, such as increased growth of cash crops and reliance on livestock, stemmed from a history of foreign intervention dating back to Italian and British colonization in the 19th century.

Other Famines
1876–1878 India
Drought caused famine that killed about five million people.

1932–1934 Soviet Union
Between six and eight million peasants died because of actions by the government.

1958–1960 China
Around 20 million people died during government reforms.
A HUMAN PERSPECTIVE According to legend, around 814 B.C. a Phoenician queen founded Carthage, one of the great cities of ancient Africa. She located it on a peninsula on the Gulf of Tunis. The location was ideal. The Lake of Tunis protected the rear of the peninsula from invasion. In addition, because Carthage was on the coast of the Mediterranean Sea, it had access to trading routes. Consequently, it became a trading and commercial force in the ancient world for hundreds of years. Carthage’s history shows that a city’s or a civilization’s geographic position always plays an important part in its ability to thrive and grow.

Roots of Civilization in North Africa

North Africa includes Algeria, Egypt, Libya, Morocco, Sudan, and Tunisia. Egypt and the Nile River valley formed a cultural hearth, a place where ideas and innovations come together to change a region. Those ideas and innovations reached other regions through cultural diffusion.

EGYPT BLOSSOMS ALONG THE NILE The Nile River made possible the existence of the great civilization of ancient Egypt. The river flooded at roughly the same time every year, providing the people with water and rich soil for their crops. The ancient Greek historian Herodotus remarked in the fifth century B.C. that Egypt was the “gift of the Nile.”

Egyptians had been living in farming villages around the Nile River since 3300 B.C. Each village followed its own customs and rituals. Around 3100 B.C., a strong king united all of Egypt and established the first Egyptian dynasty. The history of ancient Egypt would span 2,600 years and around 30 dynasties. Monarchs called pharaohs ruled over Egypt. They were worshipped as gods. The Egyptians built huge, elaborate temples to worship their many gods and pyramids to house some of their rulers’ remains.

Movement influenced ancient Egypt and the Nile valley. Egyptian ideas about farming, the building of their cities, and their system of
writing may have come from the Mesopotamians, who lived in what is now Southwest Asia. Egyptians pioneered the use of geometry in farming to set boundaries after the Nile’s annual flood. Furthermore, Egyptian medicine was famous throughout the ancient world. Egyptians could make splints for broken bones and effectively treat wounds and fevers. Trade and travel on the Nile River, the Mediterranean and Red seas, and overland trade routes helped spread those practices.

**ISLAM IN NORTH AFRICA** North Africa lies close to Southwest Asia and across the Mediterranean Sea from Europe. As a result, it has been invaded and occupied by many people and empires from outside Africa. Greeks and Romans from Europe and Phoenicians and Ottoman Turks from Southwest Asia all invaded North Africa. However, Islam remains the major cultural and religious influence in North Africa. Islam, a monotheistic religion, is based on the teachings of Muhammad, whom you will read about in Chapter 22. Muslim invaders from Southwest Asia brought their language, culture, and religion to North Africa. Beginning in A.D. 632, the successors of Muhammad began to spread Islam through conquest and through trade. Around 634, Muslim armies swept into lower Egypt, which was then part of the Byzantine Empire. By 750, Muslims controlled most of North Africa. Muslims bound their territory together with a network of sea-linked trading zones. They used the Mediterranean Sea and the Indian Ocean to connect North Africa and Europe with Southwest Asia.

**Economics of Oil**

North Africa began with an economy based on agriculture. Over the course of its history, it evolved into an economy based on the growth of cash crops and mining. Today, the economy revolves around the discovery of oil in the region.

**BLACK GOLD** Oil has transformed the economies of some North African countries, including Algeria, Libya, and Tunisia. In Algeria, oil has surpassed farm products as the major export and source of revenue. Furthermore, oil makes up about 99 percent of Libya’s exports. Libya and Algeria supply the European Union with much of its oil and gas.
Although oil has helped the economies of those countries, it has also caused some problems. For example, Libya’s labor force cannot meet the demands of the oil industry because of a lack of training and education. Oil companies therefore are forced to give many high-paying jobs to foreign workers. Despite the oil industry, overall unemployment is still a problem. As a result, large numbers of North Africans have migrated to Europe in search of jobs.

A Culture of Markets and Music

North African culture is a combination of Arabic influences and traditional African ethnic groups.

**NORTH AFRICAN SOUKS** Souks, or marketplaces, are common features of life in North Africa. A country souk opens early in the morning. Tents are erected, and storytellers, musicians, and fortunetellers entertain the crowds. A typical city souk is located in the medina, or old section, of a North African town or city. A medina has narrow, winding streets. Some of the best souks in North Africa can be found in Marrakesh, Morocco. The markets are known for high-pressure sales, and shoppers must be prepared to bargain fiercely for the lowest price.

In both the city and the country, people fill the souks throughout the day. All kinds of bartering and haggling take place for a range of products, including brightly colored clothes, spices, and a variety of foods. The aroma of lamb, spices, and animals fills the air. It is also a place where one can eat traditional foods such as couscous, a kind of steamed grain.

**PROTEST MUSIC** Algeria is home to rai, a kind of music developed in the 1920s by poor urban children. Rai was at first carefree and centered around topics for youths. The music is fast paced and contains elements of popular Western music.

Before Algerian independence in 1962, however, performers began using rai to communicate Algerian resentment toward their French
colonizers. After independence, the Algerian government tried to ban rai. In the 1990s, Islamic fundamentalists have criticized rai for its Western-style qualities. Rai is now used as a form of rebellion against Islamic fundamentalists, especially by women.

**Changing Roles of Women**

Modern life in North Africa is in a constant state of change. The role of women, especially, has shifted during the past several years.

**WOMEN AND THE FAMILY** North African households tend to be centered around males. Men go out to work in offices or on farms. Few women hold jobs after they marry. Men and women also generally eat and pray separately.

Women’s roles, however, are changing, especially in Tunisia, where having more than one wife at a time has been abolished. It has also increased the penalty for spousal abuse. Moreover, either spouse can now seek a divorce. In addition, Tunisia no longer permits preteen girls in arranged marriages and requires equal pay for equal jobs.

Women in North Africa have also made gains outside the home, particularly in cities. Growing numbers of them, for instance, have professional jobs. Women hold 20 percent of Tunisia’s parliamentary seats and manage a growing number of the businesses in Tunis, the capital of Tunisia.

In the next section, you will read about how trade formed the foundation of ancient civilizations in West Africa.

**Places & Terms**

Identify these terms and explain their importance in the region’s history or culture.

- Carthage
- Islam
- rai

**Taking Notes**

Review the notes you took for this section.

- What is the single biggest cultural influence in North Africa?
- Which commodity supports some of North Africa’s economies?

**Main Ideas**

a. How did the Nile help support the growth of ancient Egypt?

b. Where did Islam spread after its beginnings in Southwest Asia?

c. In which ways have women’s roles changed in North Africa?

**Geographic Thinking**

Drawing Conclusions

How has Islam influenced life in North Africa? **Think about:**

- its impact on women
- the religion that people practice

**GeoActivity**

Use the Internet or encyclopedias to learn about all the economic and recreational activities supported by the Nile River. Then create an illustration of the Nile River with those activities taking place.
West Africa

A HUMAN PERSPECTIVE A visit to Gorée Island, off the coast of Senegal, can be a moving experience. This island served as one of the busiest points for exporting slaves during the slave trade. From the mid-1500s to the mid-1800s, Europeans transported about 20 million Africans through Gorée Island. The island has a slave house, a dark, damp building that housed captive Africans. Europeans packed these captives onto slave ships bound for plantations in the Americas. Approximately 20 percent of all Africans died on the transatlantic voyage—and the rest never saw their West African homes or families again. Slavery had a profound effect on West Africa that is still being felt there today.

A History of Rich Trading Empires

West Africa includes Benin, Burkina Faso, Cape Verde, Chad, Côte d’Ivoire, Gambia, Ghana, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Liberia, Mali, Mauritania, Niger, Nigeria, Senegal, Sierra Leone, and Togo. West Africa is a cultural hearth, and its ideas and practices spread to North America and Europe.
THREE TRADING EMPIRES The empires of Ghana, Mali, and Songhai thrived in West Africa because of their location on trade routes across the Sahara. Gold and salt were the main products traded. By A.D. 200, trade across the Sahara had existed for many years.

Many of the trade routes crossed an area farmed by the Sonike people. They called their leader Ghana, or war chief. Traders began to refer to this area as Ghana, which grew rich from taxing the traders who passed through its territory. Traders exchanged mostly gold and salt. Ghana became an empire around A.D. 800 but began to decline in power by the end of the 11th century.

By 1235, the kingdom of Mali emerged. Mali’s first great leader, Sundiata, conquered Ghana. He promoted agriculture and reestablished the gold and salt trade. Some experts estimate that until 1350, about two-thirds of the world’s gold came from West Africa. Around 1400, Mali declined because of a lack of leadership and the discovery of new gold fields farther east.

Around 1400, the empire of Songhai replaced Mali. Sunni Ali ruled for 28 years, beginning in 1464. In 1591, a Moroccan army invaded Songhai and defeated it, destroying the empire.

STATELESS SOCIETIES West Africa is filled with many different cultures and peoples. Before colonialism, some of these people lived in what are called stateless societies.

A stateless society is one in which people rely on family lineages to govern themselves, rather than an elected government or a monarch. A lineage is a family or group that has descended from a common ancestor. Members of a stateless society work through their differences to cooperate and share power.

One example of a stateless society is the Igbo of southeast Nigeria. Relying on family lineages worked well for the Igbo and other African societies. However, many stateless societies faced challenges from 18th- and 19th-century European colonizers, who expected one ruler to govern the society.

West Africa Struggles Economically

Trade is as important to West Africa today as it was in the past. The economic well-being of West Africa is based on the sale of its products to industrialized countries in Europe, North America, and Asia. The economies of West Africa range in strength from the relatively solid economy of Ghana to the weak economy of Sierra Leone.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Ghana</th>
<th>Sierra Leone</th>
<th>Nigeria</th>
<th>Guinea</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1987</td>
<td>100</td>
<td>200</td>
<td>300</td>
<td>400</td>
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<tr>
<td>1997</td>
<td>500</td>
<td>300</td>
<td>500</td>
<td>600</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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Source: Encyclopaedia Britannica
GHANA’S STABILITY  Ghana’s economy relies primarily on the export of gold, diamonds, magnesium, and bauxite to the industrialized world. Ghana’s per capita output is about twice that of the poorest African countries. Oil production is expected to increase also. In addition, Ghana has committed to upgrading its agricultural sector.

Ghana’s transition from colonialism to democracy has had setbacks, including military rule and civil war. However, every four years since 1992, Ghana has held free and fair elections. As a result of this new political stability, the economy is growing at a healthy rate. But other West African countries have not been as fortunate.

PROBLEMS IN SIERRA LEONE  Some of the worst economic conditions in West Africa exist in Sierra Leone, which once produced some of the world’s highest-quality diamonds. However, years of political instability and civil wars have left the economy in shambles. In addition, a relatively uneducated population—with a 35 percent literacy rate—leaves a shortage of skilled workers. Finally, the road and transportation system contains few highways and only about 560 miles of paved roads. In contrast, Benin, another West African country close to Sierra Leone in size, has almost twice that amount of paved roadways.

Cultural Symbols of West Africa

West African cultures, such as the Ashanti and Benin, have produced elaborate craftwork and colorful textiles.

ASHANTI CRAFTS  The Ashanti, who live in what is now Ghana, are known for their work in weaving colorful asasia—what Westerners usually call kente cloth. The designs of kente cloth contain colorful woven geometric figures with specific meanings. Only royalty were allowed to wear kente cloth.

Other crafts include making masks and carving wooden stools. An Ashanti stool symbolizes the unity between ancestral spirits and the living members of a family. Fathers often give their sons a stool as their first gift. In the case of kings, the stool represents the unity of the state with its people.

BENIN ART  The kingdom of Benin, which has no direct connection with the current
country of Benin, arose in what is now Nigeria in the 1200s. Benin artists made beautiful objects of metal and terra cotta. However, their most important works were fashioned from brass and are called Benin “bronzes.” They include statues, masks, and jewelry. A common subject of Benin “bronzes” was that of the queen mother.

**Music in Daily Life**

Music is a large part of life in West Africa. West African music has become an important influence on world music.

**WEST AFRICAN MUSIC** West African popular music involves a blend of traditional African music with American forms of jazz, blues, and reggae—which also had their origins in West Africa because of the slave trade and the contact between the two regions. Over the years, West African musicians used French and English lyrics to attract an international audience. West African music is played on a wide variety of drums and other instruments such as the kora, a cross between a harp and a lute. The kora originated in what is now Guinea-Bissau.

King Sunny Adé, also known as the “minister of enjoyment,” is a popular musician from Nigeria. King Sunny and his band, the African Beats, play an informal type of music characterized by tight vocals, complex guitar work, traditional talking drums, percussion instruments, and the pedal steel guitar and accordion.

In Section 4, you can read more about culture and life in Central Africa.
Feasts

All over the world, people celebrate certain events by holding a ritual feast. The autumn harvest, when the season’s crops are gathered, is an important time in most cultures. As a result, many people have a special meal to celebrate the earth’s bounty. Most harvest feasts are accompanied by a legend or story that tells of the feast’s origins. For example, most Americans trace Thanksgiving, their harvest feast, to 1621, when Pilgrims invited Native Americans to join them in a three-day celebration marking the harvest.

Chinese celebrate the moon festival in Hong Kong. Throughout history, the Chinese have planted and harvested according to the moon. The Chinese eat moon-shaped pastries filled with red bean and lotus seed paste.

People in India celebrate Sankranti by eating on traditional banana leaf plates. Sankranti celebrates the end of the year’s harvest. Rice is a staple of this meal.
Americans gather for their Thanksgiving feast. Roast turkey, potatoes, and pumpkin pie are traditional dishes for this meal.

Homowo harvest fest

- According to traditional beliefs, any Ga person failing to celebrate Homowo will incur the wrath of deceased ancestors and die.
- Some Homowo events include opening the fishing season and house purification.

Thanksgiving

- Abraham Lincoln officially proclaimed Thanksgiving a national holiday in 1863. Canada first adopted Thanksgiving as a national holiday in 1879.

Sankranti

- A general housecleaning and the burning of unwanted possessions symbolizes the destruction of evil. Children also fill the sky with kites in a kite-flying spectacle.

Moon Festival

- During the Tang Dynasty (A.D. 618–906), the moon festival was made an official holiday.
- During the Yuan Dynasty (1279–1368), Mongolians had taken over China. So the Chinese hid messages inside moon cakes to communicate with each other about their plans for rebellion.

A Ga chief in Ghana shares ceremonial food and drink during the Homowo harvest feast. The meal includes palm oil fish stew consisting of steamed corn dough, bream (fish), and okra.

EXPLORING TRADITIONAL FEASTS

Working with a small group, use the Internet to research another feast from another culture. Then create a presentation about this feast.
- Write a short paragraph about the origin of the feast.
- Gather pictures of the traditional foods eaten at the feast.
- Identify other rituals besides eating that are part of this celebration.

GeoData

Homowo harvest feast

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A HUMAN PERSPECTIVE  A Congo riverboat ride from Kinshasa to Kisangani in the Democratic Republic of the Congo is a journey all visitors should take. The riverboat is essentially a floating village. Each barge shakes with music and dancing. In addition, the Congolese fill the riverboat with market stalls stocked with all types of food. The smell of smoked fish and a variety of live animals, including monkeys, tortoises, and crocodiles, fills the air. Farmers slaughter pigs and goats on board, and merchants bargain with each other for a range of products. The journey can present a valuable snapshot of life in Central Africa.

Bantu Migrations and Colonial Exploitation


BANTU MIGRATIONS The Bantu are a group of peoples and cultures who speak one of the Bantu languages. Beginning around 2000 B.C. in what is now southeastern Nigeria, the Bantu people moved southward throughout Africa. On the way they spread their languages and their cultures. This mass migration is called the Bantu migrations.

The Bantu may have begun this journey because of a land shortage. The Bantu migrations are a key event in Africa’s history. They produced a great diversity of cultures but also helped link various areas of the continent. Today, around 120 million Africans speak one of the hundreds of Bantu languages.

Main Ideas

- The Bantu migrations helped to populate the African continent.
- European nations divided Africa without regard to ethnic groups or language.

Places & Terms

Bantu migrations
King Leopold II
Mobutu Sese Seko
Fang sculpture

Connect to the Issues

colonialism European colonial policies so divided Africans that the region suffers from ethnic conflict today.

SKILLBUILDER: Interpreting Maps

1. MOVEMENT About how many years did it take the Bantu to reach Southern Africa?
2. HUMAN–ENVIRONMENT INTERACTION What physical obstacles did the Bantu have to overcome on their journey south?
**THE SLAVE TRADE** Europeans wanted slaves for their plantations in the Americas. In the 15th century, the Portuguese established the island of São Tomé, off the coast of what is now Gabon, as the initial base for trade in African captives. European traders traveled to Africa and waited on the coast. African merchants then brought potential slaves to them. The merchants traded for guns and other goods.

Many African rulers took part in the slave trade. They already had been selling slaves to other African rulers and Arabs. So, they saw no difference in selling them to Europeans. Some Africans, however, objected. One African ruler protested to the king of Portugal. Nevertheless, by the end of the slave trade in 1870, Europeans had transported millions of slaves to the Americas and Europe.

**START OF COLONIALISM** In the mid-1800s, Central Africa consisted of hundreds of different ethnic groups, which followed traditional religions and spoke hundreds of different languages. Politically, they ranged from large empires to small villages. Europeans had been in Africa since the mid-15th century but had stayed mainly on the coast. The rugged interior geography of Africa prevented further movement.

But that changed when **King Leopold II** of Belgium developed an interest in the Congo after it had been explored in the 1870s. He wanted to open the African interior to European trade along the Congo River. By 1884, Leopold controlled this area and paved the way for the Berlin Conference, which you read about in Section 1. The Berlin Conference established this area as the Congo Free State. Leopold used forced labor to gather rubber, palm oil, ivory, and other resources.

**EFFECTS OF COLONIALISM** During the 19th and 20th centuries, primarily the Belgians and French colonized Central Africa. Most Central African countries gained their independence in the 1960s, but the borders imposed on the Africans during colonialism posed problems. Those borders disrupted long-standing systems of government in Africa, did not consider ethnic regions, and grouped traditional enemies together.

Before colonization, a village, a tribal chief, or a group of elders would consult with various leaders within a village to make decisions that affected only that village. This type of organization is a stateless society, which you read about on page 443 in Section 3. During colonization, Europeans installed more centralized governments that destroyed the organizing principle of stateless societies. After colonization ended, new African governments in the 1960s were then forced to govern a diverse population. Inexperienced leaders were often corrupt and abused their power.
The Economic Legacy of Colonialism

The economic geography of Central Africa is similar to that of the other regions of Africa. Many of the countries suffer from a lack of infrastructure and rely too much on the export of raw materials.

**ECONOMIC EFFECTS** Central Africa’s economy is still recovering from the effects of colonialism: the loss of resources, the disruption of its political systems, and the cultural and ethnic oppression of its people. European colonizers invested little in Central Africa. The only economic infrastructure they developed was to aid the removal of raw materials. They left little money to develop roads, railroads, airports, or a productive education system for the people of those countries.

**CONGO’S ECONOMIC CHAOS** A good example of economic problems caused by colonization can be seen in the Democratic Republic of the Congo. The country possesses huge amounts of natural resources such as gold, copper, and diamonds. However, European colonization and a personal desire for power and riches by postcolonial leaders left the country in a state of disarray.

In the Democratic Republic of the Congo, for example, Mobutu Sese Seko, the country’s leader from 1967 until 1997, brought the country’s businesses under national control. He then began to take kickbacks in order to profit from this reorganization. The country’s economy, educational system, and social structure began a rapid decline thereafter.
Mobutu used the army to maintain his own power. His regime finally gave way in 1997 to that of Laurent Kabila. But Kabila’s leadership only led to more violence in Central Africa. Angola, Namibia, Zimbabwe, Chad, Rwanda, and Uganda all became involved in the fighting. In 2001, Kabila was assassinated, and his son Joseph succeeded him. In 2006 Joseph Kabila was democratically elected in what was considered a very fair process. Kabila’s government has given many people in the Democratic Republic of the Congo hope, but the country is still struggling to establish a stable political system.

The Influence of Central African Art

Central African art shares common ideas and themes with art in other parts of Africa, including expressions of traditional African cultures and the struggle against colonialism.

**CENTRAL AFRICAN ART** During the 20th century, some Central African art reflected attitudes toward colonialism. After gaining independence in the 1960s, however, many countries wanted to establish their own identities. As a result, these countries banned Western influences in their art. For example, in the 1970s, Mobutu Sese Seko launched a program to promote African—in particular, Congolese—culture above that of the West. Artists who participated tried to recover the personality of African art by using materials they considered African in origin.

Today, artists from a new generation who did not experience colonialism are coming of age. They are focusing on issues of political instability, urban life, social justice, and crime.

**FANG SCULPTURE** Prior to the 20th century, few people in Europe knew much about African art. However, in 1907 the famous Spanish artist Pablo Picasso saw a display of African Fang sculpture in Paris, and it captivated him. After that, Picasso began using African themes in his work.

The Fang, who live in Gabon, southern Cameroon, and Equatorial Guinea, are famous for their carvings. They carve wooden masks, which are painted white with facial features outlined in black. They also carve boxes that contain the skulls and bones of deceased ancestors. These boxes are decorated with figures to protect their contents.

Improving Education

In recovering from the effects of colonialism, Central African countries are placing their hopes on education. Improved education should produce more skilled workers and citizens who are better able to participate in democratic governments.
The Ebola virus, named after the Ebola River, first emerged in 1976 in the northern Democratic Republic of the Congo. People affected by the virus develop fever, severe headaches, and loss of appetite. Blood clots form on internal organs, such as the liver and brain. This causes uncontrolled bleeding from parts of the body, such as the eyes or ears. Death usually occurs within 2 to 21 days, and no known cure exists.

One outbreak occurred in October 2000 in Uganda. Those cases appeared in a refugee camp. Unsanitary conditions are one cause of disease associated with the Ebola virus. One outbreak occurred in October 2000 in Uganda. Those cases appeared in a refugee camp. Unsanitary conditions are one cause of disease associated with the Ebola virus.

Central Africa’s more than 700 languages also pose barriers. The language used in school is often different from the one used at home. For example, in Gabon—a former colony of France—French is the only language of instruction, though most people speak one of the Bantu languages outside the classroom.

**LEARNING IN CENTRAL AFRICA** Students’ education varies in Central Africa. In Cameroon, most children leave school at around the age of 12. In the Central African Republic, children between the ages of 6 and 14 are required to go to school.

Many Central African countries are improving their educational systems, however. In 1991, Cameroon created two new universities. In addition, Libreville University in Gabon, founded in the 1970s, now has more than 4,000 students.

The Republic of the Congo offers vocational, agricultural, and teacher training courses. In addition, many countries are starting programs to educate young people about health care issues such as the spread of disease. Those countries hope that better education will slow the spread of AIDS, the Ebola virus, cholera, and other diseases.

You will read in Section 5 about how ancient trade networks and gold formed the economic foundation of Southern Africa.
Main Ideas
- Great Zimbabwe and the Mutapa Empire thrived on the gold trade.
- The wealth of Southern Africa is tied to the land, and conflicts over land and resources often result.

Places & Terms
- Great Zimbabwe
- Mutapa Empire
- apartheid
- Nelson Mandela

Connect to the Issues
Health care
AIDS threatens Southern Africa’s youth and could significantly reduce the region’s population.

A HUMAN PERSPECTIVE
In April 2000 in Zimbabwe, armed men attacked the farmhouse of a white farmer whose family has lived in Zimbabwe for generations. A political crisis that goes back to Britain’s colonial rule caught white farmers in a violent crossfire. British colonial rule ended in 1980, but more than 4,000 white farmers in Zimbabwe still own one-third of the best land in a country of about 10 million blacks. The British and the white farmers have made attempts to equalize land ownership, but Zimbabwe’s leaders have not taken advantage of these opportunities. Instead, they have targeted individual white farmers who own that land. This conflict illustrates a critical issue in all of Southern Africa—that blacks far outnumber whites but still own little of the land.

Gold Trade Builds Empires
Southern Africa includes Angola, Botswana, Comoros, Lesotho, Madagascar, Malawi, Mauritius, Mozambique, Namibia, South Africa, Swaziland, Zambia, and Zimbabwe. The history of Southern Africa involves a blending of colonialism with African cultures and the development of gold-trading empires.

GOLD TRADE SPAWNS GREAT ZIMBABWE
The majority of the people in Southern Africa are Bantu-speaking peoples, including the Shona people. Around 1000, the Shona established a city called Great Zimbabwe in what is now the country of Zimbabwe.

From the 1200s to the 1400s, Great Zimbabwe became the capital of a thriving gold-trading area. But for unknown reasons, around 1450 the Shona abandoned Great Zimbabwe. One theory is that cattle grazing had exhausted the nearby grasslands, and overfarming had ruined the soil.

MUTAPA EMPIRE
According to local legend, a man named Mutota left Great Zimbabwe around 1440 and settled in a fertile valley to the north. He founded a new state to replace Great Zimbabwe. By the time Mutota died, the Mutapa Empire extended throughout all of present-day Zimbabwe except the eastern part.

PLACE
Pictured below are the walls of Great Zimbabwe.
What do the materials used to build the walls reveal about the local physical geography?
The Mutapa Empire thrived on the gold trade. In the 1500s, however, the Portuguese arrived and began interfering with the politics there. Soon, the Mutapa Empire began to decline. This event showed the increasing role Europeans would play in Southern Africa.

ETHNIC CLASH FOR SOUTHERN AFRICA As Europeans migrated to Southern Africa in the 1700s and 1800s, their presence led to conflicts with Africans. As the map below shows, many different ethnic groups were already living in Southern Africa. They competed with each other and with the Europeans for control of the land. In the early 19th century, the Zulu controlled a large area in Southern Africa. However, the British defeated the Zulu and by the late 19th century had taken over their land.

In the 1890s, the British battled the Dutch farmers, or Boers, in the Boer War for control of the region. The Boers had arrived in Southern Africa in the mid-1600s. The British won the war and formed the Union of South Africa in 1902. South Africa is currently a country in the region of Southern Africa.

THE POLICY OF APARTEID IN SOUTH AFRICA In 1948, the white minority government of South Africa instituted a policy of apartheid, or complete separation of the races. It banned social contact between blacks and whites and established segregated schools, hospitals, and neighborhoods. Although blacks made up 75 percent of the population, they received only a small percentage of the land. The government kept the best land for whites.

In 1912, blacks had founded the African National Congress (ANC) to fight for their rights. In 1949, Nelson Mandela emerged as one of the
leaders of the ANC, and he led a long struggle to end apartheid that resulted in his being imprisoned. By the 1980s, nations around the world—including the United States—pressured South Africa to end apartheid. In 1989, F. W. de Klerk became the president, and he wanted to change South Africa.

As a result, South Africa experienced a peaceful revolution, and the government ended its apartheid laws. An election that involved members of all races in South Africa took place in 1994. Mandela, having been released from prison, won the election and became president. In 1996, the government passed a new, democratic constitution that guarantees the rights of all citizens.

Southern Africa Grows Economically

The economies of Southern African countries are some of the most advanced in Africa. However, many countries are struggling to raise the standard of living for blacks, who get the worst jobs, own the least productive land, and attend the worst schools.

SOUTH AFRICA  The policy of apartheid has hurt the economy of South Africa. Because of apartheid, foreign nations imposed economic sanctions that prevented their countries from conducting business with or investing in South Africa. In addition, the policy led to poor education of blacks, creating an uneducated mass of young people. As a result, two economies exist in South Africa.

One segment of South Africa has an upper-middle-income economy like that of the United States. South Africa possesses great cities with huge industrial complexes, such as Johannesburg and Cape Town. It also has modern, mechanized farms and large ranches. In contrast, though, South Africa also has poverty-stricken rural areas. Black townships and shantytowns also fill portions of the cities. Furthermore, the government currently faces problems arising from unequal land distribution and a severe housing shortage.

SUCCESS AT A COST  Botswana illustrates a problem that exists in many African countries today. It made a great deal of money from valuable resources but has serious agricultural problems and an unequal distribution of wealth. Botswana gained its independence from Britain in 1966 and subsequently experienced long-term economic growth. In 1966, its per capita income stood at $69. In 1997, that figure had risen to $3,900 per capita.
Botswana’s wealth is based on minerals. People discovered diamonds there shortly after the country’s independence from Britain. By 1995, Botswana had become a major diamond producer. It is now the world’s leader in diamond production. Diamonds account for about half of government revenue. A problem, however, is the uneven distribution of the profits—an issue in many African countries.

The vast majority of the people work as farmers and never benefit from the diamond revenue. A minority of the population grows wealthy from diamond money. One problem developing from this unequal distribution is that wealthy people are purchasing large tracts of land for cattle ranching from poor farm owners. As a result, poor farmers often move to less productive land. Meat production then increases, but overall food production actually decreases. The country winds up producing only 50 percent of the food needed to feed its population. The rest must be imported or come from international aid.

AIDS AFFECTS SOUTHERN AFRICA By 2006, the most severe AIDS-affected countries were in Southern Africa. In Zimbabwe and Botswana, for example, about 25 percent of all adults were infected with HIV, the virus that causes AIDS. In Botswana, the life expectancy was 60 years old in 1994; it had declined to 39 years of age in 1999, but has risen to above 61 again since then. The disease also has far-ranging implications for any country’s economic well-being. In Botswana, many highly trained diamond sorters have died from the disease.

Celebrations of Southern Africa

Southern Africa is a rich mosaic of cultures and traditions. More than any other region, it is a mix of African and European cultures.

A VARIETY OF DANCES Celebrations and festivals are a large part of life in Southern Africa. The Chewa people perform a dance called the gule wa mkulu, which reflects their traditional religious beliefs. Dancers dress in ragged costumes of cloth and animal skins. They wear masks and sometimes walk on stilts.

The Tumbuka people in northern Malawi perform the vimbuza, a dance performed by healers who wish to cure people of sickness. Other dances include the benji dance of the Yao people in southern Malawi. This dance, performed by Yao warriors, pokes fun at what these warriors saw as the desire of the European militaries to march and have parades.
In Madagascar, during the *hira gasy* festival, costumed groups of 25 or more people play music, perform dances, and act out stories. The themes are upbeat and praise the virtues of honesty and respect for elders.

### Living in Southern Africa

Johannesburg, South Africa, is one of Southern Africa’s largest cities and offers its residents a variety of opportunities and experiences.

**JOHANNESBURG** About 100 years ago, Johannesburg began as a small mining town and grew because of nearby gold reserves. Today, greater Johannesburg is a city of more than six million people with many different ethnicities and lifestyles. The center of Johannesburg looks like most modern big cities, with a cluster of skyscrapers dotting the skyline. However, as a result of apartheid, greater Johannesburg developed into two different cities. To the north lie the spacious suburbs that were once exclusively white. To the south are poor black townships.

**MODERN AND TRADITIONAL LIFESTYLES** Some Southern Africans live a modern lifestyle as doctors, lawyers, and businesspeople. These people live in tree-lined suburbs that look no different from those found in the United States. Many blacks, on the other hand, because of apartheid’s legacy, still work in menial and unskilled jobs. They still live in the former black-only homelands and shantytowns.

Some ethnic groups of Southern Africa follow more traditional patterns as farmers, traders, or herders. For example, the Zulu either work in menial jobs, such as mining, or cling to their traditional roles as farmers and metalworkers. The Zulu have a long tradition of making hoes, spears, axes, and other tools and weapons.

In the next chapter you will read more about major issues facing Africa today, including economic development, health care, and the effects of colonialism.
Reviewing Places & Terms

A. Briefly explain the importance of each of the following.

1. Berlin Conference
2. pandemic
3. Islam
4. stateless society
5. Ashanti
6. Bantu migrations
7. Fang sculpture
8. Great Zimbabwe
9. apartheid
10. Nelson Mandela

B. Answer the questions about vocabulary in complete sentences.

11. Which term is used to describe the policy used to separate blacks and whites in South Africa?
12. What type of art influenced some of Pablo Picasso’s work?
13. What meeting by European nations set the rules and conditions for the takeover of Africa?
14. Which African people place a high value on wooden stools?
15. What is the system called that uses family lineages to govern people?
16. Who led the ANC in the second half of the 20th century and helped to end apartheid in South Africa?
17. What is the largest cultural and religious influence in North Africa?
18. Which empire thrived on the gold trade in Southern Africa?
19. What term describes a disease outbreak affecting a large population in a wide geographic area?
20. What movement of people helped to bring a sense of unity of language to much of Africa?

Main Ideas

East Africa (pp. 431–437)

1. How did East Africa’s location help it to become a major international trading center?
2. What impact did the Berlin Conference have on Africa?

North Africa (pp. 438–441)

3. How did Islam become the biggest influence in North Africa?
4. How have women’s roles in North Africa changed over the years?

West Africa (pp. 442–447)

5. What are the similarities and differences among the three West African kingdoms of Ghana, Mali, and Songhai?
6. What are some of the problems faced by West African economies?

Central Africa (pp. 448–452)

7. Why were the Bantu migrations important in African history?
8. What are some of the problems facing education in Central Africa?

Southern Africa (pp. 453–457)

9. How have natural resources affected the economy of Southern Africa?
10. How was apartheid brought to an end?
1. **Using Your Notes**
   Use your completed chart to answer these questions.
   - **North Africa**
   - **East Africa**
   - **West Africa**
   - **Central Africa**
   - **Southern Africa**

   a. How were the precolonial kingdoms of West Africa similar to or different from the precolonial kingdoms of Southern Africa?
   b. How did colonialism change Africa and its people?

2. **Geographic Themes**
   a. **MOVEMENT** How did the movement of Islam from Southwest Asia to North Africa affect the African continent?
   b. **HUMAN-ENVIRONMENT INTERACTION** What role did natural resources play in the colonization of Africa?

3. **Identifying Themes**
   How did natural resources affect the formation of ancient African kingdoms and empires? Which of the five themes apply to this situation?

4. **Making Comparisons**
   How did stateless societies in Africa differ from centralized governments?

5. **Determining Cause and Effect**
   What prompted the Berlin Conference, and what effects did it have on Africa’s culture and economy?

---

### Languages of Nigeria

Use the graph below to answer the following questions.

1. **ANALYZING DATA** What percentage of Nigerians speak English?
2. **MAKING GENERALIZATIONS** Which language group is the most commonly spoken?
3. **MAKING INFERENCES** How might the number of languages in Nigeria affect a newly formed democratic government?

![Languages of Nigeria Pie Chart](source: ethnologue.com)

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### GeoActivity

Choose another country in Africa. Then using the library, encyclopedias, or other reference books, create your own language pie chart.

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### Multimedia Activity

Use the links at [hmhsocialstudies.com](http://hmhsocialstudies.com) to do research on the people of one African country. Look for such information as age range, religions, ethnic groups, literacy rates, and per capita income.

**Constructing a Population Pyramid** Using the information you have gathered, construct a population pyramid describing the population characteristics of the society you have chosen.
Miners in Johannesburg, South Africa, dig for gold.

**Essential Question**

How are Africans trying to solve the challenges that their countries face?

**What You Will Learn**

In this chapter you will explore some of the economic, health care, and historic issues that trouble African countries and how the people there are trying to deal with those challenges.

**SECTION 1**

**Economic Development**

**SECTION 2**

**Health Care**

**CASE STUDY**

**Effects of Colonialism**

For more on these issues in Africa . . .

hmhsocialstudies.com

Use the graphic organizer online to take notes on the causes and effects of the issues.
Economic Development

How can African nations develop their economies?

Main Ideas

- Africa’s history of colonization has had long-term effects on its economy.
- Barriers to African economic development include illiteracy, foreign debt, and a lack of manufacturing industries.

Places & Terms

“one-commodity” country
commodity
diversify

A HUMAN PERSPECTIVE  Mauwa Funidi wonders about the future of her country, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, as she looks around the rundown university library where she works. She has not been paid her salary of 12 dollars per month in many months. Classes at the university have been suspended because of a lack of funds. Funidi survives by selling bags of charcoal on the streets of Kisangani. Funidi, like many Africans, is trying to scrape out a living on a continent where people’s standard of living declined for the first 30 years of independence and made little improvement after that. Many African countries have vowed to change their fortunes with better government, better relations with neighbors, more investment in education, and a diverse economy.

Africa’s Economy Today

Most African nations have little manufacturing of their own. Their economies are based on providing raw materials—oil, minerals, or agricultural products—to the world’s industrialized countries.

A HISTORY OF PROBLEMS  As you learned in the previous chapter, European colonizers exploited Africa’s resources and people during the past few centuries. Millions of Africans were sold into slavery, and countless others have died in Africa from harsh working conditions while obtaining raw materials for foreign interests. In addition, the land has been mined and drilled with little regard for the environment. This history of exploitation has limited Africa’s economic growth and fostered political instability. Without political stability, consistent economic growth is difficult.

AFRICA’S ECONOMY  Today, most African countries are worse off economically than they were in the 1960s, when many of them gained independence. More than half of the African countries are in the World Bank’s lowest income category of less than $975 Gross National Income per person. In 2007, Africa accounted for only 2.5 percent of total world GNP and 1.5 percent of total dollar value of world exports—both

HUMAN-ENVIRONMENT INTERACTION  Much of Africa’s infrastructure is undeveloped. With few paved roads, trucks get bogged down on muddy roads, such as this one in the Democratic Republic of the Congo.
small numbers compared to Africa’s population and natural resources. The whole of Africa’s economy is about as large as that of Argentina’s.

Furthermore, the economic infrastructure needed for substantial growth is not in place. Roads, airports, railroads, and ports are not adequate to help African nations further their economic growth.

In addition, most Africans don’t have access to computers or other aspects of high technology. High technology has fueled economic growth in other parts of the world such as North America, Europe, and Asia.

**On the Road to Development**

Despite this legacy of exploitation, African nations are struggling to build economies based on the careful use of natural and human resources.

**REDUCING DEBT AND INCREASING COOPERATION** When the colonial nations pulled out of Africa, they often left the newly independent nations without money for transportation, education, and businesses. To build their economies, African countries borrowed heavily. By 1997, total public debt of sub-Saharan African governments—about 227 billion dollars—was strangling them. As a result, many Western leaders have urged their countries to forgive Africa’s debts so that it has more money to build its economies.

Another way that Africa seeks to improve its economy is through regional cooperation. The Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) and the Southern African Development Community (SADC) are both striving to promote trade. For example, ECOWAS is working toward removing duties and creating a common currency. Efforts of SADC include working to improve the transportation and communication infrastructures.

**BUILDING INDUSTRIES** The economy of many African nations is based on the export of raw materials. Furthermore, several of Africa’s countries rely on just one or two principal commodities for much of their earnings. These are called “one-commodity” countries. A commodity is an agricultural or mining product that can be sold. The value of a commodity varies from day to day based on worldwide supply and demand. That makes the economies of the producing nations—especially “one-commodity” countries—unstable. Economists believe African nations must diversify, or create variety in, their economies and promote manufacturing to achieve economic growth and stability.
Some African nations are making strides toward that goal. In East Africa, Djibouti is using its location on the Gulf of Aden to establish a major international shipping center.

**Educating Workers**

A key to developing Africa’s economies is improving its education system to provide people with a high level of skills. African nations must also find ways to prevent their educated citizens from leaving the continent.

**IMPROVING EDUCATION** A large barrier to economic growth in Africa is an unschooled population. In 2008, Africa south of the Sahara had a primary school enrollment rate of only 76 percent, the lowest of any world region. In some countries, such as Angola and Somalia, civil wars have all but destroyed the school systems.

Some African countries, however, are making progress. For example, in Algeria, 96 percent of the country’s children complete their primary education. Mauritius has also made huge gains. As of 2008, over 84 percent of Mauritians age 15 and older were literate.

**REVERSING THE BRAIN DRAIN** Another priority is slowing the departure of African professionals to Western countries. In 1983, the International Organization for Migration began a campaign to encourage these professionals to return home.

As Africa moves into the 21st century, efforts to improve education, invest in industry, and create stable governments provide hope for the future.
Reading a City Map

Johannesburg, South Africa, is one of the youngest major cities in the world. It grew rapidly following the discovery of gold in 1886. Today, it is South Africa’s largest city and the country’s financial and industrial center. Looking at the city map below, you can see that the streets of the city center are laid out in a grid. A grid is something resembling a framework of crisscrossing parallel bars.

THE LANGUAGE OF MAPS A city map is essentially another kind of road map. However, it is usually set at a larger scale than a state road map in order to show greater detail to guide both visitors and residents. Many city maps show the names of streets, major tourist attractions, bus and train stations, and other useful buildings.

1. Making Generalizations If you took the train into Johannesburg, how would you get to the railway museum by foot and about how long would it take?

2. Drawing Conclusions Where is the most likely place for a picnic in this part of the city? What are the place’s index coordinates?

3. Making Inferences If you spent a weekend in Johannesburg, what are at least five activities available to you in the city?
How can African countries eliminate the diseases that threaten their people and cultures?

A HUMAN PERSPECTIVE On June 1, 2001, Nkosi Johnson died from the human immunodeficiency virus (HIV)—the virus that causes acquired immune deficiency syndrome (AIDS). At the time, he was the longest living South African child born with HIV. In February, he celebrated his 12th birthday—but weighed just 27 pounds. Living with a foster mother, the child had become a symbol of hope in a nation suffering from AIDS. He frankly discussed the problems of the disease and received cheers at the 13th International AIDS conference in Durban, South Africa, in July 2000. His plight was typical of many on the continent, as African nations struggle to deal with this and other diseases.

Disease and Despair

Controlling AIDS and other diseases is essential if Africans are to improve their quality of life and live a normal lifespan.

SERIOUS DISEASES African nations are threatened by a variety of diseases. Inadequate sanitation and lack of a clean water supply can lead to cholera, an infection that is often fatal if not treated. In 2000–2001, widespread flooding caused some cases of cholera in Mozambique, but international relief efforts prevented a widespread outbreak.

Diseases in Africa, 1900 and 2010

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Leading Diseases</th>
<th>Leading Diseases</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>1900</strong></td>
<td><strong>2010</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Malaria</strong></td>
<td><strong>Malaria</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>First reference in Greece around 400 B.C.</td>
<td>Almost 90 percent of world's estimated 863,000 malaria deaths occur in Africa.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Sleeping Sickness</strong></td>
<td><strong>Sleeping Sickness</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>First described around A.D. 1300 in present-day Mali.</td>
<td>Number of cases has dropped, but disease still affects almost 10,000.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Smallpox</strong></td>
<td><strong>AIDS</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**SKILLBUILDER: Interpreting Charts**
1. **MAKING COMPARISONS** What was a leading disease in Africa in 1900 but not in 2010?
2. **DRAWING CONCLUSIONS** What disease occurs in Africa in 2010 but not in 1900?
Mosquitos carrying malaria—an infectious disease marked by chills and fevers that is often fatal—are common in African countries. The disease has become resistant to standard drugs because of overuse of those drugs in treating the disease during the past several decades. AIDS and HIV, however, create the most severe problems. About 67 percent of the world’s adult AIDS cases are in sub-Saharan Africa. More than 90 percent of all new cases of children with AIDS are in sub-Saharan African nations. AIDS is often accompanied by tuberculosis, a respiratory infection spread between humans.

AIDS Stalks the Continent

In 2008, AIDS took the lives of around two million people worldwide. Of these, 1.4 million lived in sub-Saharan Africa. In Swaziland, three of every four deaths were attributed to AIDS. The AIDS epidemic in Swaziland has caused life expectancy there to drop from 58 to 37 years. In 2008, 22.4 million people in sub-Saharan Africa were living with either HIV or AIDS.

A HIGH PRICE TO PAY Widespread disease has economic consequences. People who are sick work less or not at all, earn less, and thus are pushed further into poverty. Economists predicted that by 2010, the GDP of South Africa would be 17 percent lower than it would have been if not for AIDS. Furthermore, AIDS patients’ medical care is also expensive. UNAIDS, the UN program that studies the world’s AIDS epidemic, estimates that $4.63 billion will be needed to fight AIDS in Africa.

Nations Respond

Response to these epidemics comes both from African nations and from countries around the world.

A VARIETY OF ANSWERS To fight malaria and other insect-borne diseases, African nations have used spraying programs since the 1930s to reduce the number of insects. In 2000, the Global Fund for Children’s Vaccines pledged more than $250 million for use over the next five years for immunization programs in Africa, Asia, Latin America, and Europe.

Some African countries are fighting disease by improving their health care systems. Gabon, for example, has used oil revenues to improve its health care system substantially. In addition, the African Development Fund approved a loan of nearly 12.3 million dollars to enable Mozambique to upgrade its public health facilities.
STRATEGIES AGAINST AIDS
Fighting and preventing AIDS is being done on many levels. In December 2000, South Africa and Brazil reached an agreement to work together on AIDS prevention and care. Brazil’s public health policies to combat AIDS and other diseases are considered a model for developing countries.

SUCCESS STORIES In the 1990s, two countries, Uganda and Senegal, had success in reducing the spread of HIV. Uganda’s government has spearheaded efforts to combat AIDS. For example, in 1997, Uganda began to offer same-day HIV tests and education programs. Infection rates among 15 to 24 year olds dropped by 50 percent. On the other hand, Senegal has controlled the spread of the disease from the outset through an intensive education program. Infection rates have remained around two percent.

UNAIDS says that the number of people newly infected with HIV in 2008 in sub-Saharan Africa dropped to 1.9 million, down from 2.3 million in 2001. However, UNAIDS cautions that the drop in HIV infection rates could mean that almost as many people are dying of AIDS as are being infected with HIV. Nevertheless, with many African nations taking action, they can build an effective health care system and make progress against the epidemics that threaten their peoples and cultures.
Africa, at the beginning of the 19th century, was home to great empires and rich cultures such as the Zulu, the Ashanti, and the Hausa. At the end of the 19th century, Africa was a place of European colonial power and oppression. European governments and financial agents based in such places as French West Africa, Belgian Congo, and British East Africa controlled much of the continent. Africa has not been the same since. Much of the poverty and violence of the 20th century is the direct result of colonialism. As you read the Case Study, consider how Africa might overcome the legacy of European colonialism.

Colonizing Africa

During the 15th century, Portuguese ships, looking for trade routes to Asia, landed in Africa. Soon other European countries established coastal trading stations there.

Europeans in Africa

By the mid-1800s, Europeans knew of Africa’s rich natural resources. They wanted these raw materials to fuel their own industrial economies and to establish markets to sell and trade their goods. In 1884–1885, the Berlin Conference, which you read about in Chapter 19, set down rules for dividing up Africa. European colonial control of Africa began to end in the early 20th century, but most African countries gained their independence in the 1960s. The Europeans did long-term damage to Africa, affecting its cultural and ethnic boundaries, and ruining its economy.

Challenges of Independence

When the European colonial powers were forced to leave Africa, the newly independent African countries did not have stable governments in place. For the next 40 years, many of the newly established African nations and their peoples suffered through dictatorships and civil wars. Many of these conflicts had lasting consequences for the continent’s economy and the people’s well-being.

Colonial Transition

European governments did not understand the incredible ethnic diversity in Africa. Certain African ethnic groups are living together today only because European colonizers established national borders that grouped them together. Examine the map on page 469 and you will see the ethnic and cultural complexity in
Africa. Each area marked by a red line is an ethnic group. Many of these groups now reside together in the present-day countries created by Europeans. Many groups living in the same country are historical enemies. For example, German and Belgian colonial governments aggravated historically tense relations between the Hutu and Tutsi ethnic groups in present-day Rwanda and Burundi. In the early 1990s, the ethnic violence between these two groups resulted in a war that led to the deaths of hundreds of thousands of people.

Because of the way these colonial borders were drawn, many African governments had difficulty getting different ethnic groups to cooperate in building stable democracies. Dictators, such as Mobutu Sese Seko of what is now the Democratic Republic of the Congo, became common. In addition, many Africans had no experience living in democratic governments.

**CAUSE FOR HOPE** Establishing a democratic tradition is a primary goal for many African nations. Only through political stability can a nation bring peace and prosperity to its people. In the past decade, some African nations have been making progress. In 1994, the white minority government in South Africa finally yielded power to the black majority, ending decades of government-sanctioned racial discrimination and social injustice.

Furthermore, in 2001, Ghana swore in a new president in a peaceful transfer of power, unlike the coups and assassinations that had occurred during previous changes of government. These events are promising in a continent that is hoping for radical progress in the 21st century. Complete the Case Study Project on the following two pages to learn more about how Africa is dealing with the effects of colonialism.
News Report

Suggested Steps

1. Select one African country to study.
2. Use online and print resources to research your country’s precolonial, colonial, and postcolonial history.
3. Highlight its people, resources, colonizers, and postcolonial activity.
4. Prepare a news report on the current status of your country, covering such topics as conflicts, the health and welfare of its people, the economy, and prospects for the future.
5. Practice your news report in front of a small audience. Ask them for ways to improve it.
6. Use a tape recorder or video recorder to tape your broadcast.

Materials and Supplies

- computer with Internet access
- reference books, newspapers, magazines, and encyclopedias
- tape recorder or video recorder

Primary sources A, B, C, D, and E on these two pages are about colonial and postcolonial Africa. Use these resources along with your own research to prepare a news report on postcolonial Africa.

**Eyewitness Account**

In his desire for more and more rubber from the Congo, Belgian King Leopold II adopted terrorism as his preferred method of persuasion. In 1899, the British vice consul offered this eyewitness account.

An example of what is done was told me up the Ubangi River. This officer’s method was to arrive in canoes at a village, the inhabitants of which invariably bolted on their arrival; the soldiers were then landed, and commenced looting, taking all the chickens, grain, etc. out of the houses; after this, they attacked the natives until able to seize their women; these women were kept as hostages until the chief of the district brought in the required number of kilograms of rubber. The rubber having been brought, the women were sold back to their owners for a couple of goats apiece, and so he continued from village to village until the requisite amount of rubber had been collected.

**Statement of Principle**

Kwame Nkrumah was the leader of postcolonial Ghana until he was overthrown in 1966. In his book, I Speak of Freedom, published in 1961, he wrote about his hopes for postcolonial Africa.

For centuries, Europeans dominated the African continent. The white man [claimed] the right to rule and to be obeyed by the non-white; his mission, he claimed, was to “civilize” Africa. Under this cloak, the Europeans robbed the continent of vast riches and inflicted unimaginable suffering on the African people.

All this makes a sad story, but now we must be prepared to bury the past with its unpleasant memories and look to the future. All we ask of the former colonial powers is their goodwill and cooperation to remedy past mistakes and injustices and to grant independence to the colonies in Africa.

It is clear that we must find an African solution to our problems, and that this can only be found in African unity. Divided we are weak; united, Africa could become one of the greatest forces for good in the world.
News Analysis  Ron Daniels, writing in the magazine Black World Today, offered this analysis of the Trade and Development Act of 2000. This law recognizes the need to promote economic growth and reduce poverty in Africa, but the law only helps a small number of countries.

How ironic, tragic even, that as we prepare to enter a new century and millennium, Africa, the motherland, is so afflicted by poverty, underdevelopment, hunger, disease, corruption, and debt that African leaders, out of desperation . . . ., are in effect begging to be recolonized. How ironic that the continent whose historical underdevelopment under slavery and colonialism, whose vast human and material resources contributed mightily to the enrichment and development of Europe and America must now turn to the former slave-masters and colonizers for a “bail-out.”

Editorial Commentary  On January 8, 2001, the New York Times editorial page included this essay on the changes that have taken place in Ghana. The editorial was titled “An African Success Story.”

In its first two decades of independence, the West African nation of Ghana was an archetypal political disaster, brought low by successive coups and dictatorships, corruption and near total economic collapse. Today, Ghana is a welcome African example of legitimate democracy and successful economic reform. In an unusually peaceful transfer of power, a civilian government that grew out of a military regime has accepted an election defeat and surrendered power to the opposition. John Kufuor, an Oxford-trained lawyer and businessman, and the leader of Ghana’s opposition New Patriotic Party, was sworn in as president yesterday. He defeated John Atta Mills, the incumbent vice president, in an election widely viewed as free and fair. President Jerry Rawlings, the charismatic former flight lieutenant who has dominated Ghana for nearly 20 years, stepped down after reaching a constitutional two-term limit as elected president.

Political Cartoon  Cartoonist Alan King drew this cartoon in 1996. The cartoon appeared in the Ottawa Citizen in Ottawa, Canada. King shows the unending cycle of indecisive attitudes on the part of the international community. The Democratic Republic of the Congo, which was formerly known as Zaire, suffers from these indecisive attitudes.
Reviewing Places & Terms

A. Briefly explain the importance of each of the following.

1. “one-commodity” country
2. commodity
3. diversify
4. AIDS
5. cholera
6. malaria
7. tuberculosis
8. UNAIDS

B. Answer the questions about vocabulary in complete sentences.

9. What is a nation called when it relies on one product for its economic well-being?
10. What is the name of the disease that is carried by a mosquito and was also a leading disease in both 1900 and 2000?
11. What is the name of the respiratory disease that often accompanies AIDS?
12. What is the process whereby countries employ many different ways to help their economies grow?
13. What disease is spread by poor sanitation and a polluted water supply?
14. What is a product called that is bought and sold and has value in a worldwide market?
15. Which organization tracks the world’s AIDS problem?

Main Ideas

Economic Development (pp. 461–464)

1. How has Africa’s economic status changed during the past 40 years?
2. What is one of the main problems preventing Africa from spending money on economic development?
3. What is a danger with a country’s having only one valuable product that it relies on for its economic well-being?

Health Care (pp. 465–467)

4. How are African nations fighting some of the diseases afflicting their continent?
5. What are some of the economic implications of disease in Africa?
6. What do Uganda’s and Senegal’s AIDS programs have in common?
7. Why might the drop in HIV infection rates be misleading?

Effects of Colonialism (pp. 468–471)

8. What are some of the empires and peoples that controlled areas of Africa at the beginning of the 19th century?
9. What was one of the main reasons that European countries wanted to control Africa?
10. Why did colonization cause so much political and ethnic violence in the 20th century?
Critical Thinking

1. Using Your Notes
Use your completed chart to answer these questions.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Issue 1: Economic Development</th>
<th>Causes</th>
<th>Effects</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Issue 2: Health Care</td>
<td></td>
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</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

a. What is the primary foundation for most African nations’ economies?
b. How might disease and economic development be related?

2. Geographic Themes
a. MOVEMENT How are diseases such as malaria and cholera spread?
b. REGION In what way is the modern map of Africa not a true reflection of the continent’s people?

3. Identifying Themes
How would you relate one of the five themes of geography to the primary way in which African nations support their economies?

4. Making Inferences
How do you think Africa’s economic health affects the spread of diseases such as cholera and AIDS?

5. Drawing Conclusions
How important do you think regional cooperation is in building Africa’s economy? Why?

Geographic Skills: Interpreting Maps

Dates of African Independence
Use the map at right to answer the following questions.

1. PLACE Which two countries remained free of European control?

2. PLACE Which country most recently gained its independence?

3. REGION Which decade saw the most countries gain independence?

GeoActivity
Choose one country in West Africa that was once controlled by France. Then using the library, encyclopedias, or other reference books, research how France’s influence is still felt today in that country’s economy, government, schools, and language.

Writing About Geography Write a report of your findings. Include charts, pie graphs, and other visuals to help present the information. List the Web sites that you used as sources.