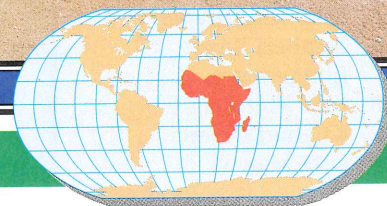
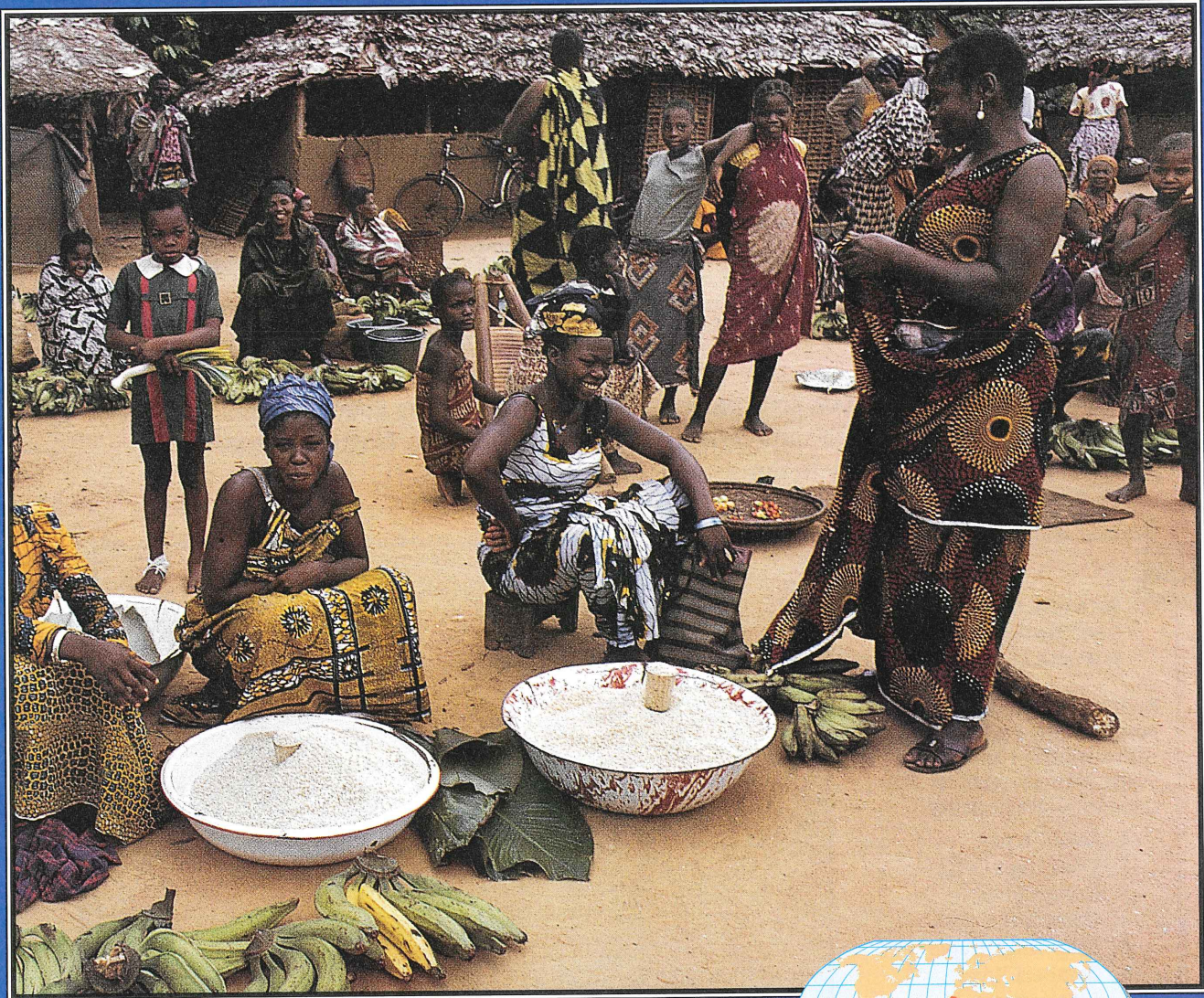


# The Cultural Geography of Africa South of the Sahara



## CHAPTER FOCUS

### Geographic Setting

Africa south of the Sahara constitutes the third most populous—and fastest-growing—region in the world. More than 625 million people from some 2,000 distinct groups populate the land.



### Geographic Themes

#### Section 1 Population Patterns

**PLACE** Overpopulation in sub-Saharan Africa has resulted, in part, from an uneven distribution of people and natural resources.

#### Section 2 History and Government

**MOVEMENT** The region's history

has been characterized by movements of people.

#### Section 3 Cultures and Lifestyles

**REGION** History and beliefs help bind together sub-Saharan Africa.

▲ **Photograph:** Village market in the Democratic Republic of the Congo

# Population Patterns

## SETTING THE SCENE

### Read to Discover . . .

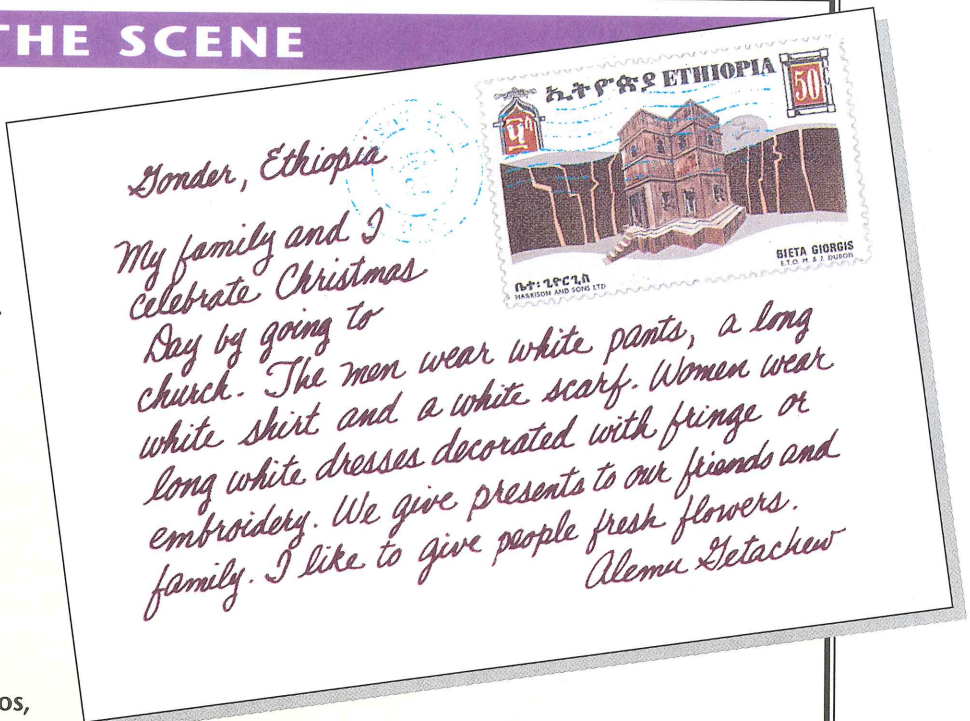
- the major population trends in sub-Saharan Africa.
- how economic growth rates affect Africa's population development.
- the diverse peoples who populate sub-Saharan Africa.

### Key Terms

- gross domestic product (GDP)
- per capita income
- urbanization
- ethnic group

### Identify and Locate

Rwanda, Chad, Gabon, Lagos, Johannesburg, Cape Town



**A**frica south of the Sahara boasts one of the world's youngest populations. About half the region's people are no more than 15 years old. One of Africa's many teenagers wrote the postcard on this page. Alemu Getachew describes the people of Ethiopia—only a small part of the 625 million people who live in sub-Saharan Africa, the third-most populous region in the world.

### REGION

## A Region of Variety

**S**ub-Saharan Africa claims the world's highest birthrate and the world's shortest life expectancy. The region has the world's highest population growth rate and the world's lowest

economic growth rate. It possesses some of the world's most densely populated areas and some of the world's least densely populated areas. These are but a few of the characteristics of the population in sub-Saharan Africa today.

## A Booming Population

With a high infant mortality and a short life expectancy, the population of the Democratic Republic of the Congo grows at 3.2 percent a year. In 1998 its population was about 49 million. The example of this one country is repeated throughout the region. As the 1990s ended, the annual growth rate for Africa south of the Sahara stood at 2.6 percent. If the region keeps growing at its present rate, experts predict that its population will double in less than 30 years.



### Geographic Themes

#### Place: Dakar, Senegal

Dakar, the capital of Senegal, is a modern port city of West Africa that has undergone tremendous growth in population. *Why do most sub-Saharan Africans settle in coastal areas?*

### Uneven Population Density

If Africa's population were spread out evenly across the continent, there would be more than 30 people per square mile. This compares favorably to the 170 per square mile (66 per sq. km) packed into western Europe. Africa's population, however, is not evenly distributed. An estimated 835 people per square mile (322 per sq. km) squeeze into Rwanda, while only about 5 or 6 people per square mile (2 per sq. km) fill Namibia and Botswana.

Such uneven population distribution is closely linked to the region's physical geography. Desert and arid steppes cover nearly two-thirds of Africa. As a result, most sub-Saharan Africans crowd along the coast of western Africa, around the lakes of eastern Africa, and along the coast of southeastern Africa. They are lured to these areas by easy access to water, fertile soil, and mild climates good for farming. In describing Rwanda, one of the world's most densely populated nations, an expert on Africa writes:

*The rugged, spectacularly beautiful hills and mountains of Rwanda are tiered like giant staircases. On each level . . . a family clan lives and farms. The dirt roads that wind through the valleys and across the hills are as busy as the sidewalks of New York's Fifth Avenue during lunch hour, a shoulder-to-shoulder procession of pedestrians. . . .*

### HUMAN/ENVIRONMENT INTERACTION

## Population and Economics

Africa's limited farmland has strained the ability of governments to feed their people. In recent years, huge expanses of land have been exhausted through intensive cultivation, loss of soil fertility, and crippling droughts. United Nations officials estimate that food production in sub-Saharan Africa has dropped 20 percent since 1970. Yet the region's population has nearly tripled. Although some 70 percent of sub-Saharan Africans work as farmers, they are producing less and eating less.

Famine and poor nutrition claim many lives, especially infants and young children. Impure water is another cause of death. Only about 40 percent of sub-Saharan Africans have clean water to drink. Diseases are widespread. Insects such as the tsetse fly carry viruses that kill cattle, horses, and people. Acquired immunodeficiency syndrome (AIDS), a worldwide disease, has reached epidemic proportions in sub-Saharan Africa. According to the United Nations, AIDS is cutting the life expectancy in many of these countries, and is expected to significantly reduce their populations.

Sub-Saharan Africa suffers the lowest standards of living in the world. While the region's population grows at 2.6 percent, its economy limps ahead at about 1.5 percent. The 625 million people of sub-Saharan Africa generate a combined **gross domestic product (GDP)**, or total output of goods and services within a

country or region, of about \$150 billion. This is roughly the same GDP as Belgium, a nation of about 10 million people.

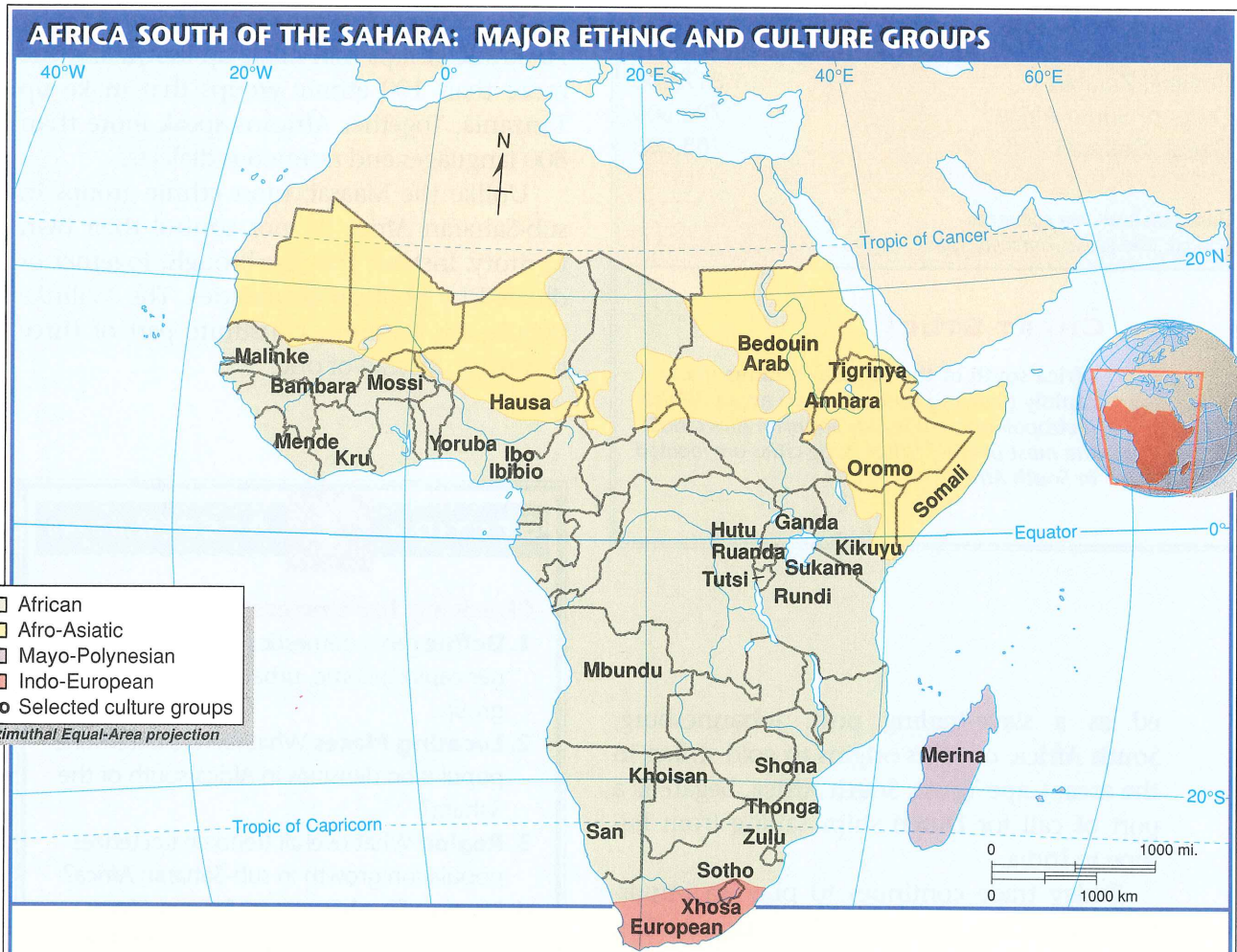
Standards of living vary widely in the region. In Chad, the **per capita income**, or average per person income, hovers around \$220. Gabon, on the other hand, enjoys a per capita income of \$5,200, which is based upon oil and mining. Yet even Gabon lags far behind the \$19,500 per capita income of Belgium. The low per capita incomes of sub-Saharan Africa translate into too little capital to develop the health care, food production, and industry necessary to improve the overall standard of living.

**MOVEMENT**

## Rapid Urbanization

Although Africa is the least urbanized of any continent, it is urbanizing at the world's fastest rate. In 1950, only about 35 million Africans lived in cities. Today experts estimate that as many as 235 million Africans live in urban areas. In less than 50 years, the number of urbanized Africans has risen about 7 times!

Most of the cities in sub-Saharan Africa lie on the coast, along major rivers, or near sources of valuable resources. They grew up largely as trading centers. Lagos, Nigeria, start-



African  
 Afro-Asiatic  
 Mayo-Polynesian  
 Indo-European  
**Ibo** Selected culture groups  
*Azimuthal Equal-Area projection*

**FOCUS ON GEOGRAPHIC THEMES**



1. **Place:** Where are Malayo-Polynesian languages spoken?
2. **Region:** What is the major language group in the continent?
3. **Place:** Where are Indo-European languages spoken?
4. **Location:** In what country do the Hausa live?



## AFRICA SOUTH OF THE SAHARA: METROPOLITAN AREAS

City and Country	Population*
Lagos, Nigeria	10,287,000
Kinshasa, Democratic Republic of the Congo	4,241,000
Abidjan, Côte d'Ivoire	2,800,000
Cape Town, South Africa	2,727,000
Addis Ababa, Ethiopia	2,431,000
Maputo, Mozambique	2,210,000
Johannesburg, South Africa	2,192,000
Luanda, Angola	2,181,000
Nairobi, Kenya	2,100,000
Dar es Salaam, Tanzania	1,750,000
Accra, Ghana	1,673,000
Ibadan, Nigeria	1,484,000
Harare, Zimbabwe	1,400,000
Lusaka, Zambia	1,317,000
Durban, South Africa	780,000
Dakar, Senegal	768,000

\*Based on available estimates  
Source: *The World Almanac*, 1998

### CHART STUDY



Africa south of the Sahara includes many rapidly growing metropolitan areas. Which metropolitan area in sub-Saharan Africa has the most people? What large cities are located in South Africa?

ed as a slave-trading post. Johannesburg, South Africa, owes its origins to gold strikes in the area. Cape Town, South Africa, began as a port of call for Dutch ships sailing from Europe to India.

Today trade continues to play an important role in the growth of the region's cities. But so does **urbanization**, or the movement of people from rural areas into cities. Economic hardships have driven millions of people to seek new opportunities in cities such as Lagos, Nairobi, Accra, Kinshasa, and Dar es Salaam. Urban areas now comprise the most densely populated parts of sub-Saharan Africa.

## PLACE

# Population Diversity

Wide differences between rural and urban Africans have increased the diversity of an already incredible mix of people. Anyone who thinks of Africans as a homogeneous, or similar, mass of people is mistaken. East Africa, for example, provides home to many Asians and a variety of *mzungu*, or whites, from more than a dozen nations, including the United States. It is also home to hundreds of African **ethnic groups**, or people with similar histories and cultures.

The Maasai, for example, form one of the 70 ethnic groups that make up Kenya and the more than 100 ethnic groups that make up Tanzania. Together Africans speak more than 800 languages and numerous dialects.

Unlike the Maasai, most ethnic groups in sub-Saharan Africa do not control their own territory. Instead, they are brought together or divided by political boundaries. The Malinke people, for example, constitute part of three countries, instead of one.

## SECTION 1 ASSESSMENT

### Checking for Understanding

- 1. Define** gross domestic product (GDP), per capita income, urbanization, ethnic group.
- 2. Locating Places** What factors determine population densities in Africa south of the Sahara?
- 3. Region** What overall trend characterizes population growth in sub-Saharan Africa?
- 4. Human/Environment Interaction** How is the economic growth rate linked to the standard of living in Africa?

### Critical Thinking

- 5. Forming Generalizations** What valid generalization can you form about the mix of people in sub-Saharan Africa?

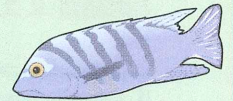




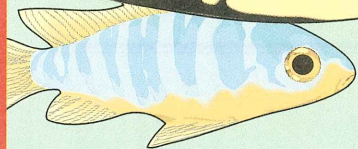
NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC

# GEOFACTS

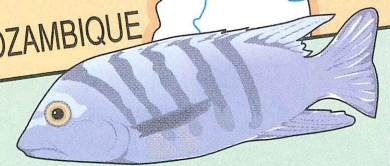
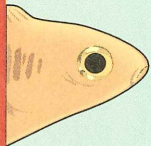
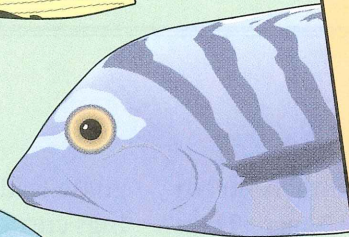
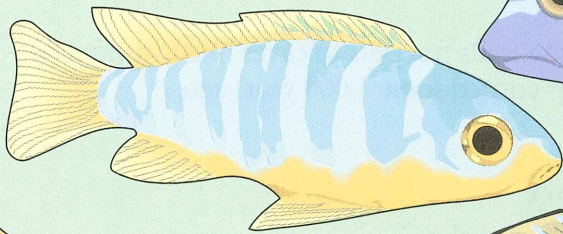
## Where is the world's fishiest lake?



East African Rift System



Various species of cichlids



**L**ake Malawi, southernmost of the great lakes of Africa's rift system, has more species of fish—including a brilliant menagerie of 500 to 1,500 kinds of cichlids—than any other lake in the world.

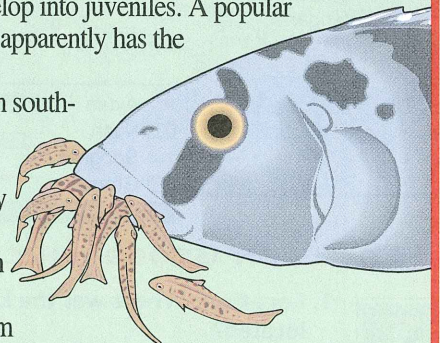
Recognizing the biological significance of these living jewels, the nation of Malawi established the world's first freshwater and primarily underwater national park in 1980, specifically to protect the cichlids. Almost all of Lake Malawi's species are endemic—found there and nowhere else.

Nearly all of the cichlids are mouth-

breeders. The female carries the fertilized eggs in her mouth until the eggs develop into juveniles. A popular tangerine-colored variety apparently has the ability to change its sex.

Russia's Lake Baikal in south-central Siberia has some 1,500 endemic species of marine life, more than any other lake. Baikal is the oldest and deepest lake on earth, measuring more than a mile (1,637 m) from

top to bottom and holding one-fifth of the planet's freshwater.



Designed by BILL PITZER



## SETTING THE SCENE

## Read to Discover . . .

- the major accomplishments of ancient peoples in sub-Saharan Africa.
- how European rule disrupted patterns of life in sub-Saharan Africa.
- the challenges facing sub-Saharan Africa since independence.

## Key Terms

- Middle Passage
- apartheid
- universal suffrage

## Identify and Locate

Nubia, Meroë, Axum, Ghana, Mali, Songhai, Timbuktu, Bantu, Great Zimbabwe

Each year, a handful of travelers heads northeast out of Agadiz, Niger. Their journey takes them past the Air Mountains and across the blazing Tenere Desert. Beyond the desert lie the Djabo Mountains. Here a

guide leads travelers to caves filled with paintings created some 6,000 years ago.

## PLACE

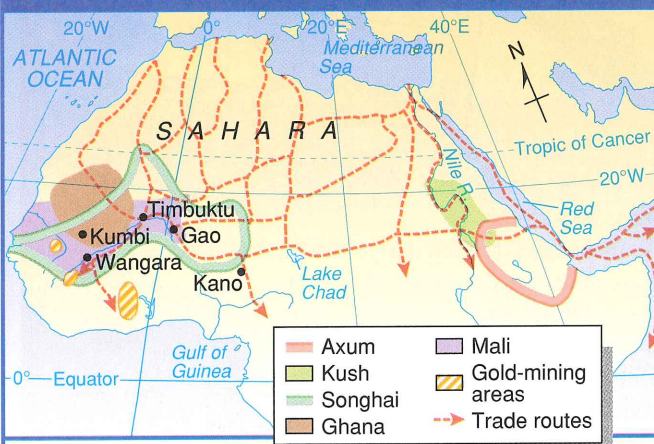
## African Civilizations

The Djabo cave painters lived at a remarkable time in African history. About 5500 B.C., the fish-filled rivers and plentiful game of the Sahara lured settlers. Early peoples learned to harvest the seeds of wild grasses and domesticate, or tame, animals. Such practices led to agriculture—the cornerstone for building more complex societies.

About 2000 B.C., the Sahara began to grow warmer and drier. People slowly migrated in search of more favorable lands. These migrants helped diffuse, or spread, knowledge of agriculture throughout Africa.

The Egyptians founded the first great civilization of North Africa. In time, they fought with another civilization to the south—Nubia. The Nubian civilization centered around a kingdom known as Kush and thrived until the 700s when armies from a rival trading kingdom—Axum—captured the capital of Meroë.

### EARLY STATES



The map shows the continent of Africa with the Sahara Desert in the north. Key features include the Atlantic Ocean to the west, the Mediterranean Sea to the north, and the Red Sea to the east. The Nile River flows north from Lake Chad. Major cities like Timbuktu, Kumbi, Gao, Wangara, and Kano are marked. A legend identifies kingdoms: Axum (orange), Kush (yellow), Songhai (green), Ghana (brown), Mali (purple), and Gold-mining areas (yellow with diagonal lines). Red dashed arrows indicate trade routes. Geographic markers include the Equator (0°), Tropic of Cancer (20°N), and various longitude lines (20°W, 40°E).

### FOCUS ON GEOGRAPHIC THEMES

1. **Location:** Where was the kingdom of Kush located?
2. **Region:** What three kingdoms ruled in West Africa at different periods?
3. **Human/Environment Interaction:** What natural resource was mined in West Africa?

At the same time, a series of trading kingdoms—Ghana, Mali, and Songhai—emerged one after the other in West Africa. The power and wealth of these kingdoms rested on control of the trans-Saharan trade, and they thrived until the late 1500s when Moroccans overpowered the Songhai.

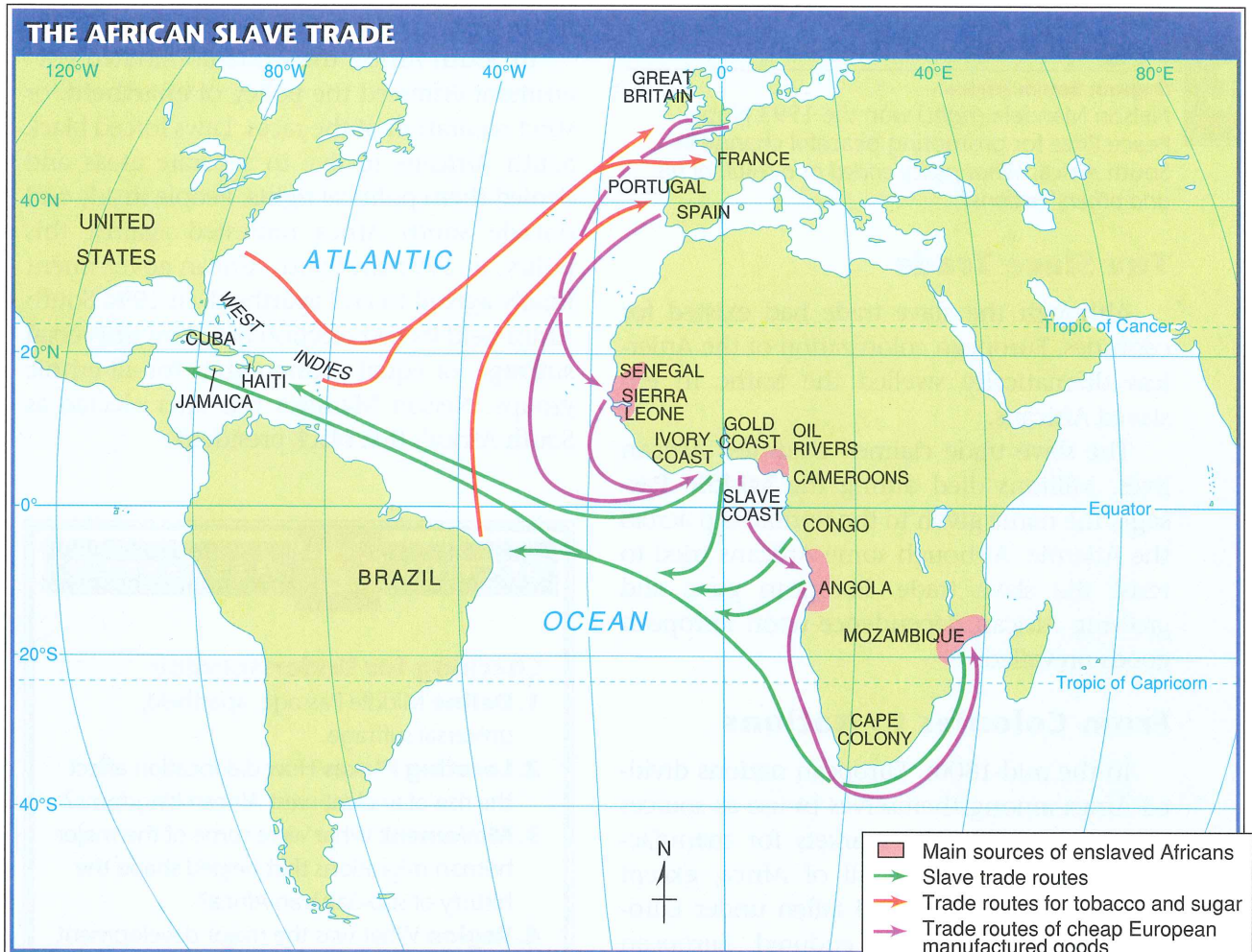
Meanwhile, several states developed in eastern and southern Africa. These states traced their origins to a group of people called the Bantu who over the centuries fanned out over much of Africa in one of the largest migrations in history. The Bantus built several great central African states, including the kingdoms of

Kongo, Luba, and Lunda. In southeastern Africa, a Bantu people called the Shona built the trading empire of Monomotapa.

**MOVEMENT**

## European Colonization

In the 1600s and 1700s, Europeans eagerly traded with African societies. Finally, in the 1800s, Europeans seized almost the entire continent.



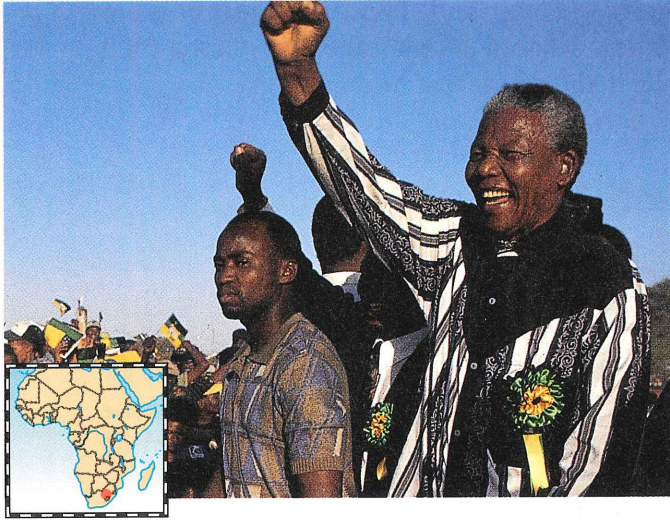
**FOCUS ON GEOGRAPHIC THEMES**



- 1. Location:** What were the major destination points for enslaved people leaving West Africa and East Africa?
- 2. Movement:** What goods were exported from plantations in North America and the Caribbean area?







### Geographic Themes

#### Region: South Africa

Nelson Mandela (*right*) won the 1993 Nobel Peace Prize for promoting peaceful change in South Africa. *What policy ended as a result of his and others' actions?*

### The Slave Trade

Although the slave trade had existed for centuries, European colonization of the Americas dramatically swelled the traffic in enslaved Africans.

The slave trade claimed countless African lives. Millions died during the **Middle Passage**, the name given to the terrible trip across the Atlantic. Although some Africans tried to resist the slave trade, European guns and growing African dependence upon European goods prevailed.

### From Colonies to Nations

In the mid-1800s, European nations divided Africa among themselves to use as sources of raw materials and markets for manufactured goods. By 1914, all of Africa, except Liberia and Ethiopia, had fallen under European control. Africans endured European domination until they won their independence in the mid- to late 1900s. For example, Ghana became independent in 1957, Nigeria in 1960, Kenya in 1963, Zimbabwe in 1980, and Namibia in 1990.

### PLACE

## Challenges for the Future

The colonial legacy has created many serious problems for sub-Saharan Africans. The political boundaries the Europeans established cut across ethnic lines, grouping diverse peoples under the same government. These groupings often led to civil wars. The colonial system caused most of the region to be underdeveloped. Few European nations prepared their colonies for independence. As a result, lack of political experience contributed to the rise of one-party states backed by the military.

In South Africa, the white-dominated government enforced the policy of **apartheid**, or strict separation of the races. Laws forced black South Africans to live in separate areas and denied them political rights. People inside and outside South Africa protested against this policy. In 1991 the South African government finally agreed to end apartheid. In 1994 South Africa held its first election based on **universal suffrage**, or equal voting rights, for all ethnic groups. Nelson Mandela was later elected as South Africa's first black president.

### SECTION 2 ASSESSMENT

#### Checking for Understanding

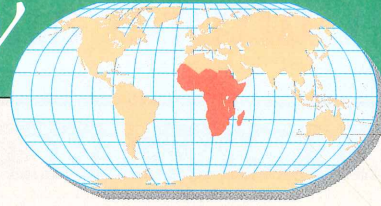
- 1. Define** Middle Passage, apartheid, universal suffrage.
- 2. Locating Places** How did location affect the rise of ancient west African kingdoms?
- 3. Movement** What were some of the major human migrations that helped shape the history of sub-Saharan Africa?
- 4. Region** What was the major development in Africa after World War II?

#### Critical Thinking

- 5. Determining Cause and Effect** What is the connection between colonial rule and some of the problems facing sub-Saharan Africa today?



# Geography and History



## AFRICA: EUROPEAN COLONIES

As you read, examine how European colonial rule affected Africa.

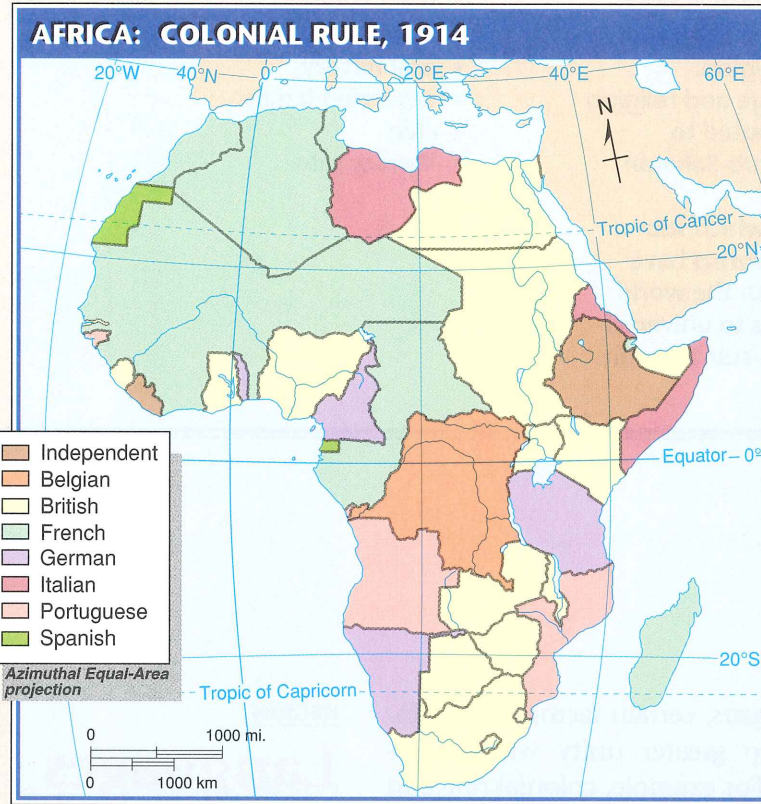
During the 1800s, the Industrial Revolution swept through western Europe, fueling a policy of colonial expansion. Newly industrialized countries needed raw materials for their factories and markets for their manufactured goods. By colonizing, they could acquire both while also increasing their share of global power. Africa was one of the areas targeted for expansion.

### Europeans in Africa

During the late 1800s, Portugal, Spain, Italy, France, the Netherlands, and Great Britain began strengthening their hold on Africa. For the next 40 years, European governments engaged in efforts to control the most profitable sections of the region. During the mid-1920s, most of Africa was still under European control.

### Effects of Colonial Rule

European governments created colonial units arbitrarily, with no regard for the ethnic homelands of the people in the regions. Colonial boundaries often cut across ethnic homelands. European administrators gave little thought to preparing Africans for future independence. Economic systems tied to production for world markets replaced the



Beginning around 1870, the major European powers began a mad scramble to divide Africa, establish colonies, and exploit the wealth of natural resources found there. By 1914 only two African countries—Liberia and Ethiopia—had managed to escape European control.

African system of production only for family or local community needs. Christian missionaries challenged beliefs and practices long a part of African life.

Colonial rule also offered expanded educational opportunities to Africans. As some Africans became politically aware, they led the demand for a share in governing. Finally, in the 1950s and 1960s, educated Africans also led in-

dependence movements that ended European rule.

### Checking for Understanding

1. Why did European nations colonize Africa?
2. **Regions** Study the map.



What problem can be foreseen from the colonial divisions?

## Cultures and Lifestyles

### SETTING THE SCENE

#### Read to Discover . . .

- the cultural factors that help define sub-Saharan Africa as a region.
- how language and religion have contributed to diversity in sub-Saharan Africa.
- the ways in which sub-Saharan art forms have touched upon the world.
- the obstacles to universal education in sub-Saharan Africa.

#### Key Terms

- mass culture
- *lingua franca*
- oral history
- extended family
- clan
- literacy rate

#### Identify and Locate

Sierra Leone

In recent years, certain factors have contributed to greater unity within sub-Saharan Africa. For example, colonial rule and the push for independence now form a part of the histories of most sub-Saharan nations. Also, the wider availability of television and radio has helped create a **mass culture**, or popular culture promoted by the media. In addition, sub-Saharan Africans share common beliefs, such as the importance of family ties.

Yet despite such similarities, great diversity still exists throughout the region. In many ways, the African people are as diverse as the African landscape itself. Sometimes, they are even more diverse! Consider the city of Freetown, Sierra Leone. Its population of 670,000 includes Lebanese, Indians, Europeans, the descendants of enslaved Africans, and members of 18 ethnic African groups. All these various people—their cultures and their lifestyles—help shape the human geography of sub-Saharan Africa.

#### REGION

### Languages

Today Africans speak more than 800 languages and numerous dialects. Some of these languages originated in Africa. Others were brought to Africa by Arabs, Europeans, and other foreigners. Some African languages consist of a mixture of African and foreign words. Swahili, for example, is a major African language that is a mix of languages. Its main root is Bantu, but over the centuries, Arabic and Portuguese words have been added. Today Swahili serves as a *lingua franca*, or universal language, spoken throughout much of East Africa. It allows the people of Uganda, Rwanda, Kenya, Tanzania, and the Congo to understand each other. Such widespread use of Swahili helps define East Africa as a region.

The colonial powers imported new languages that helped Africans speak to the outside world and with one another. English is an



example. Although many of these languages serve as the official languages of nations, a wide variety of ethnic languages remain in use. Language experts classify the region's many languages into three families—African, Afro-Asiatic, and Malayo-Polynesian. African languages are the most widely spoken. These include some 300 Bantu languages used in central, eastern, and southern Africa. The main Afro-Asiatic languages are the Arabic and Berber spoken in the region's northwest corner. Indo-European languages are those imported by colonial powers. In South Africa, people speak English and Afrikaans, the language of early Dutch settlers.

**REGION**

## Religions

In describing the religion of Nigeria's Igbo, an enslaved African named Olaudah Equiano wrote:

— — — — — ⊗ — — — — —

*As to religion, [we] . . . believe that there is one Creator of all things, and that he lives in the sun, . . . and governs all events, especially our deaths.*

— — — — — ⊗ — — — — —

The religious beliefs described by Equiano form part of some of Africa's many traditional religions. Although each ethnic group might

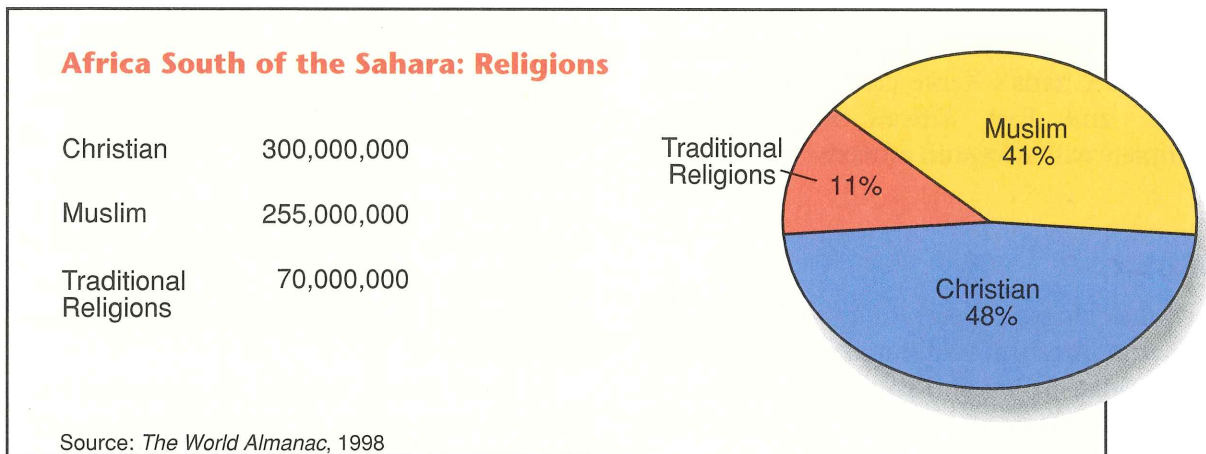
have its own religion, these tend to have some beliefs in common. Like the Igbo, most traditional religions believe in a supreme Creator and several lesser gods.

Islam and Christianity constitute the other two major religions in sub-Saharan Africa. The largest number of Muslims, or followers of Islam, can be found along the Swahili coast and in areas once held by the kingdoms of Mali and Songhai. Ethiopia embraces both Islam and Christianity. Christianity arrived in Ethiopia with missionaries and traders in the A.D. 300s. Christianity came to other nations with the European colonial powers. After independence, some Africans formed new churches that blended Christianity and traditional African religions.

**REGION**

## The Arts

During the course of their history, sub-Saharan Africans have developed an incredible variety of art forms—from the Djabo cave paintings to the Kente cloth of West Africa to the multi-rhythmic music of traditional dances. African artists have worked in many mediums and in many styles. Because of the forced migration of enslaved Africans to other parts of the world, these styles have been widely diffused throughout the Americas, the Caribbean, and parts of Europe and Asia.





## Geographic Themes

### Region: West Africa

Traditional dances and music in West Africa often are featured at annual festivals to honor ancestors. *What American forms of music have been inspired by African music?*

## Painting, Sculpture, Weaving

African masks, sculptures, and weavings can be seen in museums and in everyday life. Modern European artists such as Pablo Picasso drew inspiration from the abstract masks of the Yoruba of Nigeria. The bronze castings of the Benin are known around the world. So are the many types of textiles designed by Africans. Prized by Africans and non-Africans alike are Ghana's Kente cloth, Nigeria's *adire* cloth, and East Africa's Konga cloth—complete with a Swahili proverb on each piece.

## Music

Music forms a part of everyday life for Africans. Africans traditionally use music to bring order to life and to express themselves spiritually. Music also relieves the toil of work such as planting, hoeing, or harvesting.

Today the musical rhythms and instruments of Africa can be heard in popular music throughout the United States. Both the blues and jazz owe their origins to styles carried to the Americas by enslaved Africans. Even contemporary rock 'n' roll stars freely borrow from Africa. Sting, Paul Simon, and David Byrne are but a few of the artists who have looked to Africa for inspiration.

## Literature

Much of the history and many of the stories of sub-Saharan Africa have been preserved in **oral history**, or the legends passed down orally from generation to generation. In more recent times, the region has produced prize-winning poets, novelists, and playwrights. In recent years, two Africans have claimed the Nobel Prize in Literature—Wole Soyinka of Nigeria (1986) and Nadine Gordimer of South Africa (1991).

## PLACE

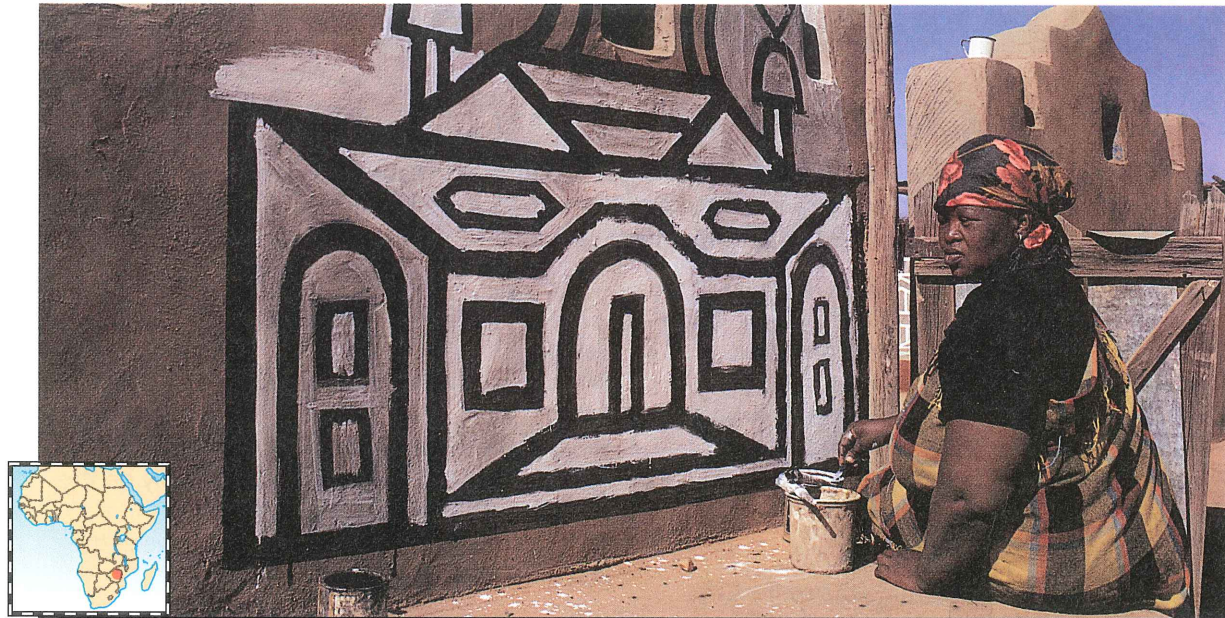
## Varied Lifestyles

A journey through an African nation such as Kenya reveals the variety of lifestyles within the region. Kenya's dozens of ethnic groups all have their own customs. Wide differences also exist between rural and urban dwellers. In Nairobi, people usually wear clothes similar to those in the United States. In Maasailand, on the other hand, people wear loose-fitting clothes and brilliant jewelry.

Africans tend to share one important way of life in common. Most place great emphasis on family ties. Africans still strongly value **extended families**, or households made up of several generations. Although urbanization has made it more difficult to preserve the extended family, it is still not uncommon to find family compounds filled with relatives from grandparents to grandchildren to even great-grandchildren.

In some places, families are organized into **clans**, or large groups of people related to each other. Clan members help safeguard an ethnic





### Geographic Themes



#### Place: Ndebele Village, South Africa

Many Africans, even those living in urban areas, maintain close connections with their families and ancestral villages. *What kind of family ties do many Africans value?*

group's traditions by passing them from one generation to the next. As in other parts of the developing world, many people also believe large families help relieve economic hardship by providing more workers. Such beliefs have made it difficult for governments to curb Africa's booming population.

To give the region's children a more hopeful future, governments are using innovative methods to chip away at monumental problems. Television, for example, has become one of the region's most effective teaching tools.

### REGION

## Looking Ahead

The young people growing up in Africa south of the Sahara today face many challenges. Since independence, more children are attending public school. **Literacy rates**, or the ability to read and write, have risen. Still, the ideal of even an elementary education remains beyond the reach of many people.

A number of obstacles have undermined popular education. The most serious is the low standard of living. Many people simply cannot afford to send children to school. Also, some parents believe their children will profit more from survival skills, such as hunting or farming. As a result, literacy rates in sub-Saharan Africa remain the lowest in the world.

### SECTION 3 ASSESSMENT

#### Checking for Understanding

- 1. Define** mass culture, *lingua franca*, oral history, extended family, clan, literacy rate.
- 2. Locating Places** What are some of the factors that have helped unify sub-Saharan Africa as a region in recent years?
- 3. Region** How do language and religion increase diversity within sub-Saharan Africa?
- 4. Movement** How have sub-Saharan Africans influenced global culture?

#### Critical Thinking

- 5. Determining Cause and Effect** What is the connection between low standards of living and low literacy rates in sub-Saharan Africa?



# MAP & GRAPH SKILLS

## Reading a Circle Graph

Suppose you must give a report that analyzes student participation in various extracurricular activities. First, you conduct a survey to find out how many students participate in such activities. After compiling this data, you must find a good way to present the information. One excellent format would be a **circle graph**.

### REVIEWING THE SKILL

Circle graphs illustrate numerical information and the relationship of parts to a whole. The complete circle represents the whole group, while each slice, or wedge, represents a fraction of the whole expressed in percentages.

When reading a circle graph, apply the following steps:

- Read the graph title to determine the subject.
- Study the labels and key to understand what each part of the graph represents.
- Compare the sizes of the parts to draw conclusions about the subject.

2. What color represents the Luo people and their language?
3. What percentage of Kenyans are speakers of Luhya?
4. What percentage of Kenyans belong to ethnic groups other than those listed specifically on the graph?
5. What is the most striking similarity between the percentages shown on the two graphs?

For additional practice in reading a circle graph, see **Practicing Skills** on page 448 of the **Chapter 21 Assessment**.



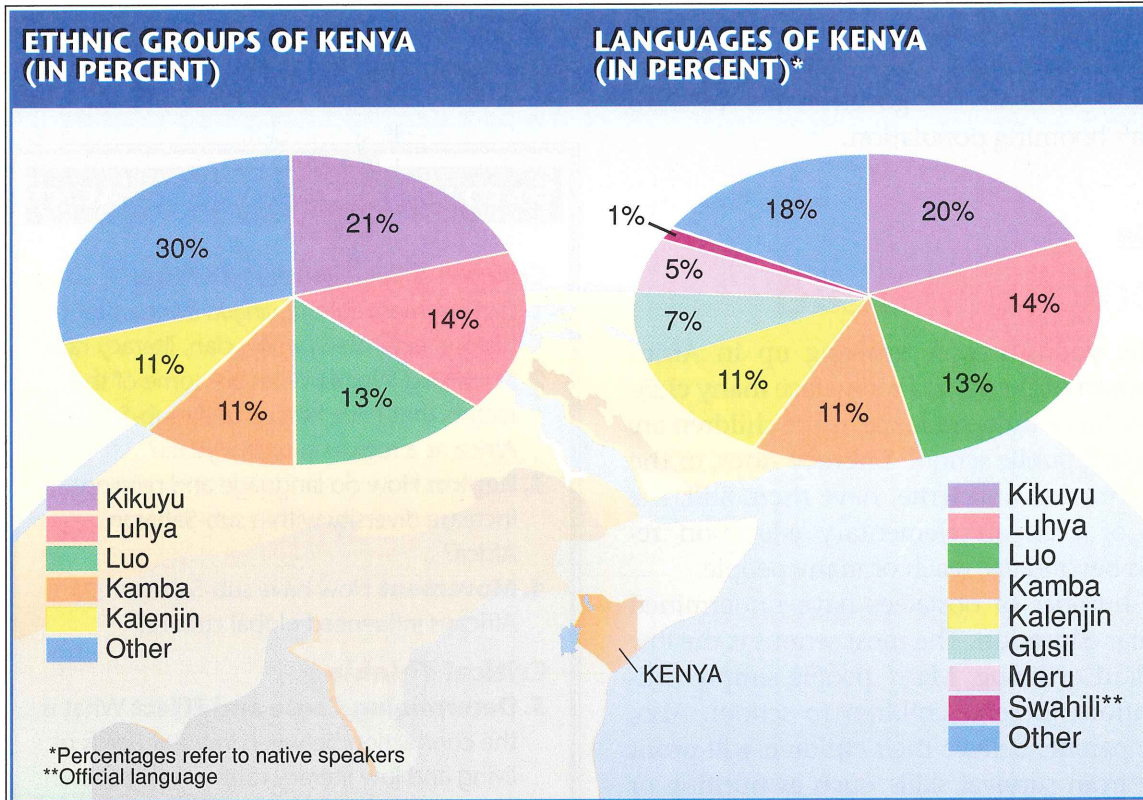
### PRACTICING THE SKILL

Answer the following questions.

1. What are the subjects of the circle graphs?



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



**1**

SECTION

**Population Patterns**



West African urban scene

KEY TERMS

gross domestic product (GDP) (p. 434)  
per capita income (p. 435)  
urbanization (p. 436)  
ethnic group (p. 436)

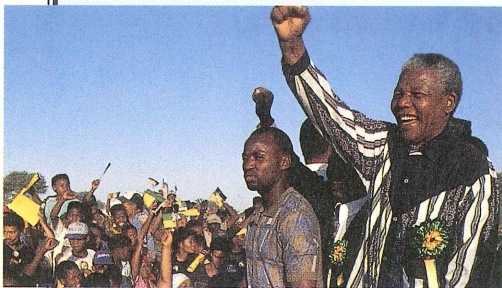
SUMMARY

- With more than 625 million people, sub-Saharan Africa is the third most populous region in the world.
- The uneven distribution of people in sub-Saharan Africa is linked to the region's physical geography.
- Inadequate food, water, and health care contribute to short life expectancies in sub-Saharan Africa.
- Sub-Saharan Africa is urbanizing faster than any other region in the world.
- More than 2,000 ethnic groups, speaking some 800 languages, make up the population of Africa south of the Sahara.

**2**

SECTION

**History and Government**



KEY TERMS

Middle Passage (p. 440)  
apartheid (p. 440)  
universal suffrage (p. 440)

South African leader Nelson Mandela

SUMMARY

- The movement of the Bantu south from Niger formed one of the largest human migrations in history.
- European colonization remapped traditional ethnic territories.
- Most of Africa's nations have won independence since the 1960s.
- In the 1990s, South Africa ended apartheid and created a democracy open to all ethnic groups.

**3**

SECTION

**Cultures and Lifestyles**



Nigerians celebrating annual festival

KEY TERMS

mass culture (p. 442)  
*lingua franca* (p. 442)  
oral history (p. 444)  
extended family (p. 444)  
clan (p. 444)  
literacy rate (p. 445)

SUMMARY

- Sub-Saharan Africa's many languages and variety of religions contribute to the region's diversity.
- Sub-Saharan Africans have influenced the artistic cultures of the world.
- One of the biggest challenges facing sub-Saharan African governments is how to raise literacy rates.





## Reviewing Key Terms

Choose the vocabulary term that best completes each of the sentences below. Write your answers on a separate sheet of paper.

- |                            |                               |
|----------------------------|-------------------------------|
| per capita income (p. 435) | apartheid (p. 440)            |
| urbanization (p. 436)      | <i>lingua franca</i> (p. 442) |
| ethnic group (p. 436)      | literacy rate (p. 445)        |
| Middle Passage (p. 440)    |                               |

### SECTION 1

- The average annual earnings per person of a nation's population is called the \_\_\_\_\_.
- The movement of people from rural areas into cities is known as \_\_\_\_\_.
- People with similar histories and cultures are known as an \_\_\_\_\_.

### SECTION 2

- Millions of Africans died during the \_\_\_\_\_, the terrible trip across the Atlantic.
- The forced separation of races in South Africa was called \_\_\_\_\_.

### SECTION 3

- Swahili is an example of a \_\_\_\_\_, or universal language, spoken in East Africa.
- When a large number of people can read and write, a nation has a high \_\_\_\_\_.

## Reviewing Facts

### SECTION 1

- What trend most accurately characterizes population growth in sub-Saharan Africa?
- What factor(s) account for the diverse population in sub-Saharan Africa?

### SECTION 2

- What ancient kingdoms and empires grew up in East and West Africa?
- How did the end of apartheid affect government in South Africa?

### SECTION 3

- What are the three major language groups in sub-Saharan Africa?
- What religions are practiced in Africa?

## Critical Thinking

- Predicting Consequences** What effect do you think migration from rural areas to cities has had on traditional ways of life?
- Analyzing Information** What role do you think trade played in early African societies?
- Making Comparisons** Music has given the people of sub-Saharan Africa a sense of identity. Do you think this is unique to Africa? Why or why not?



## Geographic Themes

- Place** How has physical geography affected population densities in sub-Saharan Africa?
- Movement** How did climate changes in the Sahara affect population patterns in the region?
- Region** How has language helped define East Africa as a region?



## Practicing Skills

### Reading a Circle Graph

Refer to the circle graphs on page 446.

- What percentage of Kenyans are speakers of Swahili?
- What is the largest single ethnic group in Kenya?
- What percentage of Kenyans are speakers of Gusii?
- Which 2 ethnic groups each make up about 11 percent of Kenya's population?

## Using the Unit Atlas

Refer to the cultural geography section of the Unit Atlas on pages 410–411.

- What is the most populous nation in Africa?
- What nation is Africa's oldest republic?

**Projects**

**Individual Activity**

You learned about the incredible variety of art forms in sub-Saharan Africa. Pick one of the art forms mentioned in the chapter—painting, sculpture, masks, weaving, music, poetry, or literature. Then, using an encyclopedia or a book on Africa, look up this art form. Pick one example of this art form and prepare an audio/visual report.

**Cooperative Learning Activity**

In small groups, pick two nations in sub-Saharan Africa. Using an almanac, prepare population graphics of the nations chosen. When all the student teams are done, form a committee to bind the information together alphabetically.

**Writing About Geography**

**Description** Write a vivid description of Africa south of the Sahara based on the information recorded in your journal activity calendar. Illustrate your description with sketches based on pictures found in the text and other sources.

**Technology Activity**

**Using a Spreadsheet** Using a world almanac, select 10 countries in Africa south of the Sahara and find information about their gross domestic product (GDP) and their per capita income. Using this information, create a spreadsheet to compare and contrast these figures. Then write a brief summary of your findings, importing your spreadsheet into the document.



**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 separate sheet of paper.

1. Angola
2. Johannesburg
3. Mali
4. Liberia
5. Namibia
6. Botswana
7. Lagos
8. Rwanda
9. Chad
10. Cameroon

