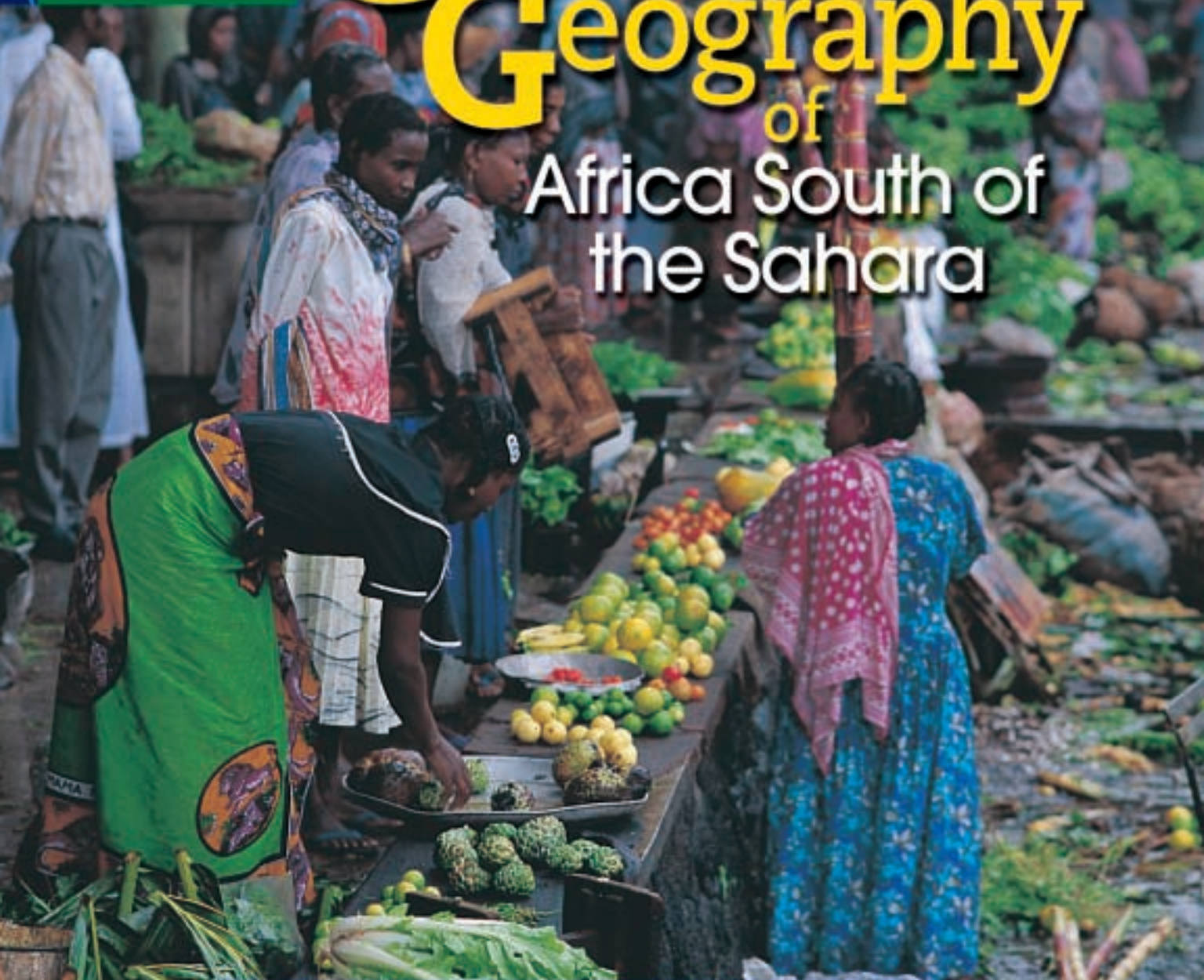


CHAPTER

21

The Cultural Geography of Africa South of the Sahara



GeoJournal

As you read this chapter, make notes in your journal about the general characteristics of the peoples and cultures in Africa south of the Sahara. Explain how ways of life in Africa south of the Sahara have changed in recent years.



Chapter Overview Visit the **Glencoe World Geography** Web site at bx.geography.glencoe.com and click on Chapter Overviews—Chapter 21 to preview information about the cultural geography of the region.

CLICK HERE

CONTENTS

Guide to Reading

Consider What You Know

As in other world regions you have studied, people in Africa south of the Sahara are moving from rural areas to cities. What changes might a new city resident face?

Read to Find Out

- Why are parts of Africa south of the Sahara densely populated?
- What are the obstacles to economic growth in the region?
- Who are the diverse peoples of Africa south of the Sahara?
- Why are the region's cities growing so rapidly?

Terms to Know

- sanitation
- urbanization
- service center

Places to Locate

- Nigeria
- Rwanda
- Namibia
- Zimbabwe
- Lagos
- Accra
- Kinshasa
- Nairobi
- Johannesburg

◀ A market in the Comoros Islands

Population Patterns

 NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC

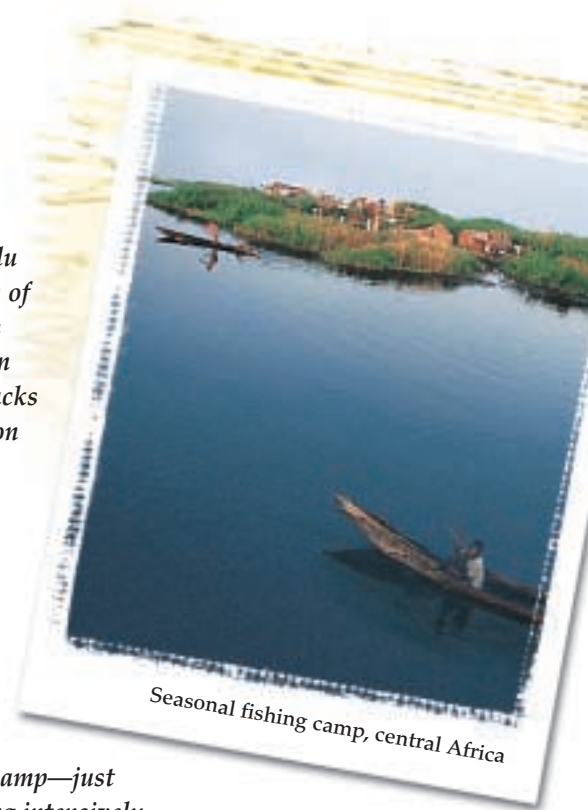
A Geographic View

To Market

The [riverside market] in Lukulu [Zambia] bustled with swarms of people picking through baskets of fish and used clothes lying in enormous piles or draped on racks or else flapping like pennants on long lines.

Julius Nkwita was selling small piles of dried fish, about 60 cents for a handful. But sometimes he swapped his fish for cups of flour or an item of clothing. . . . His wife and four of his children were in his home village, . . . while he stayed in his seasonal fishing camp—just a reed hut—with his son, fishing intensively.

—Paul Theroux, “Down the Zambezi,” National Geographic, October 1997



A small market town, a village, a temporary fishing camp—this is Julius Nkwita’s world. On a trip through central Africa on the Zambezi River, writer Paul Theroux met Julius Nkwita and many others whose lives revolve around a small community. Like these people of the Zambezi River basin, the majority of Africans south of the Sahara live in rural areas. In this section you will trace population patterns in Africa south of the Sahara—the fastest-growing and third most populous region in the world.

Rapid Population Growth

Home to more than 673 million people, Africa south of the Sahara has about 10 percent of the world’s population. It has both the highest birthrate and the highest death rate in the world. It also has the world’s highest infant mortality rate and shortest life expectancy.

Despite a high death rate, births outnumber deaths in this region. In fact, population growth in Africa south of the Sahara surpasses that of every other region in the world, increasing at an average rate of 2.5 percent a year. At this rate, the total population of Africa south of the Sahara will more than double in just 35 years.

Nigeria, the most populous African country south of the Sahara, is one example of the region's rapid population growth. In 2001 about 126.6 million people lived in Nigeria. With an expected growth rate of 2.8 percent a year, it is likely that in 50 years Nigeria's population will reach more than 300 million.

One factor, however, may drastically limit population growth in the region over the next 10 years. The disease AIDS (acquired immunodeficiency syndrome) has spread rapidly. About 70 percent of the estimated 36 million people in the world currently carrying HIV, the virus that causes AIDS, live in Africa south of the Sahara. At the end of 2000, about 17 million Africans had already died of AIDS-related diseases.

Population Density and Distribution

Despite rapid population growth, Africa south of the Sahara has few people in relation to its vast land area. If the population were evenly spread across the region, there would be about 72 people per square mile (28 people per sq. km). However, the population of the region is not evenly distributed. **Rwanda**, one of the region's most densely populated countries, has 719 people per square mile (278 people per sq. km), whereas **Namibia** has only 6 people per square mile (3 people per sq. km).

Land and climate help explain this uneven distribution of people. Desert or steppe covers large areas of Africa south of the Sahara. Because living conditions there are difficult, few, if any, people live there. The land is generally too dry to support agriculture or the raising of livestock. As the map on page 488 shows, most of the region's people are crowded in the coastal belt of West Africa along the Gulf of Guinea and along the eastern coast of southern Africa. They are drawn to these areas because of easy access to water, fertile soil, and mild climates. As a result, agriculture, industry, and commerce are concentrated in these areas.

Population and Food Production

Soaring population growth combined with economic challenges have made it difficult for Africa south of the Sahara to feed its people. Agriculture—both subsistence and cash-crop farming—ranks as the region's main economic activity. About 70 percent of people in the region work as farmers. Yet they are producing less and eating less, while the population has almost tripled.

Factors such as the actions of governments and some farmers and the effects of climate have contributed to this critical situation. In recent years governments have geared their economies for exporting in order to boost national incomes. However, not enough food has been produced for domestic needs, making it necessary to import food. In addition, huge expanses of farmland in the region have been exhausted through intensive cultivation, loss of soil fertility, and devastating droughts.

Population and Health Care

In recent years, Africa south of the Sahara has made many advances in health care. However, famine and poor nutrition claim many lives, especially among infants and young children. Impure water is another cause of death. Only a third of rural Africans have clean water to drink, and only a fourth live where there is adequate **sanitation**, or disposal of waste products. Diseases such as malaria are widespread. Insects such as the mosquito and tsetse (SEHT•see) fly transmit viruses to people and animals.

AIDS, a worldwide disease caused by a virus that is spread from person to person, has reached epidemic proportions in the region. A child born in **Zimbabwe**, for instance, is more likely to die of AIDS than of any other cause. Treatments with drugs that help control the disease are available to patients in developed countries, but these treatments cost too much for most Africans or their governments to purchase. As a result of the lack of treatment, this deadly disease has drastically cut the average life expectancy throughout Africa south of the Sahara. In Zimbabwe, average life expectancy has fallen from 65 years to 39 years because of AIDS.

The disease is expected to reduce the populations of many of the region's countries significantly, with disastrous consequences. Workers

will be in short supply, and industries may be forced to close. Families and communities will suffer as adults in the prime of life are lost to the disease. Children will lack caregivers. The United Nations estimates that by the year 2010, 10.7 million children in Africa under the age of 15 will have lost at least one parent to AIDS.

A Diverse Population

In both urban and rural areas, Africa south of the Sahara has a very diverse population. In fact, Africa is home to more ethnic groups than any other continent. Some 3,000 African ethnic groups make up the population. Other groups living in Africa include Europeans, South Asians, Arabs, and people of mixed backgrounds.

Culture

People Without Borders

A people known as the Sena live in a wide area in the marshes near the Zambezi River, which divides Zambia and Zimbabwe. The Sena often travel up the Zambezi in dugout canoes to sell fish and to buy

needed items, such as nets, at markets in Malawi. They float downriver to Mozambique to trade fish for sugar. Writing about the Sena, noted travel author Paul Theroux observes:

“They come and go, from country to country, without passports—without even saying where they are going.”

Paul Theroux, “Down the Zambezi,” National Geographic, October 1997

As in other parts of Africa, country borders separate people politically, but they do not usually disturb daily patterns of life. Throughout Africa south of the Sahara, members of individual ethnic groups speak the same language and share other cultural features, such as religion. They also have common ways of organizing community and family activities.

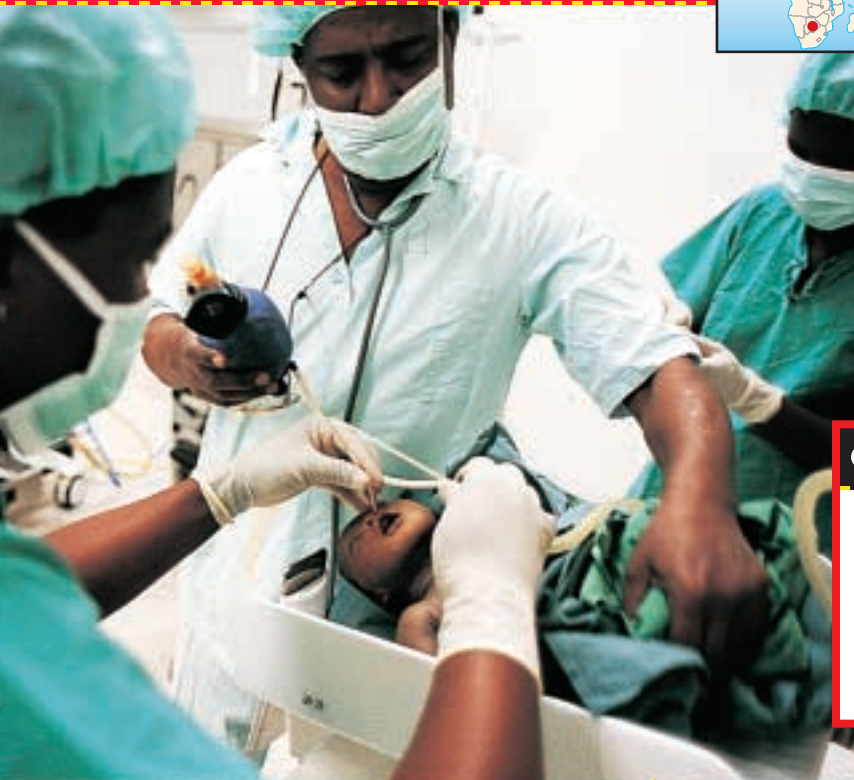
Growing Cities

Africa south of the Sahara is one of the least urbanized regions in the world, with only 30 percent of the population living in cities. The region’s urban areas, however, are growing so rapidly that Africa has the world’s fastest rate of **urbanization**, or movement of people from rural areas to cities. In 1950 only about 35 million Africans lived in cities. Today it is estimated that about 270 million Africans are urban dwellers.

Africans leave their rural villages for urban areas in order to find better job opportunities, health care, and public services. At the same time, population growth has caused cities to spread out into the countryside. Areas once made up of villages and towns



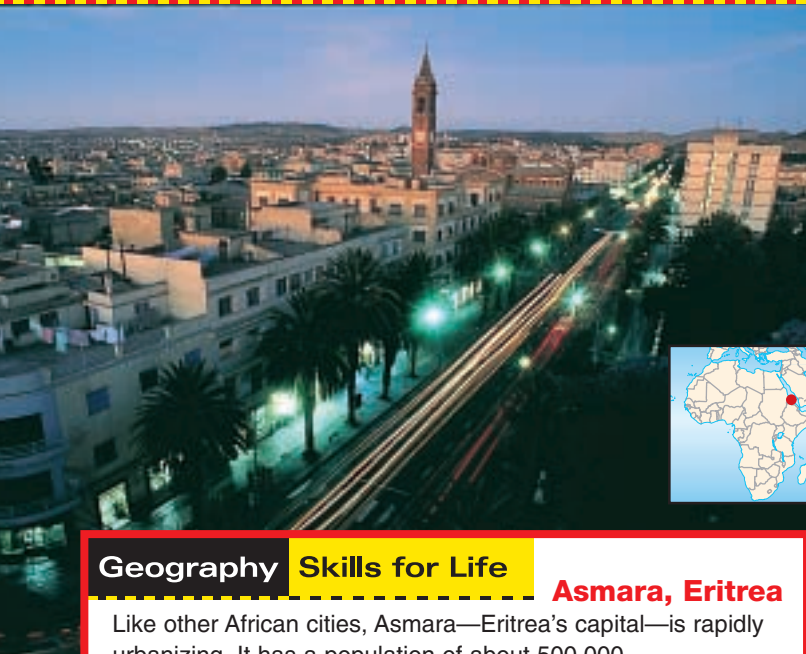
World Explorer



Geography Skills for Life

Medical Services In Botswana, one of the wealthiest countries in the region, government funds help support a growing health-care system.

Region How does Botswana’s health-care system compare with other health-care systems in this region?



Geography

Skills for Life

Asmara, Eritrea

Like other African cities, Asmara—Eritrea’s capital—is rapidly urbanizing. It has a population of about 500,000.

Region What drives rapid urbanization in Africa south of the Sahara?

have mushroomed into **service centers**, convenient business locations for rural dwellers, who travel there by foot, bus, or boat.

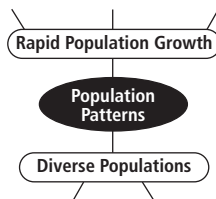
lack water or sanitary facilities. In Chapter 22 you will learn how Africans south of the Sahara are meeting the challenges of their surroundings.

TAKS Practice

SECTION 1 ASSESSMENT

Checking for Understanding

- 1. Define** sanitation, urbanization, service center.
- 2. Main Ideas** In a diagram like the one below, make notes about population patterns in Africa south of the Sahara. Then write a brief paragraph about the region’s population.



Critical Thinking

- 3. Drawing Conclusions** How can Africa south of the Sahara have rapid population growth and yet have relatively few people?
- 4. Identifying Cause and Effect** How do you think declining agricultural production in Africa south of the Sahara contributes to urbanization? Explain your answer.
- 5. Predicting Consequences** How will inadequate health care ultimately affect economies in this region? What steps would you recommend to help solve this problem?

Analyzing Maps

- 6. Region** Study the population density map on page 488. Which countries have low population densities? What physical features account for this fact? Might these countries’ population patterns change in the future? Explain.

Applying Geography

- 7. Uneven Population Density** Think about the population patterns in Africa south of the Sahara. Brainstorm the reasons most people in the region settle in coastal areas. Then write a paragraph that explains this pattern.

Guide to Reading

Consider What You Know

Global regions influence one another through trade, migration, and the exchange of ideas. What effect do you think new contacts, products, and ideas have on cultural traditions in each region?

Read to Find Out

- What were the main achievements of the ancient civilizations of Africa south of the Sahara?
- How did European colonization disrupt African patterns of life?
- What challenges did countries of the region face after independence?

Terms to Know

- domesticate
- apartheid
- universal suffrage

Places to Locate

- Kush
- Axum
- Ghana
- Kumbi
- Mali
- Songhai
- Timbuktu
- Ethiopia
- Liberia

History and Government



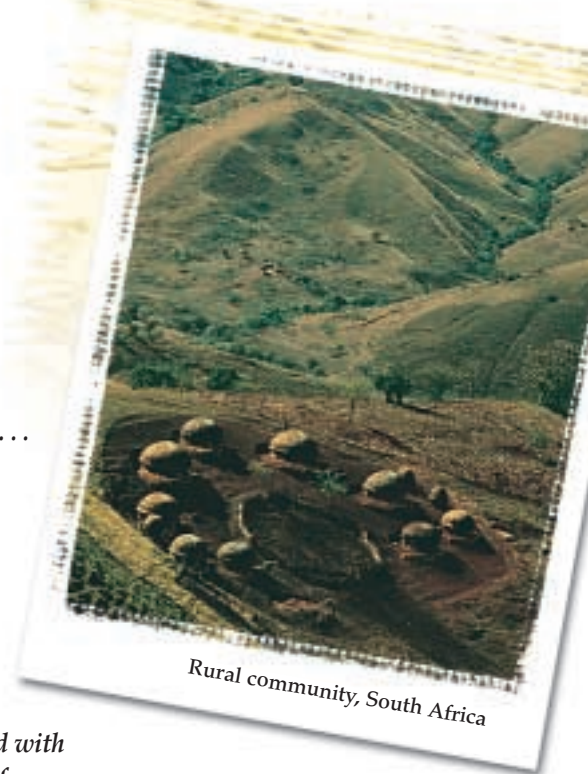
A Geographic View

Home of the Zulu

The [South African] district of Msinga, . . . as deep into deep Zululand as you can go, is the strongest bastion [place of survival] of inherited Zulu culture. . . .

As you drive from Greytown . . . through the Mpanza Valley, . . . the avocado, pecan, and macadamia plantations give way to aloes and thorn trees. You wind down the escarpment, and there below is a sweeping view over the green folds and steep valleys of Zululand, dotted with thatch huts and small patches of corn.

—Peter Godwin, “Zulu: People of Heaven, Heirs to Violence,”
National Geographic, August 2000



Rural community, South Africa

Kraals—the traditional homesteads of the Zulu people—have long been a familiar sight in what is now South Africa. Like many other ethnic groups in Africa south of the Sahara, the Zulu are descendants of the Bantu peoples. Massive Bantu migrations and movements of other peoples shaped the region’s early history and are still influential today.

African Roots

Tens of thousands of years ago, people were already moving from place to place across Africa to hunt and gather food. No written records exist of these people, but early paintings in places as widespread as Niger in the north and Namibia in the south offer clues to their ways of life. Scenes painted in caves and on rocks are filled with

people hunting, fishing, and celebrating. Later paintings show new peoples involved in new activities—farming and herding.

First Civilizations

Around 2000 B.C. migrants fleeing a dramatic shift in climate joined other settlers in Africa south of the Sahara. For thousands of years, the climate to the north had been mild and wet. People who once hunted and scavenged for food learned to plant seeds and **domesticate**, or tame, animals. They developed agriculture in the Sahara area. Around 3000 to 2500 B.C., however, the climate became hotter and drier. Plants shriveled, forests perished, and rivers evaporated. Forced to move in order to survive, many people migrated south. They took with them their knowledge of raising crops and animals.

In northeast Africa, the Nile Valley remained fertile and gave life to the great Egyptian civilization. Between 2000 and 1000 B.C., the Egyptians pressed south, bringing various cultures along the Nile under their control. When Egyptian civilization began to fade, the cultures under its sway rose to power. The kingdom of **Kush**, in what is now Sudan, extended its rule north into Egyptian territory. The Kushites then pushed south along the Nile, building a civilization around a new capital called Meroë (MEHR•oh•WEE). Kush flourished until the A.D. 300s, when its trade routes were attacked by **Axum**, a powerful trading empire in northern Ethiopia.

Empires in the West

Several centuries later, trading empires began to gain strength in West Africa. Today the West African countries of Ghana and Mali are named after two of these ancient empires. **Ghana**, one of the earliest of these trading kingdoms, emerged around A.D. 700. Its empire grew rich by trading gold for salt brought by camel caravans across the Sahara. Peoples south of the Sahara highly valued salt for use as a food preservative.

Gold was plentiful in Ghana. The Spanish-Arab geographer al-Bakri, who traveled to West Africa in the 1000s, reported, for example, that even the king's dogs wore collars of gold and silver. Ghana's wealth was reflected in its large capital, **Kumbi**. This prosperous empire, which created a tax collection system and charged tariffs on imports, flourished for almost 500 years.

The trading empires of **Mali** and **Songhai** (SAWNG•HY) succeeded Ghana and also grew rich from the gold-for-salt trade. Mali, which extended west to the Atlantic and was larger than Egypt, had as its center the wealthy city of **Timbuktu**. Songhai eventually took over Mali and then stretched east, prospering until about 1600, when it was overrun by Moroccans, a people from the north.

Bantu Migrations

In central and southern Africa, Bantu-speaking peoples had established settlements by A.D. 800. Although the origins of the Bantu and their routes of migration are debated, many historians believe that they spread across one-third of the continent. In addition to founding the central African kingdoms

NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC
MAP STUDY

Early African Kingdoms

 Axum	 Mali
 Kush	 Gold-mining areas
 Songhai	 Trade routes
 Ghana	

Geography Skills for Life

1. **Interpreting Maps** Where did most of the early trade routes begin?
2. **Applying Geography Skills** How did location affect the rise of early West African kingdoms?

Find NGS online map resources @ www.nationalgeographic.com/maps

of Kongo (Congo), Luba, and Luanda, the Bantu established states to the southeast in what are today Tanzania, Malawi, Zambia, and Zimbabwe. The influence of the Bantu migration continues, with about 150 million Bantu speakers living in Africa today.

European Colonization

Slowly, word of the wealth of Africa's kingdoms reached Europe. Europeans began trading with Africans as early as the 1200s, bringing gold and other African goods to Europe. By the time Columbus set sail, Portuguese explorers were sailing along the African coast. They set up trading posts and way stations along coastal areas, where enslaved Africans were held for transport. Foreign travelers who reached the trading centers of Timbuktu, Kano, Gao, and Wangara in the west and Kilwa, Mombasa, and Sofala in the east were impressed with the bustling, abundant markets and cultural life.

The Slave Trade in Africa

By the 1600s and 1700s, Europeans were trading extensively with Africans. They sought African gold, ivory, textiles, and enslaved workers. African chiefs and kings had enslaved and traded prisoners of war for centuries. Arab traders had brought enslaved Africans to the Islamic world since the A.D. 800s. The slave trade greatly increased when Europeans began shipping Africans to the Americas to work on large plantations where sugar, tobacco, rice, and cotton were cultivated.

Huge numbers of people from the African interior were sold into slavery. As early as 1526, Nzinga



Geography Skills for Life

- Interpreting Maps** What were the major destination points for enslaved people leaving Africa?
- Applying Geography Skills** How did the arrival of Europeans change the slave trade in Africa?

Find NGS online map resources @ www.nationalgeographic.com/maps

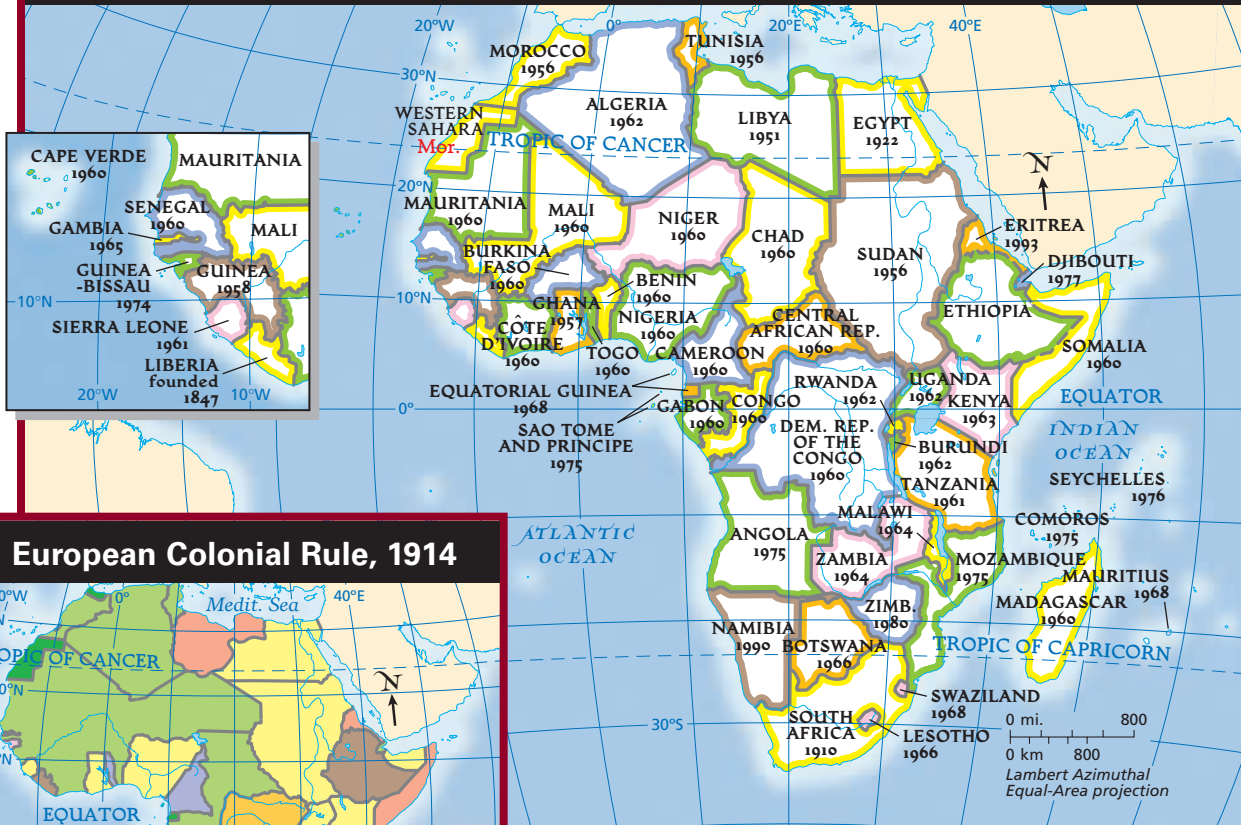
Mbemba, the king of Kongo, deplored the actions of some African rulers. He also complained to the king of Portugal about Portuguese slave merchants:

“ [They] seize upon our subjects . . . and cause them to be sold; and so great, sir, is their corruption . . . that our country is being utterly depopulated. ”

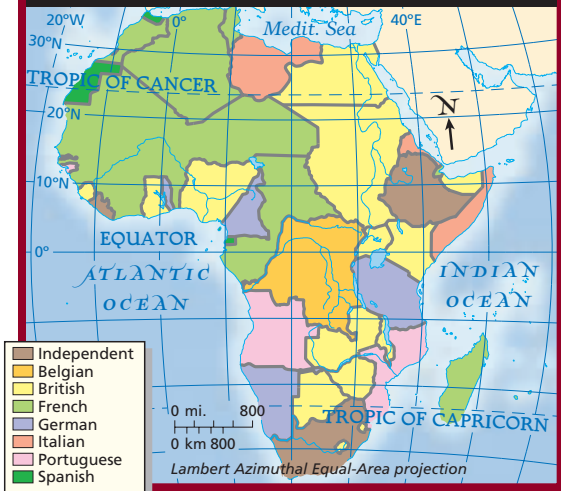
Nzinga Mbemba, quoted by Basil Davidson, in *African Kingdoms*, 1966

Once captured and sold, enslaved Africans faced a terrible trip across the Atlantic Ocean as human cargo in a ship's hold. This passage from Africa claimed millions of African lives. The loss of so

African Independence



European Colonial Rule, 1914



Geography Skills for Life

- 1. Interpreting Maps** Which two European powers ruled much of Africa south of the Sahara?
- 2. Applying Geography Skills** How did colonialism affect African countries after independence?

Find NGS online map resources @ www.nationalgeographic.com/maps

many young people to the slave trade was a major setback to the societies they left behind.

Government

Europe Divides and Rules

In the 1800s European powers regarded the region as a source of raw materials for their growing industries and a potential market for European manufactured goods. European countries quickly laid claim to African territory, and by 1914, all of Africa except **Ethiopia** and **Liberia** was under European control.

In setting up their colonies, Europeans ignored African objections and created boundaries that often cut across ethnic homelands. By doing so they set African groups against one another and strengthened European rule in the region.

Among the earliest foreigners to explore Africa's interior, European missionaries often opposed the harsh treatment of Africans by the colonial traders and officials. Yet they, too, promoted European culture and weakened traditional African ways. European businessmen also disrupted African village

Ethnic Groups, Colonial Rule, and Conflict

Case Study: Conflict in Nigeria

1960	Nigeria becomes independent; ethnic tensions divide the country.
1966	Military officials take control of Nigeria's government.
1967	The Eastern Region secedes from Nigeria; its largely Ibo population sets up the Republic of Biafra.
1967–1970	A civil war between Nigerian government forces and Biafran rebels results in Biafra's defeat; war casualties number about 1 million.
1970s	Military officials rule harshly; corruption and mismanagement squander Nigeria's oil wealth.
1980s	Brief period of civilian rule is followed by a return to military dictatorship.
1993	Military allows free elections but annuls vote; riots sweep Nigeria.
1998–1999	Nigeria returns to civilian rule; free elections are held.
2000	Tensions increase between Nigeria's Muslim and Christian communities.



Geography Skills for Life

1. Interpreting Maps List three examples in which political boundaries divide an ethnic group.

2. Applying Geography Skills What problems might result from the political divisions created by colonial powers?

Find NGS online map resources @ www.nationalgeographic.com/maps

life by replacing locally centered agriculture with huge plantation economies. These economies focused on the production of cash crops like coffee and tea for world markets.

From Colonies to Countries

Although European rule dealt serious blows to African life, many Africans benefited from new educational opportunities and city development. Soon some Africans demanded a share in government. By the mid-1900s, educated Africans had launched independence movements, and in the second half

of the century, the colonies became independent. (See map on page 522.) These new countries faced difficult challenges, often the result of their colonial legacy. European powers, for example, had used African colonies as a source of raw materials for their industries. They also set up colonial economies that met European, rather than African, needs. Colonial governments did not involve Africans much in government, nor did they give Africans models for democracy. At independence, many of the new African countries adopted the political boundaries set earlier by the colonial powers. As the map above shows, these boundaries divided people of similar

language and ethnic background. Within the new countries, rival ethnic groups struggled for power, and civil wars erupted.

Nigeria: A Colonial Legacy

An example of ethnic conflict in the region is Nigeria. The time line next to the map on page 523 shows key events in Nigeria’s ongoing ethnic struggles since independence. Nigeria’s problems stem from its colonial past.

In 1914 the British had formed the colony of Nigeria from several smaller ethnic territories. As a result, many different ethnic and religious groups lived within Nigeria’s boundaries. In the north, various peoples had developed cultures based on centuries-old Islamic influences from North Africa. Those in the south had created ways of life based on traditional African religions or on Christianity. Despite these differences, Nigerians united to resist British rule. In 1960 the colony of Nigeria finally became an independent country. The ethnic and religious differences inherited from the past soon erupted in civil war, however. Although the civil war eventually ended, ethnic and religious divisions continue to plague Nigeria today as it moves from harsh military rule to democracy.



Nelson Mandela

South Africa: Road to Freedom

During the early 1900s, South Africa became independent of British rule. For most of the century, however, the country’s white minority population ran the government. It imposed a policy known as **apartheid** (uh•PAHR•TAYT), or separation of the races, on South Africa’s black majority and racially mixed peoples. Under apartheid, nonwhite South Africans were denied political rights and equality with whites in education, jobs, and housing. They were segregated into communities with substandard housing and few government services.

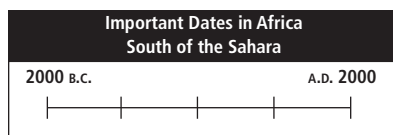
Internal unrest and international pressures finally forced South Africa to end apartheid in the early 1990s. Nelson Mandela, the country’s most popular anti-apartheid leader, was released after 27 years in prison. In 1994 South Africa held its first election based on **universal suffrage**, or voting rights for all adult citizens. Nelson Mandela became South Africa’s first black president. Within a short time, South Africa moved from a repressive society to one committed to democracy. Today, South Africa faces the challenge of ensuring a better quality of life for many nonwhite South Africans.

TX TAKS Practice

SECTION 2 ASSESSMENT

Checking for Understanding

- 1. Define** domesticate, apartheid, universal suffrage.
- 2. Main Ideas** Complete a time line of Africa’s history based on the model below. Then use your time line to write a summary of the region’s achievements and experiences of the past and present.



Critical Thinking

- 3. Making Generalizations** How did contact with other empires influence the West African empires?
- 4. Drawing Conclusions** Why do you think the West African trading kingdoms were willing to trade gold for salt?
- 5. Identifying Cause and Effect** In what ways did colonialism affect the region’s development and set the stage for current conflicts in Africa south of the Sahara?

Analyzing Maps

- 6. Movement** Study the map of early African kingdoms on page 520. To what seas and oceans did the early trade routes lead? What river was a major trade route?

Applying Geography

- 7. Movement of People** List some of the major human migrations in Africa south of the Sahara. Then choose one migration, and write a paragraph about the motivation for and the effects of the migration.

Guide to Reading

Consider What You Know

Think about ways in which Africans influence global culture. How do you think aspects of African culture have spread to other parts of the world?

Read to Find Out

- What languages do people in Africa south of the Sahara speak?
- What are the major religions in Africa south of the Sahara?
- What art forms have peoples of the region developed?
- How do lifestyles among peoples of the region differ? How are they similar?

Terms to Know

- mass culture
- lingua franca
- oral tradition
- extended family
- clan
- nuclear family

Places to Locate

- Eritrea
- Madagascar
- Tanzania
- Dar es Salaam

Cultures and Lifestyles

NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC

A Geographic View

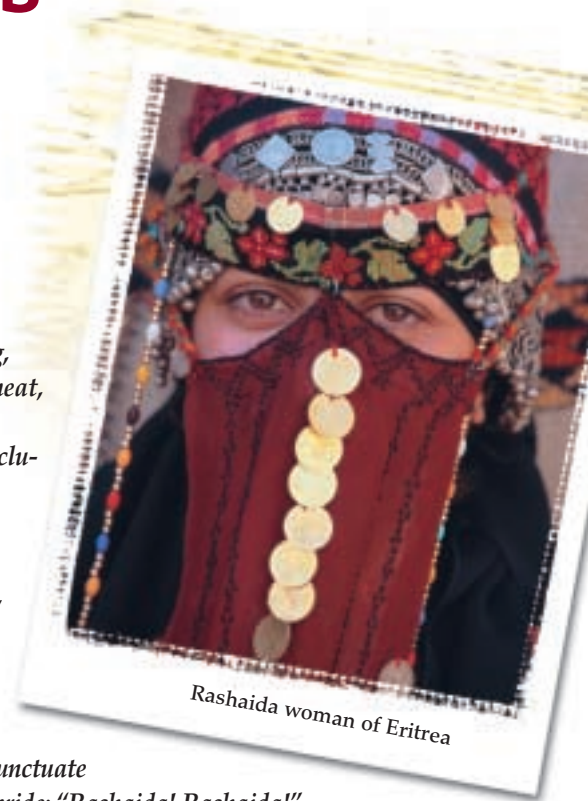
Wedding Traditions

Guests begin to arrive . . . [for] a wedding week of camel racing, dancing, and feasting on goat meat, wheat porridge, and sweet tea.

Bekitta, the bride, stays in seclusion, veiled behind an elaborate mask called a burqa, which she has painstakingly decorated. . . .

When the day cools at sunset, a woman breaks into a dance. Clapping out the rhythm, the men sing: "The sun is setting, so we sing before the dark!" As she swirls in perfumed skirts, they punctuate their song with shouts of tribal pride: "Rashaida! Rashaida!"

—Carol Beckwith and Angela Fisher, "African Marriage Rituals," National Geographic, November 1999



Rashaida woman of Eritrea

Ethnic groups such as the Rashaida of Eritrea find their identity in such traditions as wedding customs. People in Africa south of the Sahara share a history of colonial rule and struggle for independence. A further bond is **mass culture**, or popular culture promoted by the media. Despite general similarities, however, the region's ethnic groups are as diverse as they are numerous. In this section you will learn about the languages, religions, arts, and lifestyles of Africa south of the Sahara.

Languages

At least 2,000 different languages are spoken in Africa today. As the map on page 523 shows, language experts put the many ethnic groups and languages of Africa south of the Sahara into six major

categories: Congo-Kordofanian, Nilo-Saharan, Afro-Asiatic, Khoisan, Malayo-Polynesian, and Afrikaans, an Indo-European language.

Languages in the African groups—Congo-Kordofanian, Nilo-Saharan, Afro-Asiatic, and Khoisan—are the most widely spoken and the most diverse. Originating on the African continent, these languages include some 800 Bantu-based Congo-Kordofanian languages spoken by peoples in central, eastern, and southern Africa. Among these are Swahili, Zulu, and Kongo. The Bantu-related languages of Guinea coast peoples also belong to the Congo-Kordofanian group.

The Sudanic peoples of the northwest and northeast corners of the region speak Afro-Asiatic languages. The Afro-Asiatic group includes African languages, such as Hausa and Fulani, as well as languages of North Africa and Southwest Asia, such as Berber and Arabic.

Some languages spoken in the region are non-African. People on the island of **Madagascar** speak

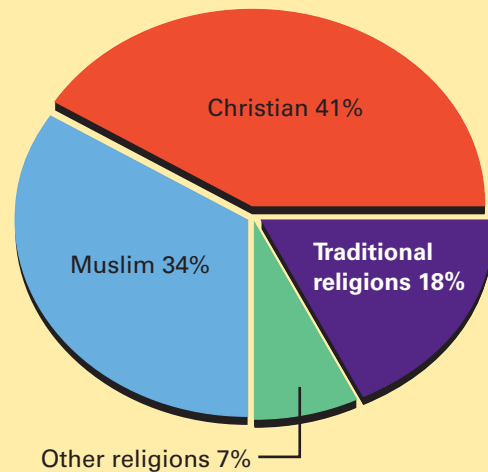
the Malagasy language in the Malayo-Polynesian language group. Indo-European languages spoken in Africa include English, French, and Afrikaans. Derived from the dialect of early Dutch settlers in South Africa, Afrikaans also contains words adapted from English, French, German, and African languages. Africa's Indo-European languages were introduced by European traders, administrators, and missionaries. Some have become the official languages of today's African countries. French or English often serves as a **lingua franca**, or common language, throughout the region.

Religions

A variety of religions claim followers in Africa south of the Sahara. Most people are Christian or Muslim. Christians make up the largest religious group. Missionaries and traders from Egypt and the Mediterranean area introduced Christianity to Ethiopia in the A.D. 300s. The Ethiopian Coptic

Africa South of the Sahara: Religions

Religion	Number of Followers
Christian	269,000,000
Muslim	220,000,000
Traditional religions	118,000,000
Other religions	50,000,000



Sources: World Almanac, 2001; Britannica Book of the Year, 2000

Geography Skills for Life

1. **Interpreting Graphs** What is the dominant religion in Africa south of the Sahara?

2. **Applying Geography Skills** What factors account for the variety of religions in Africa? Give examples to support your answer.



Geography Skills for Life

Traditional Dancers Dance is an important religious and social tradition of the Masai of Kenya.

Region What are some common characteristics of traditional African religions?

Church has played an important role in Ethiopian life ever since. Christian beliefs did not spread among other African peoples until the colonial period, however. Since then, many Africans have adopted Christianity, especially along the coasts, where Africans had greater contact with foreigners. Most Muslims in the region live in West Africa, where Muslims ruled the kingdoms of Mali and Songhai along the Niger River during the 1400s and 1500s. Today Nigeria has the largest Islamic population of any African country south of the Sahara.

Traditional religions in Africa south of the Sahara are numerous and diverse, but they have many common elements. For example, most traditional religions profess a belief in the existence of a supreme being and a ranked order of lesser deities. In the late 1700s, Olaudah Equiano, an African known for his vivid account of slavery, stated that the supreme god of his people, the Igbo, was “one Creator of all things, and he lives in the sun, . . . and governs all events, especially . . . deaths.” These same characteristics describe the supreme beings of other African groups. Most followers of traditional African religions also believe in the existence of nature spirits and honor distant ancestors and family members who have recently died.

Religion plays an integral role in everyday life in Africa. Although many followers of different religions live together peacefully, conflict sometimes occurs between competing religious groups. In recent years Nigeria and Sudan have been scenes of conflict among Christians, Muslims, and followers of traditional African religions.

Education

Africans have always valued education, but it has taken many different forms. In the past, African children did not attend school but apprenticed to trades such as wood carving and metalworking. Large-scale, formal schooling became widespread in the early 1900s, as European powers sought to fill civil service and industrial jobs with African workers.

Educational Advances

Since independence, higher education has expanded. In 1960 only 120,000 students in the region enrolled in universities, but by the late 1990s more than 2 million had. Public school attendance

and literacy have also increased, but only about 60 percent of people aged 15 and older can read and write. Rural areas, which often are short of schools, materials, and qualified teachers, generally have lower literacy rates than do urban areas. In some places few children receive even an elementary education; parents there are too poor to send their children to school.

Culture

New Ways of Learning

Television has become an efficient teaching tool, but exposure to newer technology is limited. Fewer than 10 personal computers per 1,000 people exist in the region, and Internet service is not yet widely available. In some countries, such as South Africa and Zambia, however, use of the Internet is becoming more widespread.

The Arts

African art, often expressing traditional religious beliefs, comes in many forms, from ritual masks to

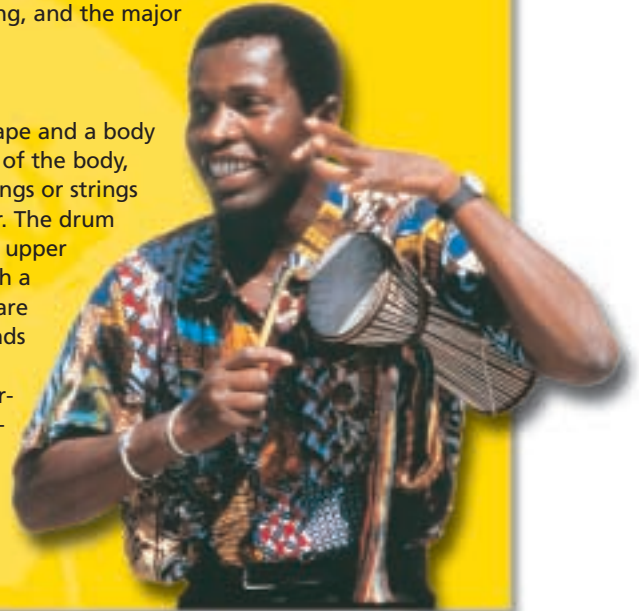


music of AFRICA SOUTH OF THE SAHARA

Important elements in African music are complex rhythms, improvisation, call-and-response singing, and the major role of dance.

Instrument Spotlight

The **talking drum** has an hourglass shape and a body carved from wood. On the open ends of the body, skins are held together by leather thongs or strings that stretch from one rim to the other. The drum is held under the arm and against the upper torso, and the drum head is struck with a curved wooden mallet. As the strings are squeezed down with the arm, the heads are stretched tighter and the pitch of the drum becomes higher. Many different pitches can be achieved by loosening and tightening the strings, and this gives the drum its characteristic “talking” sound.



World Music: A Cultural Legacy Hear music of this region on Disc 2, Tracks 1–6.

rhythmic drum music to folktales. Strong examples of African visual arts include 2000-year-old terracotta heads produced by the Nok culture and bronze plaques that appeared in the palace courtyard of the Benin kingdom. Another art medium flourishing today is textiles, with patterns reflecting distinct ethnic groups—Ghana’s *kente* cloth or East Africa’s *khangas* cloth, for example.

Music and dance are art forms that are part of everyday African life. Entire communities participate, while dancers wearing masks honor specific deities, spirits of their ancestors, or a special occasion, such as a birth. Today African music is popular around the world and has influenced contemporary music. Paul Simon, Sting, and Peter Gabriel are only a few of the popular Western

musicians who have borrowed from African music. In fact, the entire blues and jazz tradition of North America has its roots in the music enslaved Africans brought with them.

Oral literature, which is chanted, sung, or recited, has a strong tradition in Africa south of the Sahara. **Oral tradition**, the practice of passing down stories from generation to generation by word of mouth, is evident in folktales, myths, and proverbs and has helped preserve African history. Storytellers command great respect with tales of how the world began. In Mali, the Fulani people have this version:

“*At the beginning there was a huge drop of milk.
Then Doondari came and created the stone.
Then the stone created iron;
And iron created fire;
And fire created water;
And water created air.*”

Ulli Beier, trans. in *The Origins of Life and Death*, 1966

CLICK HERE



Student Web Activity Visit the **Glencoe World Geography** Web site at tx.geography.glencoe.com and click on Student Web Activities—Chapter 21 for an activity about West African textiles.

Written literature developed mainly in north-east Africa, where societies came in contact with early Mediterranean systems of writing. In recent times written literature has become prominent in Africa south of the Sahara as well. Two Africans from the region have won the Nobel Prize in literature—Wole Soyinka of Nigeria in 1986 and Nadine Gordimer of South Africa in 1991.

Varied Lifestyles

Lifestyles in the region are as varied as the ethnic groups who live there. **Tanzania**, with some 120 ethnic groups, is a perfect example. The Sukuma farm the land south of Lake Victoria, and the Chaggas grow coffee in the plains around Kilimanjaro and conduct business in small cities like Moshi and Arusha. In the north live the nomadic cattleherders, the Masai, and in major cities, such as **Dar es Salaam**, Western urban lifestyles and dress prevail.

No matter how different their lifestyles, most Africans value strong family ties. In rural areas, most people still live in **extended families**, or households made up of several generations. Families also are organized into **clans**, large groups of people descended from an early common ancestor. Individuals often marry within their clan. In the cities, however, the **nuclear family**—made up of husband, wife, and children—is rapidly replacing the extended family.



Geography Skills for Life

Urban Shopping A supermarket in Gaborone, Botswana, provides shoppers with a variety of food products.

Place In which areas of Africa south of the Sahara do Western lifestyles prevail?

TAKS Practice

SECTION 3 ASSESSMENT

Checking for Understanding

- Define** mass culture, lingua franca, oral tradition, extended family, clan, nuclear family.
- Main Ideas** On a web diagram like the one below, fill in information about the cultural features of this region. Then write a paragraph describing one cultural feature.



Critical Thinking

- Comparing and Contrasting** How are urban families in the region different from rural families? How are they similar?
- Making Inferences** Why do you think storytellers are respected figures in African communities?
- Making Generalizations** Write three general statements to summarize religion in Africa south of the Sahara. Support your generalizations with specific examples from your reading.

Analyzing Maps

- Place** Study the map on page 523. What language/ethnic groups are common in countries bordering the Sahara?

Applying Geography

- Lifestyles** Think about the varied lifestyles in Africa south of the Sahara, and study the population density map on page 488. Would people living in extended families be more common in Namibia or South Africa? Explain.

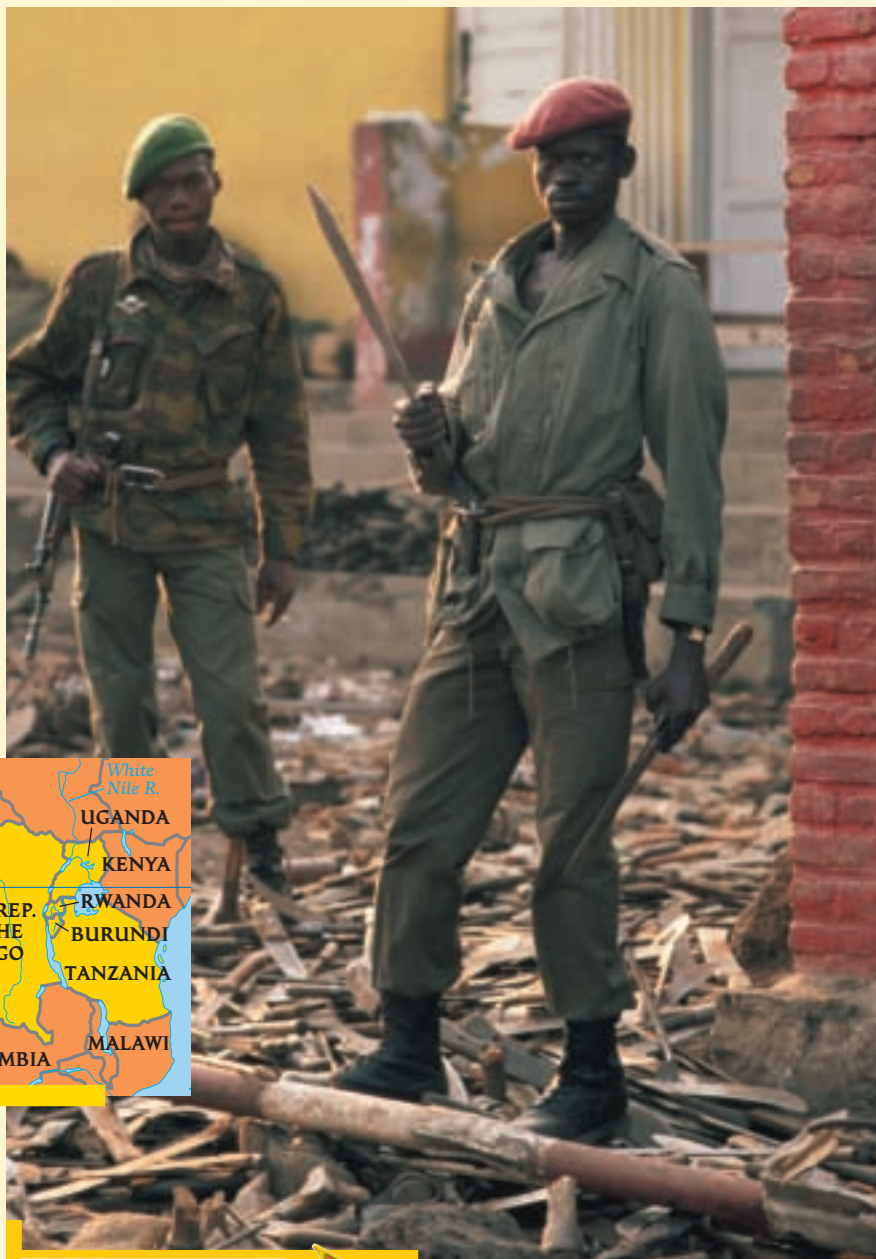
CONFLICT IN CENTRAL AFRICA: HUTU VERSUS TUTSI

THE STORY OF AFRICA in the last two centuries includes the tale of European conquest and its aftermath. Beginning in the late 1800s, European nations set up colonies in most of Africa. Although African nations have since gained independence, the lingering effects of European rule have caused instability and conflict in many regions.

Central Africa, home to the peoples of Rwanda and Burundi, is one of Africa's most unstable regions. Hutu and Tutsi peoples lived there peacefully for centuries. Since the late 1950s, however, the two groups have been at war. Their conflict has its roots in a tortured history in which Europe played a key role.

Exploration and Colonization

In the early 1800s, Africa was a mystery to Europeans. Few who ventured into Africa's interior came out alive. But with improved steam-powered transportation and new medicines to treat disease, mid-century explorers successfully made their way inland. One of the first explorers was British doctor and missionary David Livingstone. Besides finding unspoiled beauty and rich



Soldiers patrol in the Democratic Republic of the Congo, where Rwandans have come seeking refuge.



◀ Foreign ministers of 14 European nations decide the future of Africa at the Berlin Conference in 1884.

ethnic cultures, he discovered a flourishing slave trade. Livingstone called for Europeans to spread commerce, Christianity, and their civilization throughout Africa to stop the evil trade.

The European powers—mainly Britain, France, Portugal, and Germany—were competing to expand their empires and to protect trade routes. With the outcry against slavery, Europeans moved swiftly into Africa. In less than 40 years, they carved the continent into more than 40 colonies.

Europe's Legacy

The Europeans introduced new crops, legal systems, basic schooling, roads, and medicine—all of which brought benefits to Africans. For many Africans, however, especially those in Central Africa, European commercial and labor practices caused hardships and great loss of life.

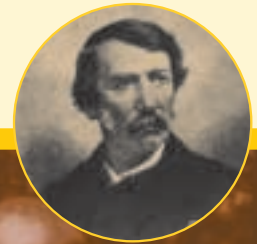
At the Berlin Conference of 1884-1885, where European powers divided Africa, Rwanda and Burundi were given to Germany. In 1919 the lands were awarded to Belgium. Both the Germans and Belgians viewed the Tutsi as a superior people. Hence the Tutsi were favored and were promoted in society. Most Hutu were exploited farmers. They were denied positions of authority. The stage was set for conflict.

The killing began in 1959 with a Hutu uprising in Rwanda. When Burundi and Rwanda achieved independence in 1962, Hutu and Tutsi political groups began a struggle for control of the two countries. Violence led to more violence, spilling into the neighboring countries of Tanzania, Uganda, and the Democratic Republic of the Congo. Since the 1960s, more than a million Hutu and Tutsi men, women, and children have lost their lives. Millions more have been driven from their homes in a cycle of violence that seems to have no end.

Looking Ahead

Much of Africa today bears the scars of colonial rule. Why are peace and prosperity in Central Africa difficult to achieve?

NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC SOCIETY



- 1850s** Dr. Livingstone (photo above) explores Africa
- 1884–1885** Leaders at Berlin Conference give Rwanda and Burundi to Germany
- 1881–1912** Europe occupies Africa, claiming more than 40 colonies
- 1919** Belgium controls Rwanda and Burundi
- 1959** Hutu rebel in Rwanda
- 1962** Rwanda and Burundi gain independence
- 1970s–1980s** Violence escalates; refugees (background photo) flee to neighboring countries
- 1990s** Rwandan and Burundian governments work toward democracy; fighting continues
- 1997** War crimes trials begin in Rwanda and Burundi



**TAKS
Practice**

Making Generalizations

Suppose a friend says, “Both times I’ve been to Philadelphia, I heard someone on the street speaking Spanish. Philadelphia must have had a recent wave of immigrants from Spain.” Your friend formed a generalization about Philadelphia. Whether the generalization is valid, or true, depends largely on the supporting details.

Learning the Skill

Generalizations are conclusions or judgments that people form based on the facts at hand. Using knowledge and experience, people make generalizations to help understand and explain the world. Geographers, like scientists, develop generalizations based on observation. Then they test these theories against further evidence they collect. This process is key to the scientific method.

Generalizations help us understand the world, but they can sometimes be misleading. For example, the generalization about Philadelphia was based on only two visits. But what are the real reasons the friend heard people speaking Spanish while visiting that city? Were the speakers long-time citizens who grew up speaking Spanish in a traditionally Hispanic neighborhood? To say that Philadelphia has had a recent wave of immigrants from Spain may be an *overgeneralization*, or a statement that is too broad.

Use the following steps to make useful generalizations:

- **Gather facts, examples, or statements related to the topic.**
- **Identify similarities or patterns among these facts.**
- **Use these similarities or patterns to form generalizations about the topic.**



▲ South Africans line up to vote in the country’s historic election of 1994.

- **Test your generalizations against other facts and examples.**

63 percent of the vote; de Klerk’s party, the National Party, received only 20 percent.

Practicing the Skill

Complete the following activities about making generalizations.

1. Identify a generalization you have recently heard.
2. Describe ways you can avoid making an overgeneralization.
3. Write a generalization based on the following statements:

In 1994 Nelson Mandela succeeded F.W. de Klerk as president of South Africa. Mandela’s party, the African National Congress, received

Applying the Skill

Read an article about Africa south of the Sahara in a newspaper or on an Internet news site. Write a generalization based on what you read. Provide details from the article to support your generalization.



The **Glencoe Skillbuilder Interactive Workbook, Level 2** provides instruction and practice in key social studies skills.



SECTION 1

Population Patterns (pp. 515–518)

Terms to Know

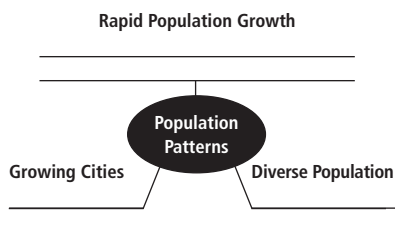
- sanitation
- urbanization
- service center

Key Points

- The uneven distribution of the 629 million people in Africa south of the Sahara is linked to the region's physical geography.
- The spread of AIDS has significantly impacted health and economic development in the region.
- Africa south of the Sahara is urbanizing faster than any other region in the world.
- Thousands of ethnic groups make up the population of Africa south of the Sahara.

Organizing Your Notes

Use a diagram like the one below to help you organize your notes for this section.



SECTION 2

History and Government (pp. 519–524)

Terms to Know

- domesticate
- apartheid
- universal suffrage

Key Points

- The movement of different groups, including the migrations of Bantu peoples, helped shape the history of Africa south of the Sahara.
- From the A.D. 700s to the 1600s, powerful trading empires arose and prospered in West Africa.
- European colonization cut across traditional ethnic territories.
- Most of the countries in Africa south of the Sahara won independence in the second half of the 1900s.

Organizing Your Notes

Use a table like the one below to organize your notes about each major stage in the history of Africa south of the Sahara.

Early Period	Colonial	Independent

SECTION 3

Cultures and Lifestyles (pp. 525–529)

Terms to Know

- mass culture
- lingua franca
- oral tradition
- extended family
- clan
- nuclear family

Key Points

- The many languages of Africans south of the Sahara contribute to the diversity of the region.
- The peoples of the region are followers of Christianity, Islam, or traditional African religions.
- The various art forms created by Africans south of the Sahara have influenced cultures around the world.
- Although they have diverse lifestyles, most peoples in the region value family ties, and many live in extended families.

Organizing Your Notes

Create an outline using the format below to help you organize your notes for this section.

Cultures and Lifestyles	
I. Languages	
A. African	1.
	2.
B. Indo-European	1.
	2.
II. Religions	

Reviewing Key Terms

Write the key term that best completes each of the following sentences. Refer to the Terms to Know in the Summary & Study Guide on page 533.

1. A strong ____ has helped preserve many literary forms in Africa south of the Sahara.
2. A(n) ____ includes several generations.
3. The strict separation of races in South Africa was called ____.
4. Under ____, or equal voting rights, all adults of voting age may cast a vote.
5. ____ unites African people of different ethnic backgrounds.
6. Rapid ____ has caused problems in the region's cities.
7. A(n) ____ includes a husband and wife and their children.
8. ____ and disease are important health issues in Africa south of the Sahara.
9. People began to ____ animals many years ago.

Reviewing Facts

SECTION 1

1. What physical features influence population density in Africa south of the Sahara?
2. Why is food production in the region inadequate?

SECTION 2

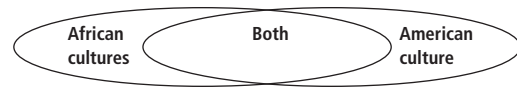
3. What ancient kingdoms and empires developed in East Africa? In West Africa?
4. What was the major development in Africa after World War II?

SECTION 3

5. What religions are practiced in Africa south of the Sahara?
6. What is the origin of many of the art forms of Africa south of the Sahara?

Critical Thinking

1. **Predicting Consequences** In what ways has urbanization affected traditional ways of life in Africa south of the Sahara? Explain.
2. **Drawing Conclusions** How did trade play a major role in early African societies?
3. **Comparing and Contrasting** Use a Venn diagram like the one below to compare and contrast the role of music in African cultures and in American culture. Then write a paragraph summarizing your conclusions.



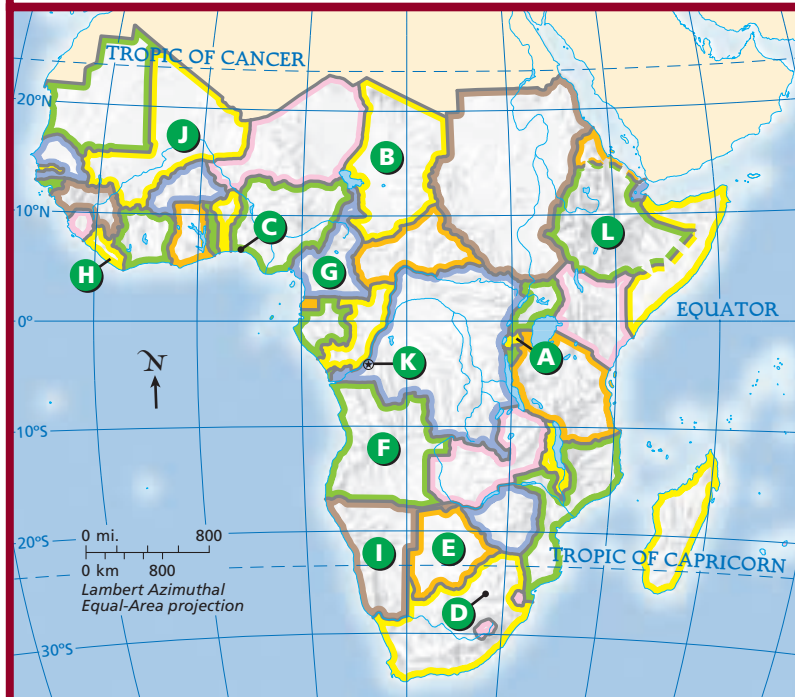
NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC

Locating Places

Africa South of the Sahara: Political Geography

Match the letters on the map with the places in Africa south of the Sahara. Write your answers on a sheet of paper.

- | | | |
|-----------------|-------------|--------------|
| 1. Angola | 5. Namibia | 9. Chad |
| 2. Johannesburg | 6. Botswana | 10. Cameroon |
| 3. Mali | 7. Lagos | 11. Ethiopia |
| 4. Liberia | 8. Rwanda | 12. Kinshasa |





Self-Check Quiz Visit the **Glencoe World Geography** Web site at tx.geography.glencoe.com and click on Self-Check Quizzes—Chapter 21 to prepare for the Chapter Test.

Using the Regional Atlas

Refer to the Regional Atlas on pages 486–489.

- 1. Human-Environment Interaction** What is the relationship between areas of high population density and bodies of water?
- 2. Location** Where are many of the capitals of West African countries located? Why do you think this pattern emerged?

Thinking Like a Geographer

How did past climate changes in the Sahara affect population patterns? What predictions can you make about future climate changes in the region?

Problem-Solving Activity

Contemporary Issues Case Study Many cities in Africa south of the Sahara have rapidly growing populations. Research and write a case study about an African city. Identify the processes causing the city's growth, such as location, resources, and transportation. Then describe the challenges the city faces and outline solutions. Design and draw maps and graphics for presentation.

GeoJournal

Newspaper Article Use your GeoJournal to write a newspaper article about an aspect of the cultural geography of Africa south of the Sahara. Remember to answer the 5-W questions (Who? What? Where? When? Why?). Your article should be impartial and factual, but be sure to include details that will hold your readers' interest.



Technology Activity

Using an Electronic Spreadsheet

Using a world almanac, select 10 countries in Africa south of the Sahara, and find information about their birthrates, death rates, life expectancies, and rates of population change. Create a spreadsheet to compare and contrast these figures. If possible, also create graphs to illustrate your findings. Then write a summary of your analysis and possible explanations for your statistical findings.



TAKS Test Practice

Choose the best answer for the following multiple-choice question. If you have trouble answering the question, use the process of elimination to narrow your choices.

Facts About Tanzania

	1996	2001
Population	29,058,470	36,200,000
Percent urban	21	22
Percent rural	79	78
Population density of entire country	80 per sq. mi. (31 per sq. km)	99 per sq. mi. (38 per sq. km)
Population of current capital, Dar es Salaam	1,400,000	2,347,000

Sources: *World Almanac*, 1997, 2001;
2001 World Population Data Sheet

- Which of the following statements regarding Tanzania's population is NOT implied by the chart?
 - Dar es Salaam's population increased by about 950,000 people.
 - Between 1996 and 2000, many of Tanzania's residents moved out of cities and into traditional rural settings.
 - The percentage of Tanzanians living in urban areas increased from 21 percent to 22 percent.
 - Tanzania's population density was lower in 1996 than it was in 2000.



Some standardized test questions ask you to answer a question using a chart. Do not try to answer these types of questions from memory. First, read the question. Then skim the chart. Next, read each answer choice, deciding whether it is correct or incorrect by referring to the chart. Finally, choose the answer choice that is correct according to the chart.