

1. **arid** difficult to farm, dry
2. **Axum** Kingdom located in Ethiopian highlands; defeated kingdom of Kush around 300 B.C.E. and succeeded by Ethiopia. Received strong influence from Arabian peninsula; eventually converted to Christianity
3. **Berbers** a member of a North African, primarily Muslim people living in settled or nomadic tribes from Morocco to Egypt
4. **cataract** a huge waterfall on a river
5. **city-state** city that is like a small country and governs itself
6. **culture** the ways of living developed by a people including their way of behaving, their knowledge, tools and beliefs
7. **Ghana** the first West African kingdom based on the gold and salt trade
8. **griot** person who recites the oral traditions of a tribe or clan. A learned storyteller, entertainer, or historian
9. **Ibn Battuta** (1304-1369) Moroccan Muslim scholar, the most widely traveled individual of his time. He wrote a detailed account of his visits to Islamic lands from China to Spain and the western Sudan. His writings gave a glimpse into the world of that time period.
10. **iron** Material used for weapons and tools that became cheap and more widely available around 1000 B.C.E.
11. **isolation** separation from
12. **kingdom** term for monarchy, an early form of government headed by a king or queen
13. **Kush** An African state that developed along the upper reaches of the Nile c. 100 B.C.E.; conquered Egypt and ruled it for several centuries.
14. **Mali** Empire created by indigenous Muslims in western Sudan of West Africa from the thirteenth to fifteenth century. It was famous for its role in the trans-Saharan gold trade.
15. **Mansa Musa** Ruler of Mali (r. 1312-1337). His pilgrimage through Egypt to Mecca in 1324-1325 established the empire's reputation for wealth in the Mediterranean world. (p. 376)
16. **matrilineal** describes a society in which people trace their ancestry through their mothers.
- Niger River Valley** major river valley which contributed to the social, economic, and political growth of three ancient African empires--Ghana, Mali, and Songhai?
18. **Nubia** an ancient region in the Nile River Valley, on the site of present-day southern Egypt and northern Sudan
19. **oral tradition** the passing of poems, songs and stories by word of mouth from one generation to another
20. **patrilineal** describes a society in which people trace their ancestry through their fathers.
21. **pre-literate** a society in which the vast majority of the people cannot read or write
22. **proverb** a short statement of a general truth, one that condenses common experience into memorable form
23. **rainforest** a tropical forest, usually of tall, densely growing, broad-leaved evergreen trees in an area of high annual rainfall.
24. **Rift Valley** formed when part of the Ethiopian plateau sank, this is a steep-sided structural crack that runs north and south near the plateau's eastern edge
25. **Sahara** the world's largest desert (3,500,000 square miles) in northern Africa
26. **Sahel** vast area of relatively dry grasslands called savannas, dotted with a few trees and thorny bushes. South of the Sahara, unpredictable rainfall
27. **savanna** an area of grassland with scattered trees and bushes
28. **silent barter** a method of exchanging goods by displaying items for acceptance of equal value; merchants and traders do not meet face to face
29. **Songhai** a West African empire that conquered Mali and controlled trade from the 1400s to 1591
30. **Sundiata** the founder of Mali empire. He crushed his enemies and won control of the gold trade routes
31. **Timbuktu** a city on the Niger River It was founded sometime after 1000. As part of the Mali empire, Timbuktu became a major terminus of the trans-Saharan trade and a center of Islamic learning
32. **tribe** basic unit of social organization, along with family and clan. Tribal royalties are stronger than national identities. Tribes rather than individuals own land.