UNIT SUMMARY

Africa below the Sahara for long periods had only limited contact with the civilizations of the Mediterranean and Asia. Between 800 and 1500 C.E., the frequency and intensity of contacts increased. Social, religious, and technological changes influenced African life. The spread of Islam in Africa linked its regions to the outside world through trade, religion, and politics. State building in Africa was influenced both by indigenous and Islamic inspiration. States like Mali and Songhai built on military power and dynastic alliances. City-states in western and eastern Africa were tied to larger trading networks. African civilizations built less clearly on prior precedent than did other postclassical societies. Older themes, such as Bantu migration, persisted. Parts of Africa south of the Sahara entered into the expanding world network; many others remained in isolation.

1. Using the maps on page 190 & 196:
   a. Draw the boundaries of the Ghana, Mali, and Songhai Empires and label each accordingly
   b. Label the Niger River
   c. Label the Nile River (the Blue Nile flows into the White Nile to create the Nile River)
   d. Label the city along the Niger that was within the borders of all 3 empires
   e. Label the Swahili city-state of Mogadishu
   f. After reading the section "The Coastal Trading Ports," shade the approximate area where the Swahili language was spoken
   g. Study the map on page 196 (Map 8.2) carefully and then answer the following: **Why was it more likely for Arab dhows to arrive to trade along the east coast of Africa between November and March?**
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2. What was the most significant change that took place in Africa during this period? How did it change affect trade in Africa?

3. West Africa shared some similarities with Europe such as:
   a. 
   b. 

4. The key differences between Africans and Europeans were in ____________________________ and ____________________________.

5. Although Islam and Christianity spread into northern and eastern Africa, much of central and southern Africa was mostly unaffected. Why do you think that is? (HINT: see the next question)

AFRICAN SOCIETIES: DIVERSITY AND SIMILARITIES p.185

6. Why did Africa never unify under one political system/state?

Societies With and Without States

7. Identify "stateless societies"

8. Describe authority and power in a stateless society, including where it was located and how extensive it was.

9. What role did secret societies play in parts of West Africa?

10. What were some of the disadvantages of stateless societies?

Common Elements in African Societies

11. What language dominated Africa and how did it benefit many Africans?

12. Three similarities in religious beliefs across Africa were:
   a. 
   b. 
   c. 

13. International trade was mainly with what areas of the world?

The Arrival of Islam in North Africa

14. Why was Christianity weak and not a unifying force in North Africa at the time Islam moved into the area?

15. Who stopped the expansion of Islam into Western Europe?

16. Jihad was waged by both Almoravids and Almohadis groups and spread Islam into Spain and what other areas?
17. Identify the appeal of Islam to both rulers and common people.
   a.
   b.

18. Islam teaches that men and women are equal. What evidence is given that shows prior patriarchal beliefs held strong in Islamized Africa?

**The Christian Kingdoms: Nubia and Ethiopia**

19. How was geography important to the spread of Christianity in Northeast Africa?

20. Explain what this structure is, why it was built, and what is unusual about it (i.e. why was it difficult to construct and why it's impressive. HINT: Look at Figure 8.2 on page 188)

21. What two outside powers were drawn into a conflict between Muslim states and Christian Ethiopia? What do you think their motivation was for getting involved? What was the end result of this conflict?

**KINGDOMS OF THE GRASSLANDS p.189**

22. How did geography influence the development of some African states such as Ghana? Include examples of particular resources of the region. (HINT: Why were those states located where they were?)

**Sudanic States**

23. Describe the acceptance of Islam among the Sudanic states.

**The Empire of Mali and Sundiata, the “Lion Prince”**

24. Describe the relationship between rulers in the Sudanic states and Islam. (HINT: it was a two-way street)

25. Identify “griots”

26. Examine carefully the clan structure established by the Sundiata. Your text implies there were at least 4 areas of expertise of duty. What were they? Give a SINGLE WORD description/label of each (“griots” is not allowed).
   a.
   b.
   c.
   d.
27. Which of those four seems to have been the most important?

28. Identify “Ibn Battuta” (NOTE: Important for the AP Exam!!)

29. What is the purpose of the structure located in Jenne? How was contact with the outside world vital to its architectural design? (HINT: look at Figure 8.3 on page 191)

**City Dwellers and Villagers**

30. What was the connection between strong militaries, trade, and intellectual endeavors in the Sudanic states?

31. Identify “Timbuktu”

32. Timbuktu enjoys the economic benefits of being located along both a major river and at the entry point of caravan routes across a major physical feature in Africa. What is the river and physical feature? (Feel free to look at a map)

33. How might the economic and agricultural circumstances in the region have contributed to the practice of polygamy?

**The Songhay Kingdom**

34. What military force/technology was used by the Songhay and later Hausa peoples to expand their borders and protect trade routes?

35. Give an example of how the fusion of Muslim and pagan belief sometimes caused tension with devout Muslims in the region.

36. How did technology contribute to the downfall of the Songhai empire?

**Political and Social Life in the Sudanic States**

37. Identify “Sharia”

38. Sharia law is patrilineal. What accommodation had to be made by devout Muslims in some areas of the Sudan and why?

39. What was the effect of Muslim penetration into sub-Saharan Africa on slavery?

40. What was the result of the Muslim practice of freeing the children of slave mothers?

41. Over what period of time did the slave trade exist between the Islamic world and sub-Saharan Africa?

**THE SWAHILI COAST OF EAST AFRICA p.195**

42. What was the connection between Islam and East African cities?
### The Coastal Trading Ports

43. Imports to East African cities most often occurred between what months? Exports? (Can’t find it? HINT: LOOK at what you don’t usually!)
   a. Imports –
   b. Exports –

44. A stereotypical image of chimpanzees has them eating bananas. Why have they not always done so?

45. Why was the East African coastal region so cosmopolitan?

### The Mixture of Cultures on the Swahili Coast

46. How did Islam contribute to trade between East Africa, India, and Indonesia?

47. Identify the extent to which Islam was adopted in East Africa and among what groups.

48. Swahili is a fusion of what two languages?

### Peoples of the Forest and Plains p.197

49. What important feature of most civilizations was lacking in most areas of Africa not exposed to either Christianity or Islam?

50. How was knowledge transmitted in these societies?

### Artists and Kings: Yoruba and Benin

51. These terra-cotta sculptures from central Nigeria near the village of Nok provide evidence that a people existed there who valued art. They also reveal that there is a lot we do not know about the area. Why?

52. Art from Yoruba peoples was focused on what subject?

53. How were the Yoruba organized?

54. Most of their art was presented in what two mediums besides wood and terra-cotta?

55. How was Benin art similar to Yoruba art?
Central African Kingdoms

56. What was the original home of the Bantu speaking peoples?

57. Central African peoples replaced old political systems based on kinship groups with what system?

The Kingdoms of the Kongo and Mwene Mutapa

58. Identify “Great Zimbabwe”

59. Early European explorers believed Phoenicians or Arabs built Great Zimbabwe. Why was this and who did build it?

60. How do we know that Great Zimbabwe was trading with East African coastal cities?

GLOBAL CONNECTIONS p.202
Internal Development and External Contacts

61. Even though most of Africa did not convert to Islam, this chapter admittedly focuses on the Sudanic states and Swahili coast, two Islamic areas. Why this imbalanced focus?

62. Identify the major raw materials the rest of the world wanted from Africa by the late 15th century.

TIMELINE

Insert the following events into the timeline.

A. Mali reaches its zenith
B. Islam introduced to N. Africa
C. Mansa Musa goes to Mecca (and shows off the bling bling as he passes through Egypt)
D. The Chinese say “we're outta here!” to E. Africa
E. Songhay Empire doing well
F. The “Lion Prince” kicks it
G. Ghana gets started
H. Ghana reaches its apogee (similar meaning to “zenith” – look it up!!)

| 100 CE | 800 CE | 1500 CE |