Lesson 1

MAIN IDEAS

1 Geography Bantu-speaking people spread out across central and southern Africa to create new cultures.

2 Economics African coastal city-states established profitable trade relationships with Arab traders.

3 Culture Islam had a great influence on the culture and government of East Africa.

TAKING NOTES

Reading Skill: Categorizing

Categorizing means grouping similar things together. As you read about the establishment of coastal trading cities in East Africa, use a graphic like the one below to categorize ways that Islam influenced the region.

- Islam
- Influences
- Government
- Religion
- Language

Kuba Mask This wooden mask was made by a craftsman in the Kuba kingdom in southern Africa. The Kuba were part of a larger group known as the Bantu.

CALIFORNIA STANDARDS

7.2.4 Discuss the expansion of Muslim rule through military conquests and treaties, emphasizing the cultural blending within Muslim civilization and the spread and acceptance of Islam and the Arabic language.

7.2.5 Describe the growth of cities and the establishment of trade routes among Asia, Africa, and Europe, the products and inventions that traveled along these routes (e.g., spices, textiles, paper, steel, new crops), and the role of merchants in Arab society.

CST 3 Students use a variety of maps and documents to identify physical and cultural features of neighborhoods, cities, states, and countries and to explain the historical migration of people, expansion and disintegration of empires, and the growth of economic systems.
The Growth of Coastal Trading Cities

Build on What You Know  What things do you trade? Perhaps you and your friends exchange CDs or DVDs. Consider why people trade things as you learn in this chapter about the growth of trade between Africa and other parts of the world.

The Land and Its People

ESSENTIAL QUESTION  What were the Bantu migrations?

Central and southern Africa are vast regions. Because they are so large, they have a great variety of geographic features.

A Diverse Geography  Huge tropical rain forests cover much of central Africa. Such forests are home to thousands of species of colorful birds. In southern Africa, immense grasslands are more common. Elephants, giraffes, lions, zebras, and many other animals live in the grasslands.

The human geography of central and south Africa is also diverse. The peoples of these regions belong to hundreds of different ethnic groups. Many groups have their own languages, customs, and religions. However, many of these different peoples come from a single group known as the Bantu.
**Bantu Influences** The Bantu are a group of African peoples who speak one of the more than 450 Bantu languages. The first Bantu probably lived near the present-day border of Nigeria and Cameroon in west-central Africa.

Starting sometime around 1000 B.C., the many different Bantu tribes began moving south and east through Africa. This movement, called the **Bantu migrations**, began one of the most important migrations in history. About 1,500 years after the migrations began, the Bantu speakers reached the southern tip of Africa.

Bantu speakers adapted to new habitats as they moved throughout the continent. They exchanged ideas and intermarried with the people they met. Such interactions gradually led to cultural blending.

**REVIEW** What was the result of the Bantu migrations?

**Coastal City-States Emerge**

**ESSENTIAL QUESTION** How did Africans and Arabs interact?

By 1100, large numbers of Bantu-speaking peoples had migrated across central Africa toward the eastern coast. In East Africa, the Bantu established farming villages as well as lively trading outposts.

**Coastal Trade Routes** East African merchants participated in trade across the Indian Ocean. They exchanged goods with traders from Arabia, Persia, and India. Persian traders brought Asian manufactured goods to Africa and African raw materials to Asia.

**Kilwa** By the 13th century, a network of trading towns and city-states dotted the coast of East Africa. (A city-state is a city and its surrounding lands functioning as an independent political unit.) One of the most important of these was the coastal city-state of **Kilwa**. Settlers from Arabia and Persia founded Kilwa in the late 10th century. The city-state prospered because it was as far south on the coast as a ship from India...
could sail in one monsoon season. Merchants from farther south had to send their goods to Kilwa, where Asian merchants could buy them. Kilwa reached its height in the late 1200s.

**REVIEWS** What factors helped Kilwa become wealthy and powerful?

### The Influence of Islam

**ESSENTIAL QUESTION** What influence did Arabs have on culture and government in East Africa?

Kilwa was one of several African trading states with Arabic ties. As trade across the Indian Ocean increased, Arab traders settled in numerous East African port towns. As a result, coastal Africans borrowed some aspects of Arab culture.

**Cultural Influence** One result of the cultural interaction between Arabs and Africans was the creation of a new language, known as Swahili. Swahili developed as a Bantu language that borrowed many words from the Arabic language. Arabs also introduced their religion, Islam, in East Africa. The majority of Africans living along the coast kept their traditional religious beliefs. Even so, many chose to convert to Islam. Africans who converted to Islam tended to be middle-class townspeople who were involved in the Indian Ocean trade.
Influence in Government  Government officials and wealthy merchants also tended to be Muslims. These leaders introduced Islamic ideas about government and law.

As they grew and prospered, these coastal towns remained largely independent. The city-states along the East African coast made few efforts to join together. The main reason for this was that the city-states competed with each other for trade. This lack of unity would make it easier for the Europeans to invade and conquer the area in the 1600s.

Meanwhile, further inland from the coastal cities, other Bantu groups were establishing powerful empires based on one of the region’s most precious and profitable resources: gold.

How did Muslims influence the development of East Africa?

Lesson Summary

- The Bantu migrations helped to create new cultures.
- Indian Ocean trade fostered exchanges among the peoples of East Africa, Arabia, Persia, and India.
- Interaction between Arab and African traders led to the spread of Islam in East Africa.

Why It Matters Now . . .

More than one-third of Africans today are Muslims.

Terms & Names

1. Explain the importance of Bantu migrations  Kilwa  Swahili

Using Your Notes

Categorizing Use your completed graphic to answer the following question:

2. Which Africans tended to practice Islam? (7.2.4)

Main Ideas

3. Where did the Bantu migrations begin? (CST 3)
4. What was the main trade route among the people of East Africa, Arabia, Persia, and India? (7.2.5)
5. What is the origin of the Swahili language? (7.2.4)

Critical Thinking

6. Understanding Cause and Effect How did the establishment of trade affect coastal villages in East Africa? (7.2.5)

7. Making Inferences What do the trade items imported by East Africa suggest about its societies? (7.2.5)

Activity

Internet Activity Use the Internet to find statistics about trade in the Indian Ocean today. Then present your information in a chart, table, or other graphic. (7.2.5)

INTERNET KEYWORD: Indian Ocean trade