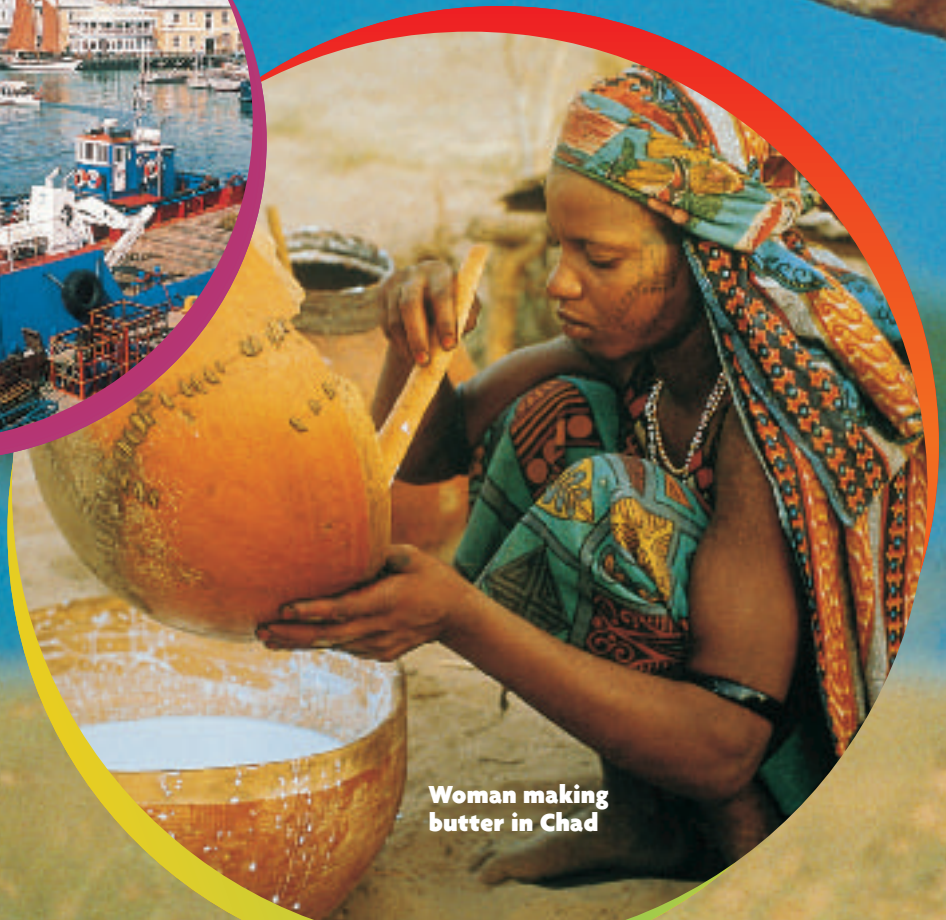


Unit

7



**Waterfront of
Cape Town,
South Africa**



**Woman making
butter in Chad**

Giraffe on a
plain in Kenya ▼



Africa South of the Sahara

The region of Africa south of the Sahara is home to more than 2,000 ethnic groups. Its hot, humid forests and dry grasslands support a variety of wild animals. Both people and animals face tough challenges in this region. The people are struggling to build stable governments and economies. The animals are threatened with extinction as human activities destroy natural habitats.

NGS ONLINE

www.nationalgeographic.com/education

Focus on:

Africa South of the Sahara

STRADDLING THE EQUATOR, Africa south of the Sahara lies almost entirely within the Tropics. Famous for its remarkable wildlife, this region also has the world's fastest-growing human population. Settling ethnic rivalries and improving low standards of living are just two of the challenges facing the people in this region.

The Land

Africa south of the Sahara has the highest overall elevation of any world region. A narrow band of low plains hugs the Atlantic and Indian Ocean coastlines. Inland, the land rises from west to east in a series of steplike plateaus. Separating the plateaus are steep cliffs. The region has no long mountain ranges and few towering peaks, although Mt. Kenya and Kilimanjaro are exceptions. At 19,340 feet (5,895 m), Kilimanjaro's summit is the highest point on the African continent.

Thundering Waterways Great rivers arise in this region's interior highlands. As rivers spill from one plateau to the next, they create thundering waterfalls, such as the spectacular Victoria Falls (facing page). It is known locally as *Mosi oa Tunya*—"smoke that thunders." Although the Nile River is Africa's longest river, the Congo River is a giant in its own right, winding 2,715 miles (4,370 km) through Africa's heart, near the

Equator. Many of Africa's rivers provide hydroelectric power as well as transportation to areas that are too remote for overland travel.

Continental Rift The Great Rift Valley slices through eastern Africa like a steep-walled gash in the continent. The valley, formed by movements of the earth's crust, extends from Southwest Asia southward to the Zambezi River in Mozambique. It cradles a chain of deep lakes, some of which hold more species of fish than any other inland body of water in the world.

The Climate

Imagine that you are standing at the Equator in Africa. If you traveled north or south from there, you would pass through four major climate regions, one after the other.

Rain Forests and Savannas Tropical rain forests lie along the Equator and fill the great basin of the Congo River in central and western Africa. Heavy storms bring 80 inches (203 cm)

Victoria Falls, on the Zambezi River ▼



◀ Elephants roaming near Kilimanjaro, Tanzania

or more of rain each year. The canopy is the primary layer of rain forests and is alive with flowers, fruits, monkeys, parrots, and snakes.

As you move away from the Equator, rain forests give way to tropical savannas. These vast grasslands are home to some of the continent's most famous large mammals, including elephants, lions, rhinoceroses, and giraffes.

Steppe and Desert Climates As you move farther from the Equator, rainfall becomes scarce, and tropical savannas give way to drier steppes. Finally you encounter very dry areas where deserts dominate the landscape. Deserts cover more of Africa than any other continent. The largest deserts south of the Sahara are the Namib and the Kalahari.

The Economy

Africa south of the Sahara is rich in mineral resources, but these resources are not evenly distributed. Nigeria has huge reserves of oil. South Africa has fabulous deposits of gold and

diamonds, making it the wealthiest country in the region. Overall, however, Africa south of the Sahara has the lowest standard of living of any world region.

Struggling to Develop Manufacturing plays only a small role in the region's economy. In the past, colonial rulers used Africa as a source of raw materials and left the continent largely undeveloped. Today the nations south of the Sahara are struggling to industrialize.

Most people in Africa south of the Sahara still depend on small-scale farming or livestock herding for their livelihoods. They are usually able to raise only enough food to feed their families. Some farmers work on plantations that grow crops for export to other countries. Such crops include coffee, cacao, cotton, peanuts, tea, bananas, and sisal (a fiber). Drought is a constant problem for the region's farmers.

The People

Thousands of years ago, great kingdoms and empires developed in Africa south of the Sahara. In the northeast, one kingdom extended its rule into Egyptian territory. In West Africa, wealthy empires emerged by trading salt for gold.

From Kingdoms to Nations In the 1400s and 1500s, Europeans began trading with African societies, carrying away gold, spices, ivory, and enslaved people. By the late 1800s, European nations had



◀ Woman fertilizing crops in Zimbabwe



claimed almost all of Africa. For profit and political advantage, they carved the continent into colonies. In the process, they ripped apart once-unified regions and threw together ethnic groups that did not get along.

Most African nations won their independence in the mid-1900s. Many countries that emerged from colonial rule were politically unstable and had crippled economies.

Varied Lifestyles Today more than 711 million people inhabit Africa south of the Sahara. They represent some 2,000 ethnic groups and speak 800 different languages. Nearly three-fourths of the population live in rural areas. Although Africa is the least urbanized continent, its cities are growing. Lured by the promise of better living conditions, people are flocking to African cities. These are among the fastest-growing urban areas in the world.

Crowded market in Lagos, Nigeria ▼



Data Bits

Country	 Automobiles per 1,000 people	 Television sets per 1,000 people
Ghana	5	115
Mauritania	8	95
Sudan	11	173
Tanzania	1	21
Zambia	17	145

Religions

Country	Islam	Christian	Traditional Beliefs
Ghana	16%	63%	21%
Mauritania	100%	—	—
Sudan	70%	5%	25%
Tanzania	35%	30%	35%
Zambia	24-49%	50-75%	1%

Sources: World Development Indicators, 2002; World Almanac, 2004.

Exploring the Region

1. What happens when Africa's rivers flow from one plateau to another?
2. Which climate zone is centered on the Equator?
3. What makes South Africa the region's most prosperous country?
4. How did colonial rule affect Africa south of the Sahara?

Africa South of the Sahara

Physical





Political



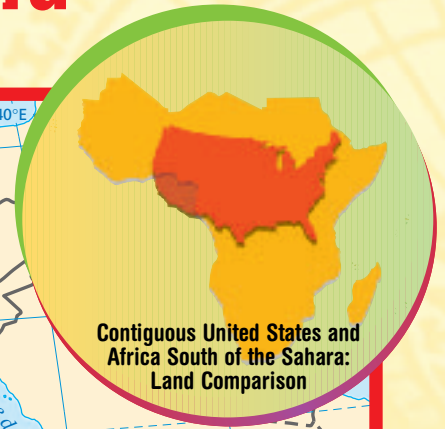
MAP STUDY

- 1 What plain is shared by Kenya and Tanzania?
- 2 What is the capital of Nigeria?



Africa South of the Sahara

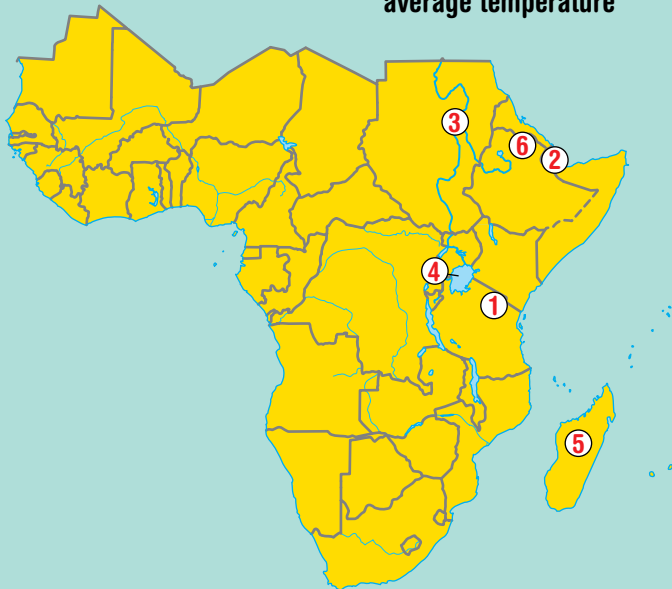
Gems and Minerals





Geo Extremes

- ① **HIGHEST POINT**
Kilimanjaro (Tanzania)
19,340 ft. (5,895 m) high
- ② **LOWEST POINT**
Lake Assal (Djibouti)
512 ft. (156 m)
below sea level
- ③ **LONGEST RIVER**
Nile River
4,241 mi.
(6,825 km) long
- ④ **LARGEST LAKE**
Lake Victoria (Kenya,
Uganda, and Tanzania)
26,834 sq. mi.
(69,500 sq. km)
- ⑤ **LARGEST ISLAND**
Madagascar
226,642 sq. mi.
(587,000 sq. km)
- ⑥ **HOTTEST PLACE**
Dalol, Denakil Depression
(Ethiopia)
93°F (34°C) annual
average temperature



COMPARING POPULATION: United States and Selected Countries of Africa South of the Sahara

UNITED STATES



NIGERIA



DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF THE CONGO



SOUTH AFRICA



KENYA



SENEGAL



1 = 30,000,000

Source: Population Reference Bureau, 2003.

SELECTED RURAL AND URBAN POPULATIONS: Africa South of the Sahara

	Rural	Urban
WEST AFRICA		
Niger	79%	21%
Cape Verde	36%	64%
CENTRAL AFRICA		
Angola	65%	35%
Central African Republic	58%	42%
EAST AFRICA		
Rwanda	94%	6%
Djibouti	16%	84%
SOUTHERN AFRICA		
Lesotho	71%	29%
South Africa	42%	58%

Source: The World Almanac, 2004.

GRAPHIC STUDY

- ① What is the longest river in Africa?
- ② Of the African countries shown in the chart at lower right, which is least urbanized? Which is most urbanized?

Country Profiles



Countries and flags not drawn to scale



For more information on countries in this region, refer to the Nations of the World Data Bank in the Appendix.



Country Profiles



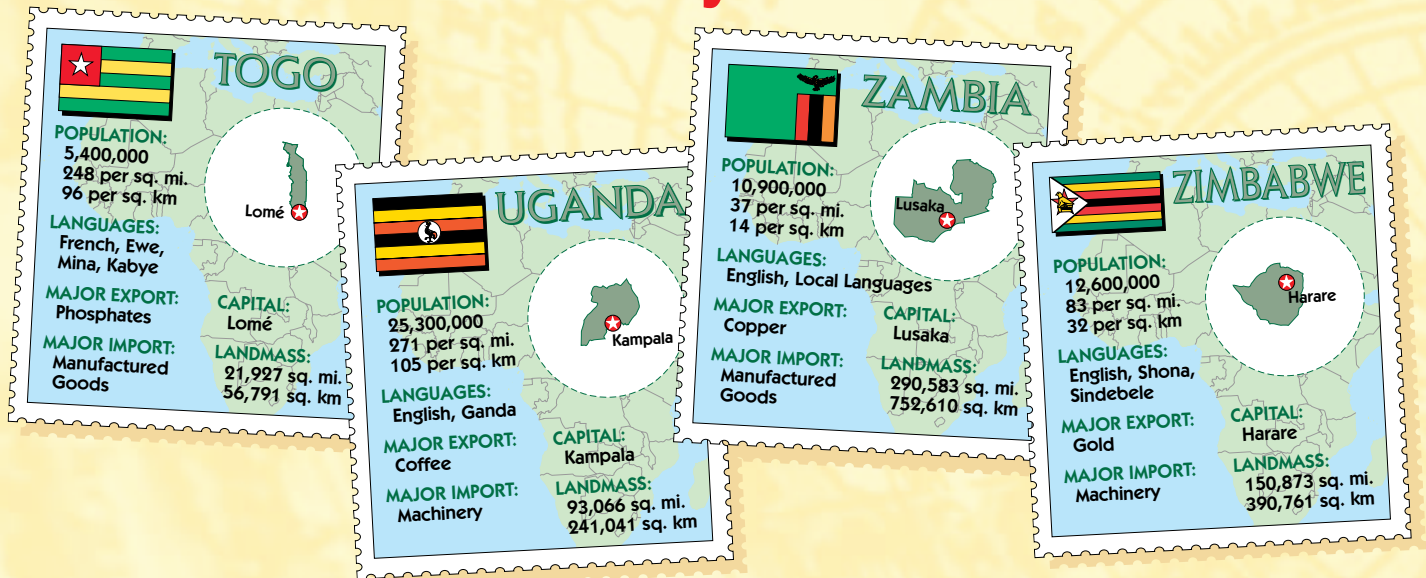
Countries and flags not drawn to scale



For more information on countries in this region, refer to the Nations of the World Data Bank in the Appendix.



Country Profiles



Countries and flags not drawn to scale

BUILDING CITIZENSHIP

Closing the Door on Racism By 1994, South Africa's racist policy of apartheid was officially over. Nelson Mandela became the first black person to be elected president of South Africa. Just three years earlier he had been released from jail after spending 27 years there for antiapartheid activities. When he became president, he created a panel to grant pardons to both blacks and whites who had admitted to committing political crimes in the past. Mandela believed that only by "closing the door" on the past could the country move on to its future.

Why do you think Nelson Mandela was willing to pardon people?

▼ Women at an antiapartheid rally in South Africa



WRITE ABOUT IT

The flags of African countries often represent the history or culture of the country. For example, the "Y" shape in the South African flag symbolizes a divided people going forward in unity. Research the flag of an African country and write a paragraph about the meaning of the flag.



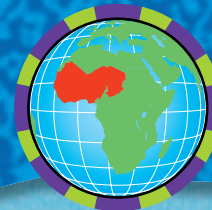
View over terraced fields
and small settlements,
Kabale, Uganda ▼



Chapter

19

West Africa



**The World
and Its People**

NATIONAL
GEOGRAPHIC



To learn more about the people and places of West Africa, view **The World and Its People** Chapter 19 video.



Social Studies **Online**

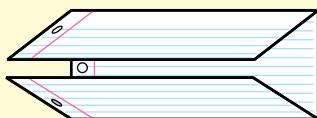
Chapter Overview Visit **The World and Its People** Web site at twip.glencoe.com and click on **Chapter 19—Chapter Overviews** to preview information about West Africa.

FOLDABLES™

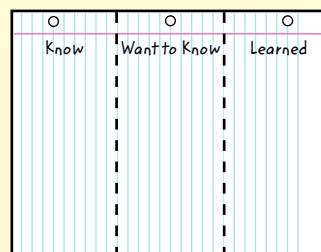
Study Organizer

Summarizing Information Make this foldable to determine what you already know, identify what you want to know, and summarize what you learn about West Africa.

Step 1 Fold a sheet of paper into thirds from top to bottom.



Step 2 Turn the paper horizontally, unfold, and label the three columns as shown.



Reading and Writing Before you read the chapter, write what you already know about West Africa under the “Know” tab. Write what you want to know about West Africa under the “Want to Know” tab. Then, as you read the chapter, write what you learn under the “Learned” tab. Be sure to include information you wanted to know (from the second column).

Why It Matters

Cultural Roots

Many African Americans today can trace their roots to West Africa. Enslaved peoples were carried from the “slave coast” of West Africa to the Americas in the 1600s and 1700s. Liberia was founded as a haven for returning Africans. West Africa also includes Nigeria, the continent’s most populous country.

◀ The Central Mosque of Kano, Nigeria



Section

1

Guide to Reading

Main Idea

Nigeria is a large, oil-rich country that has more people than any other African nation.

Terms to Know

- mangrove
- savanna
- harmattan
- subsistence farm
- cacao
- compound
- civil war

Reading Strategy

Create a chart like the one below. Then list two facts about Nigeria in each category.

Nigeria	Fact #1	Fact #2
Land		
Economy		
People		

Nigeria=African Giant



NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC

Exploring our World

In 1991 Abuja replaced Lagos as Nigeria's capital. The new city was built in an undeveloped region in central Nigeria. Today Abuja has new buildings and a network of roads linking it with other parts of the country. It also has schools. These children prepare to pray at the Islamic Academy in Abuja.



The West African country of **Nigeria** gets its name from the **Niger River**, which flows through western and central Nigeria. One of the largest nations in Africa, Nigeria is more than twice the size of California.

From Tropics to Savannas

Nigeria has a long coastline on the **Gulf of Guinea**, an arm of the Atlantic Ocean. Along Nigeria's coast, the land is covered with mangrove swamps. A **mangrove** is a tropical tree with roots that extend both above and beneath the water. As you travel inland, the land becomes vast tropical rain forests. Small villages appear in only a few clearings. The forests gradually thin into savannas in central Nigeria. **Savannas** are tropical grasslands with only a few trees. Highlands and plateaus also make up this area. Most of the country has a tropical savanna climate with high average temperatures and seasonal rains. The grasslands of



the far north have a dry steppe climate. In the winter months, a dusty wind called the **harmattan** blows south from the Sahara.

✓ Reading Check What kinds of vegetation are found in Nigeria?

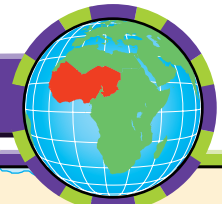
Economic Challenges

Nigeria is one of the world's major oil-producing countries. More than 90 percent of the country's income comes from oil exports. The government has used oil profits to build highways, schools, skyscrapers, and factories. These factories make food products, textiles, chemicals, machinery, and vehicles. Still, more than one-third of Nigeria's people lack jobs and live in poverty.

Nigeria began to experience economic troubles during the 1980s. As a result of falling world oil prices, Nigeria's income dropped. At the same time, many people left their farms in search of better-paying jobs in the cities. In addition, a few years of low rainfall meant smaller harvests, so food production fell. Nigeria—which had once exported food—had to import food to feed its people.



West Africa: Political



Applying Map Skills

1. Which West African national capital lies farthest north?
2. Which country is almost surrounded by Senegal?

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



Despite oil resources, Nigeria's people mainly work as farmers. Most have **subsistence farms**, or small plots where farmers grow just enough food to feed their families. Some work on larger farms that produce such cash crops as rubber, peanuts, palm oil, and cacao. The **cacao** is a tropical tree whose seeds are used to make chocolate and cocoa. Nigeria is a leading producer of cacao beans.

Reading Check How has Nigeria's government used profits from oil sales?

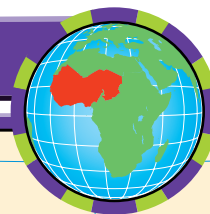
Nigeria's People

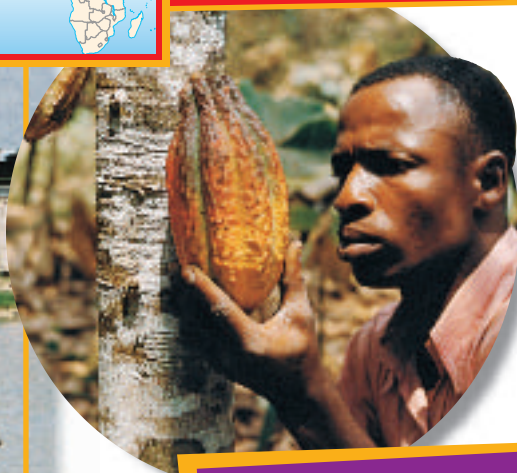
About 133.9 million people live in Nigeria—more people than in any other country in Africa. The map on page 560 shows that most of the people live along the coast and around the city of **Kano** in the north.

One of the strongest bonds that Africans have is a sense of belonging to a group or a family. Nigeria has about 250 ethnic groups. The four largest are the Hausa (HOW•suh), Fulani (foo•LAH•nee), Yoruba (YAWR•uh•buh), and Ibo (EE•boh). Nigerians speak many different African languages. They use English in business and government



West Africa: Physical





Nigeria's Economy

Nigerian women canoe past an oil refinery in the Niger River delta (above left). Cacao pods are harvested in Nigeria (above).

Human/Environment Interaction What are Nigeria's important cash crops?

affairs, though. About one-half of Nigeria's people are Muslim, and another 40 percent are Christian. The remaining 10 percent practice traditional African religions.

About 60 percent of Nigerians live in rural villages. The typical family lives in a **compound**, or a group of houses surrounded by walls. Usually the village has a weekly market run by women. The women sell locally grown products such as meat, cloth, yams, nuts, and palm oil. The market also provides a chance for friends to meet.

Long-standing rural ways are changing, however. Many young men now move to the cities to find work and often send money to their families. The women stay in the villages to raise children and to farm the land. The men return home to see their families when they are able.

Nigeria's largest city is the port of **Lagos**, the former capital. Major banks, department stores, and restaurants serve the 13.5 million people who live in Lagos and its surrounding areas. **Ibadan** (EE•bah•DAH•N), Kano, and Abuja (ah•BOO•jah) lie inland. **Abuja**, the present capital, is a planned city that was begun during the 1980s.

Nigerians take pride in both old and new features of their culture. Artists make elaborate wooden masks, metal sculptures, and colorful cloth. Nigerians pass on stories, sayings, and riddles by word of mouth from one generation to the next. In 1986 Nigerian writer Wole Soyinka (WAW•lay shaw•YIHNG•ka) became the first African to win the Nobel Prize in literature.

History and Government The earliest known inhabitants of the area were the Nok people. They lived between the Niger and Benue Rivers between 500 B.C. and A.D. 200. The Nok were known as skilled metalworkers and traders. Farming peoples who spoke dialects of the Bantu family of languages began to move from the Niger River region



into Central and East Africa. Today Bantu-speaking peoples occupy most of Africa south of the Congo River.

Over the centuries, powerful city-states and kingdoms became centers of trade and the arts. People in what is today northern Nigeria came in contact with Muslim cultures and adopted Islam. People in the south developed cultures based on traditional African religions.

During the 1400s, Europeans arrived in Africa looking for gold and Africans to take overseas as enslaved laborers. In 1884 European leaders divided most of Africa into colonies. The borders of these colonies often sliced through ethnic lands. As a result, many ethnic groups found their members living in two or more separate territories. By the early 1900s, the British had taken control of Nigeria.

In 1960 Nigeria finally became an independent country. Ethnic, religious, and political disputes soon tore it apart, however. One ethnic group, the Ibo, tried to set up its own country. A **civil war**—a fight between different groups within a country—resulted. In this bloody war, starvation and conflict led to 2 million deaths. The Ibo were defeated, and their region remained part of Nigeria.

Nigeria has faced the challenge of building a stable government. Military leaders have often ruled the country. In 1999 Nigerians were able to vote for a president in free elections. Nigerians continue to work toward greater national unity, but they face enormous problems.

 **Reading Check** What are the four largest ethnic groups in Nigeria?



Assessment

Defining Terms

1. **Define** mangrove, savanna, harmattan, subsistence farm, cacao, compound, civil war.

Recalling Facts

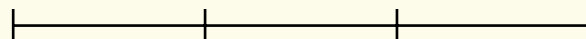
2. **Place** Describe the changes in Nigeria's physical geography as you move from the coast inland.
3. **Place** What is the capital of Nigeria?
4. **Culture** How many ethnic groups are represented by the people of Nigeria?

Critical Thinking

5. **Understanding Cause and Effect** Why did a drop in oil prices cause economic troubles in Nigeria in the 1980s?
6. **Drawing Conclusions** Why do you think an ethnic group, such as the Ibo, would want to set up their own country?

Graphic Organizer

7. **Organizing Information** On a time line like the one below, place the following events and their dates in order: Nigeria becomes independent; Nok people work in metal and trade for goods; Free elections are held; British take control of Nigeria.



Applying Social Studies Skills

8. **Analyzing Maps** Study the physical map on page 552. Into what larger body of water does the Niger River empty?

Critical Thinking Skill

Drawing Inferences and Conclusions

Suppose your teacher brought a colorful wooden mask to class, and a classmate said, "That's from Nigeria." You might infer that your classmate has an interest in African art and, therefore, recognizes the mask as coming from Nigeria.

Learning the Skill

To *infer* means to evaluate information and arrive at a conclusion. When you make inferences, you "read between the lines," or draw conclusions that are not stated directly in the text. You must use the available facts *and* your own knowledge and experience to form a judgment or opinion about the material.

Use the following steps to help you draw inferences and make conclusions:

- Read carefully for stated facts and ideas.
- Summarize the information and list the important facts.
- Apply related information that you may already know to make inferences.
- Use your knowledge and insight to develop some conclusions about these facts.

Practicing the Skill

Read the passage below, and then answer the questions that follow.

Nigerian art forms reflect the people's beliefs in spirits and nature. Yoruba masks are carved out of wood, reflecting the forces of



Yoruba wood masks ▲

nature and gods. The masks are used in ceremonies to help connect with the spirit of their ancestors. The masks also appear at funerals in order to please the spirits of the dead. Of all the Yoruba masks, the helmet masks of the Epa cult are the most spectacular.

1. What topic is the writer describing?
2. What facts are presented?
3. What can you infer about the role of masks in Nigerian life?
4. What do you already know about religious ceremonies?
5. What conclusion can you make about traditional religions in Nigeria?

Applying the Skill

Study the photos of Nigerians on page 553. What can you infer about life in Nigeria from the photographs? What evidence supports this inference, or conclusion?

GO TO

Practice key skills with **Glencoe Skillbuilder Interactive Workbook, Level 1.**



Section

2

Guide to Reading

Main Idea

The Sahel countries face a continuing struggle to keep grasslands from turning into desert, but the coastal countries receive plenty of rainfall.

Terms to Know

- overgraze
- drought
- desertification
- bauxite
- phosphate

Reading Strategy

Create five charts like this one, filling in at least one key fact about five West African countries for each category.

Country	
Land	
Economy	
Culture	

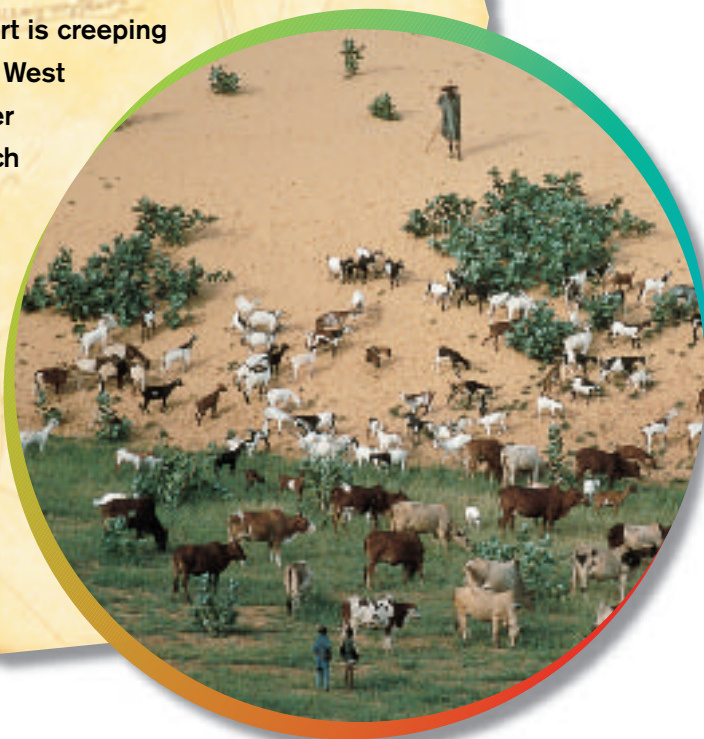
The Sahel and Coastal West Africa



NATIONAL
GEOGRAPHIC

Exploring Our World

Slowly but surely, the desert is creeping into grassy inland areas of West Africa north of Nigeria. Over the past 100 years, a stretch of the Sahara about 100 miles (161 km) wide has swallowed parts of countries in West Africa. This is due in part to population growth. The already limited resources are being used up faster than they can be replaced.



Five countries—**Mauritania** (MAWR•uh•TAY•nee•uh), **Mali** (MAH•lee), **Burkina Faso** (bur•KEE•nuh FAH•soh), **Niger** (NY•juhr), and **Chad**—are located in an area known as the **Sahel**. The word *Sahel* comes from an Arabic word that means “border.” In addition to the Sahel countries, West Africa includes 11 coastal countries.

Land and History of the Sahel

The Sahel receives little rainfall, so only short grasses and small trees can support grazing animals. Most people have traditionally herded livestock. Their flocks, unfortunately, have overgrazed the land in some places. When animals **overgraze** land, they strip areas so bare that plants cannot grow back. Then bare soil is blown away by winds.

In the Sahel, dry and wet periods usually follow each other. When the seasonal rains do not fall, drought takes hold. A **drought** is a long period of extreme dryness and water shortage. The latest drought



occurred in the 1980s. Rivers dried up, crops failed, and millions of animals died. Thousands of people died of starvation. Millions of others fled to more productive southern areas. Overgrazing and drought have led to **desertification** where grasslands have become deserts.

Empires From the A.D. 500s to 1500s, three great African empires—Ghana, Mali, and Songhai (SAWNG•hy)—arose in the Sahel. The empire of Ghana flourished between the A.D. 700s and 1100s. The empire was located at the upper parts of the Senegal and Niger Rivers. The people of Ghana knew how to make iron weapons, which they used to conquer neighboring groups of farmers and herders. Ghana could field an army of 200,000 warriors.

Ghana also had major deposits of gold. The wealth of the king's court was legendary. Crossing the empire were trade routes that connected gold mines in West Africa with copper and salt mines in the Sahara. Ghana prospered by taxing the goods that traders moved north and south along these routes.

The empire of Mali defeated Ghana in the A.D. 1200s. It, too, built its wealth and power on the gold and salt trade. Turn to page 566 to learn more about the rich salt trade. Mali's most famous ruler, Mansa Musa, made a journey in grand style to Makkah. This is the holy city of Islam located in the Arabian Peninsula. A faithful Muslim, Mansa Musa made his capital, Tombouctou (TOH•book•TOO), a leading center of Islamic learning. People came from all over the Muslim world to study there.

In the 1400s, Songhai replaced Mali as the most powerful West African empire. A huge army and a navy that patrolled the Niger River made Songhai the largest of the three trading empires. Songhai's rulers welcomed teachers, poets, and religious leaders from Asia and Europe.

Moroccan invaders with guns defeated Songhai in the late 1500s. During the 1800s, the Sahel region came under French rule. The French created five colonies in the area. In 1960 these five colonies

EXPLORING CULTURE

Clothing

To protect themselves from the hot Saharan sun, the Tuareg people wear layers of clothing under their long flowing robes. These loose cotton clothes help slow the evaporation of sweat and conserve body moisture. As a sign of respect for their superiors, Tuareg men cover their mouths and faces with veils. Women usually wear veils only for weddings. The veils are made of blue cloth dyed from crushed indigo. The blue dye easily rubs off onto the skin, earning the men the nickname "the Blue Men of the Desert."

Looking Closer How is the clothing of the Tuareg appropriate for the land in which they live?





became the independent nations of Mauritania, Mali, Upper Volta (now Burkina Faso), Niger, and Chad.

 **Reading Check** How has overgrazing affected the Sahel?

The People of the Sahel

The Sahel countries are large in size but have small populations. The population density map on page 560 shows that most people live in the southern areas of the Sahel. Rivers flow here, and the land can be farmed or grazed. Yet even these areas do not have enough water and fertile land to support large numbers of people.

Today most people in the Sahel live in small towns. They are subsistence farmers who grow grains, such as millet and sorghum (SAWR•guh•m). For years, many people were nomads. Groups such as the Tuareg (TWAH•rehg), for example, would cross the desert with herds of camels. The Fulani herded cattle, goats, and sheep. The recent droughts forced many of them to give up their traditional way of life and move to the towns. Here they often live in crowded camps of tents.

Mauritania borders the Atlantic Ocean. Rich fishing waters lie off the coast, but ships from other countries have overfished the area. Still, Mauritania's chief exports include fish and iron ore. The other four Sahel countries suffer from their landlocked location and lack of good transportation. Mali hopes to develop its gold mining industry. Niger has reserves of uranium, a mineral used for making nuclear fuels. Chad has petroleum deposits yet lacks the money needed to build pipelines.

The people of the Sahel practice a mix of African, Arab, and European traditions. Most are Muslims and follow the Islamic religion. They speak Arabic as well as a variety of African languages. In many of the larger cities, French is also spoken.

 **Reading Check** Why have many people in the Sahel given up nomadic ways?

Exploring Economics

Monoculture

The economies of some West African countries, such as Côte d'Ivoire, depend upon the production of one or two major crops. This practice is called monoculture. Although this has the advantage of being able to produce enough product to export, it also has disadvantages. If worldwide demand for the product drops, the price also drops. A major drought or epidemic could destroy harvests and wipe out the nation's only major source of income.

West Africa's Coastal Countries

Look at the map on page 552 to locate the **Cape Verde** Islands off the Atlantic Coast. Skipping to **Senegal**, follow the countries in order around the coast: **Gambia, Guinea-Bissau, Guinea, Sierra Leone, Liberia, Côte d'Ivoire, Ghana, Togo, and Benin.**

Tropical Landscape Sandy beaches, thick mangrove swamps, and rain forests cover the shores of West Africa's coastal countries. Highland areas with grasses and trees lie inland. Several major rivers flow from these highlands to the coast. They include the Sénégal, Gambia, Volta, and Niger Rivers. Rapids and shallow waters prevent large ships from traveling far inland.

Because they border the ocean, the coastal countries receive plenty of rainfall. Warm currents in the **Gulf of Guinea** create a moist, tropical rain forest climate in most coastal lowlands year-round. For many years, tropical disease, thick rain forests, and river rapids kept European explorers from entering the interior.





Deforestation is a problem along the densely settled West African coast. Forests have been cleared to make space for palm, coffee, cacao, and rubber plantations, as well as for many small farms. As people migrate in search of work, they have formed concentrated settlements around port cities such as **Abidjan** (Côte d'Ivoire), **Accra** (Ghana), and **Lagos** and **Port Harcourt** (Nigeria). Oil discoveries in eastern Nigeria are now attracting even more people to the West African coast.

Despite rich agricultural resources, coastal West African countries import more in industrial goods than they export in natural products. Why? Agricultural products often rise and fall in price suddenly, and their value is not equal to finished goods. To meet their countries' needs, governments have to borrow money from international organizations.

History In early times, the powerful and wealthy kingdoms of Ashanti and Abomey ruled West Africa's coastal region. These kingdoms were centers of trade, learning, and the arts. Benin artists sculpted beautiful works in bronze. Intricate woodcarvings and masks represented gods, spirits, or ancestors. African dance and music also served a religious purpose. The dances were a means of communicating with the spirits. Without a written language, African dances and songs became a way to pass legends and religious traditions from generation to generation.

The Slave Trade From the late 1400s to the early 1800s, Europeans set up trading posts along the West African coast. From these posts, they traded with Africans for gold, ivory, and enslaved people. Many African states had sold people as slaves long before Europeans reached Africa. Most of these slaves were prisoners of war captured in local battles. After the development of European sailing ships, however, the slave trade became a major source of income for the kings of West African states.

Europeans enslaved millions of Africans and forced them to work on plantations and in mines in the Americas. This trade in human beings was a disaster for West Africa. The removal of so many young and skilled people devastated West African families, villages, and economies.

The French, British, and Portuguese eventually divided up the coastal region and set up colonies to obtain the region's rich resources. In 1957 Ghana became the first country in Africa to become independent. By the late 1970s, no West African country was under European rule.

✓ Reading Check What enabled West African kings to prosper from the slave trade?



NATIONAL
GEOGRAPHIC

On Location



Niger Highway

Rivers of West Africa provide not only water but transportation. Here, freight boats on the Niger River deliver goods to Benin's people.

Place What prevents large ships from traveling far inland on West Africa's rivers?



West Africa: Population Density



Applying Map Skills

1. What are the five largest cities in Nigeria?
2. Where are the region's most densely populated areas?

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

Cities

- City with more than 5,000,000 people
- City with 1,000,000 to 5,000,000 people
- City with 500,000 to 1,000,000 people

Persons per

Sq. Mi.	Sq. Km
Uninhabited	Uninhabited
Under 2	Under 1
2–60	1–25
60–125	25–50
125–250	50–100
Over 250	Over 100

People of Coastal West Africa

People in coastal West Africa cherish family ties. Some practice traditional African religions, whereas others are Christian or Muslim. Local African languages are spoken in everyday conversation. Reflecting the region's colonial histories, languages such as French, English, and Portuguese are used in business and government. If you were to visit the modern coastal cities of West Africa, you would see some people dressed in Western-style business clothes and others in traditional African clothing. **Dakar** (dah•KAHR), Senegal's capital, is known for its European cafés, bustling outdoor markets, and tree-lined streets.

Most of the people in Gambia, Senegal, and Guinea work in agriculture. Guinea is also rich in bauxite and diamonds. **Bauxite** is a mineral used to make aluminum. Phosphate mining takes place in Senegal. **Phosphate** is a mineral salt used in fertilizers.

Liberia is the only West African nation that was never a colony. African Americans freed from slavery founded Liberia in 1822. **Monrovia**, the capital, was named for James Monroe—the president of



the United States when Liberia was founded. From 1989 to 2003, a civil war cost many lives and destroyed much of the country's economy.

Like Liberia, Sierra Leone was founded as a home for people freed from slavery. The British ruled Sierra Leone from 1787 to 1961. Most of the land is used for farming, but the country also has mineral resources, especially diamonds. Here, too, civil war has hurt the economy.

Côte d'Ivoire has a French name that means "ivory coast." From the late 1400s to the early 1900s, a trade in elephant ivory tusks in Côte d'Ivoire brought profits to European traders. Today the ivory trade is illegal, and the country protects its few remaining elephants. The port of Abidjan is the largest urban area and economic center. It has towering office buildings and wide avenues. Most countries' embassies are in Abidjan, but **Yamoussoukro** (YAH•MOO•SOO•kroh), some 137 miles (220 km) inland, is the official capital.

Ghana's people belong to about 100 ethnic groups. The Ashanti and the Fante are the largest. Many groups still keep their local kings, but these rulers have no political power. The people respect these ceremonial rulers and look to them to keep traditions alive. About 35 percent of Ghana's people live in cities. **Accra**, on the coast, is the capital and largest city. A giant dam on the Volta River provides hydroelectric power to urban areas. The dam also has created **Lake Volta**, one of the world's largest artificial lakes.

 **Reading Check** What are the capitals of Ghana and Côte d'Ivoire?

 **Social Studies** **Online**

Web Activity Visit *The World and Its People* Web site at twip.glencoe.com and click on **Chapter 19—Student Web Activities** to learn more about Liberia.

Section

2

Assessment

Defining Terms

1. **Define** overgraze, drought, desertification, bauxite, phosphate.

Recalling Facts

2. **History** What three great empires ruled in the Sahel from the A.D. 500s to 1500s?
3. **History** Which West African country was never a colony?
4. **Government** How much political power do the local kings in Ghana have?

Critical Thinking

5. **Making Predictions** What challenges do you think will arise as people move from the Sahel to more productive areas?
6. **Drawing Conclusions** Why do governments of coastal West African countries have to borrow money?

Graphic Organizer

7. **Organizing Information** On a chart like this one, write at least three different facts about the three ancient African empires of Ghana, Mali, and Songhai.

Ghana	Mali	Songhai



Applying Social Studies Skills

8. **Analyzing Maps** Study the population density map on page 560. Why would you expect the heavy population centers to be located along the coast?



Making Connections

ART

SCIENCE

CULTURE

TECHNOLOGY

Great Mosque of Djenné

In the West African city of Djenné (jeh•NAY), Mali, stands a huge structure built entirely of mud. It is the Great Mosque of Djenné, and it covers an area the size of a city block. Considered one of Africa's greatest architectural wonders, the existing Great Mosque is actually the third mosque to occupy the location.

Djenné

Located between the Sahara and the African savanna, the city of Djenné was an important crossroads on a trade route connecting northern and southern Africa. Caravans and boats carried gold, salt, and other goods through the city.

During the A.D. 1200s, the ruler of Djenné ordered the construction of the first Great Mosque. Having recently converted to Islam, he had his palace torn down to make room for the huge house of worship. The city became an important Islamic religious center. Over the years, political and religious conflicts led to a decline in the city. People abandoned the Great Mosque, and a second, much smaller one replaced it. Then in 1906, builders began to raise a new Great Mosque. Today the Great Mosque is once more an important part of the religious life of the Djenné people.

The Great Mosque

The Great Mosque of Djenné was built facing east toward Makkah, the holy city of Islam. It is constructed from the same sun-dried mud bricks as most of the rest of the city. The mud walls of the mosque vary in thickness between 16 and 24 inches (41 and 61 cm), providing insulation to keep the interior cool. Roof vents can be removed at night to allow cooler air inside.

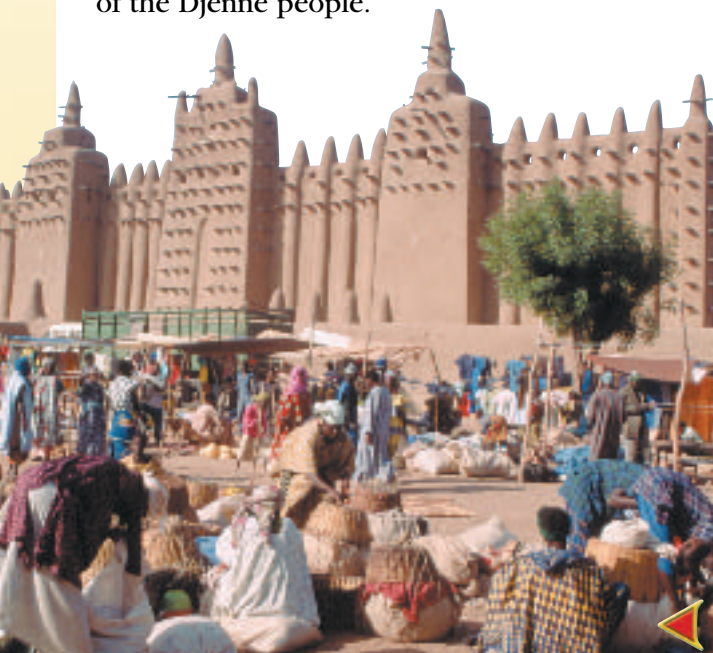
With its five stories and three towers, or minarets, the mosque rises above the surrounding buildings. Inside the mosque, the main prayer hall is open to the sky. Although the mosque contains loudspeakers that are used to issue the call to prayer, there are few other modern improvements.

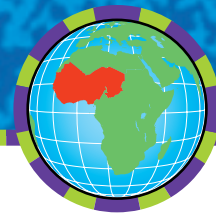
Maintaining the Mosque

Rain, wind, and heat can damage mud structures, and the Great Mosque would soon deteriorate without care. Each spring the people of Djenné plaster the mosque from top to bottom with fresh mud. It is a festival day, and nearly everyone volunteers. Workers climb up the sides of the mosque on wooden rods permanently mounted to the walls. They dump mud and water onto the walls, then smooth it with their bare hands. The townspeople know that, with such care, the Great Mosque will remain a place of worship for generations to come.

Making the Connection

1. When was the first Great Mosque built?
2. What elements of the Great Mosque help keep the inside cool?
3. **Making Comparisons** In what way is the Great Mosque like the other buildings in Djenné? In what way is it different?





Section 1

Nigeria—African Giant

Terms to Know

mangrove
savanna
harmattan
subsistence farm
cacao
compound
civil war

Main Idea

Nigeria is a large, oil-rich country that has more people than any other African nation.

- ✓ **Place** Nigeria's major landforms are coastal lowlands, savannas, highlands, plateaus, and partly dry grasslands.
- ✓ **Economics** More than 90 percent of Nigeria's income comes from oil exports.
- ✓ **Culture** Nigeria has about 250 ethnic groups. The four largest ethnic groups are the Hausa, Fulani, Yoruba, and Ibo.

Section 2

The Sahel and Coastal West Africa

Terms to Know

overgraze
drought
desertification
bauxite
phosphate

Main Idea

The Sahel countries face a continuing struggle to keep grasslands from turning into desert, but the coastal countries receive plenty of rainfall.

- ✓ **Region** The Sahel countries are Mauritania, Mali, Niger, Chad, and Burkina Faso.
- ✓ **Region** The Sahel receives little rainfall, so only short grasses and small trees can support grazing animals.
- ✓ **Human/Environment Interaction** Overgrazing and drought have caused many grassland areas in this region to become desert.
- ✓ **Region** The 11 countries that make up coastal West Africa are Senegal, Gambia, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Cape Verde, Liberia, Sierra Leone, Côte d'Ivoire, Ghana, Togo, and Benin.
- ✓ **Economics** West Africa's coastal countries import more in industrial goods than they export in natural products.

The port of Abidjan,
Côte d'Ivoire ►



Assessment and Activities



Using Key Terms

Match the terms in Part A with their definitions in Part B.

A.

1. overgraze
2. harmattan
3. drought
4. mangrove
5. compound
6. phosphate
7. desertification
8. cacao
9. subsistence farm
10. savanna

B.

- a. process in which deserts expand
- b. a group of houses surrounded by a wall
- c. a dusty wind that blows south from the Sahara
- d. mineral salt used in fertilizers
- e. tropical tree whose seeds are used to make cocoa and chocolate
- f. tropical grassland with scattered trees
- g. produces enough to support a family's needs
- h. extended period of extreme dryness
- i. when animals strip the land so bare that plants cannot grow
- j. tropical tree with roots above and beneath the water



Reviewing the Main Ideas

Section 1 Nigeria—African Giant

11. **Economics** What is Nigeria's major export?
12. **Economics** Name one reason Nigeria had economic troubles in the 1980s.
13. **Culture** Who was the first African to win the Nobel Prize in literature?
14. **History** Why have there been so many conflicts in Nigeria since 1960?

Section 2 The Sahel and Coastal West Africa

15. **Region** What is the meaning of the word *Sahel*?
16. **History** What was the earliest trading empire in West Africa?
17. **History** Who was Mansa Musa?
18. **Culture** What religion do most people of the Sahel follow?
19. **History** What has led to desertification in the Sahel?
20. **Movement** Why are ships unable to sail very far inland in coastal West Africa?
21. **History** What was the slave trade?
22. **Culture** What are the largest ethnic groups in Ghana?

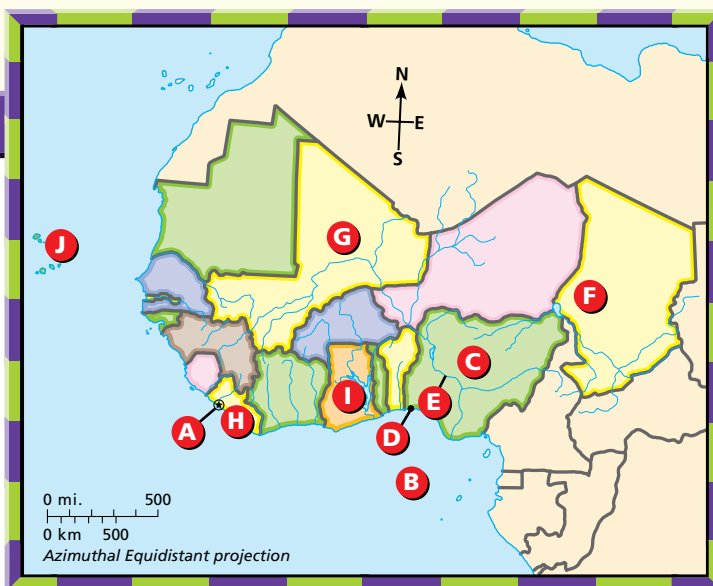


West Africa

Place Location Activity

On a separate sheet of paper, match the letters on the map with the numbered places listed below.

1. Gulf of Guinea
2. Nigeria
3. Niger River
4. Liberia
5. Cape Verde
6. Lagos
7. Mali
8. Ghana
9. Chad
10. Monrovia





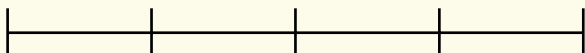
Social Studies Online

Self-Check Quiz Visit **The World and Its People** Web site at twip.glencoe.com and click on **Chapter 19—Self-Check Quizzes** to prepare for the Chapter Test.



Critical Thinking

- 23. Evaluating Information** What do you feel is the major challenge facing the countries of West Africa today? Explain your answer.
- 24. Sequencing Information** After reviewing this chapter, choose what you feel are five of the most important events in the history of West Africa. Place those events and their dates on a time line like this one.



Comparing Regions Activity

- 25. Culture** West African arts have had a powerful impact on other cultures. Out of West Africa came detailed bronze work, musical rhythms, and wooden masks. The influence of African art is apparent in the work of Spanish artist Pablo Picasso. He painted geometric shapes and figures, as well as masklike faces. Research to find other ways African arts and music have influenced cultures.



Mental Mapping Activity

- 26. Focusing on the Region** Create a simple outline map of West Africa, and then label the following:
- Niger River
 - Senegal
 - Atlantic Ocean
 - Côte d'Ivoire
 - Gulf of Guinea
 - Chad
 - Tropic of Cancer
 - Mali
 - Nigeria
 - Mauritania
 - Niger
 - Liberia

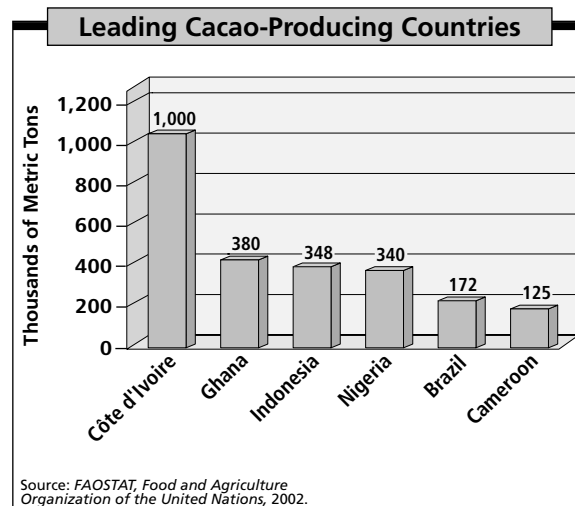


Technology Skills Activity

- 27. Using the Internet** Search on the Internet for information about one of the ancient empires of West Africa. Look for maps, pictures, and descriptions of the important places and rulers. Then write a report using the information you find. Share your report with the rest of the class.

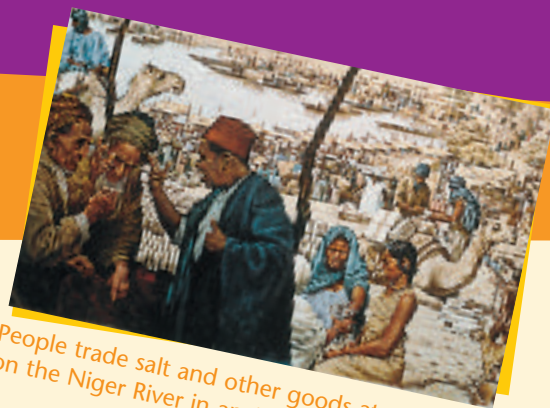
Standardized Test Practice

Directions: Study the graph, and then answer the question that follows.



- 1. What countries on the graph are leading cacao-producing countries from West Africa?**
- A Ghana, Indonesia, and Nigeria
 - B Côte d'Ivoire, Ghana, and Indonesia
 - C Côte d'Ivoire, Nigeria, and Cameroon
 - D Côte d'Ivoire, Ghana, and Nigeria

Test-Taking Tip: The important words in this question are “from West Africa.” You need to use information on the graph as well as information you learned in Chapter 19 to answer this question. As with any graph, read the title bar and information along the side and bottom of the graph first. Then analyze and compare the sizes of the bars to one another.



People trade salt and other goods at a market on the Niger River in ancient Africa.

PLEASE PASS THE SALT:

Africa's Salt Trade

Passing the salt at dinner may not be a big deal, but in parts of Africa, salt built empires. How did such a basic substance come to play such an important role in Africa?

Good as Gold

Salt is essential for life. Every person contains about 8 ounces (227 g) of salt—enough to fill several saltshakers. Salt helps muscles work, and it aids in digesting food. In hot climates, people need extra salt to replace the salt lost when they sweat. In tropical Africa, salt has always been precious.

Salt is plentiful in the Sahara and scarce in the forests south of the Sahara (in present-day countries such as Ghana and Côte d'Ivoire). These conditions gave rise to Africa's salt trade. Beginning in the A.D. 300s, Berbers drove camels carrying European glassware and weapons from Mediterranean ports into the Sahara. At the desert's great salt deposits, such as those near the ancient sites of Terhazza and Taoudenni, they traded European wares for salt.

The salt did not look like the tiny crystals in a saltshaker. It was in the form of large slabs, as hard as stone. The slabs were pried from hardened salt deposits that were left on the land long ago when landlocked seas evaporated. The salt slabs were loaded onto camels, and the animals were herded south. To people in the south, salt was literally worth its weight in gold. The slabs were cut into equal-sized blocks and exchanged for gold and other products such as ivory and kola nuts. Salt was also traded for enslaved people.

Rise and Decline

Camels arrived in Africa from Asia in A.D. 300. Before that time only a trickle of trade, mostly carried by human porters, made it across the blistering desert. In time, caravans of thousands of camels loaded with tons of salt arrived at southern markets.

Local kings along the trade routes put taxes—payable in gold—on all goods crossing their realms. The ancient empires of Mali, Ghana, and Songhai rose to great power from wealth brought by the salt trade.

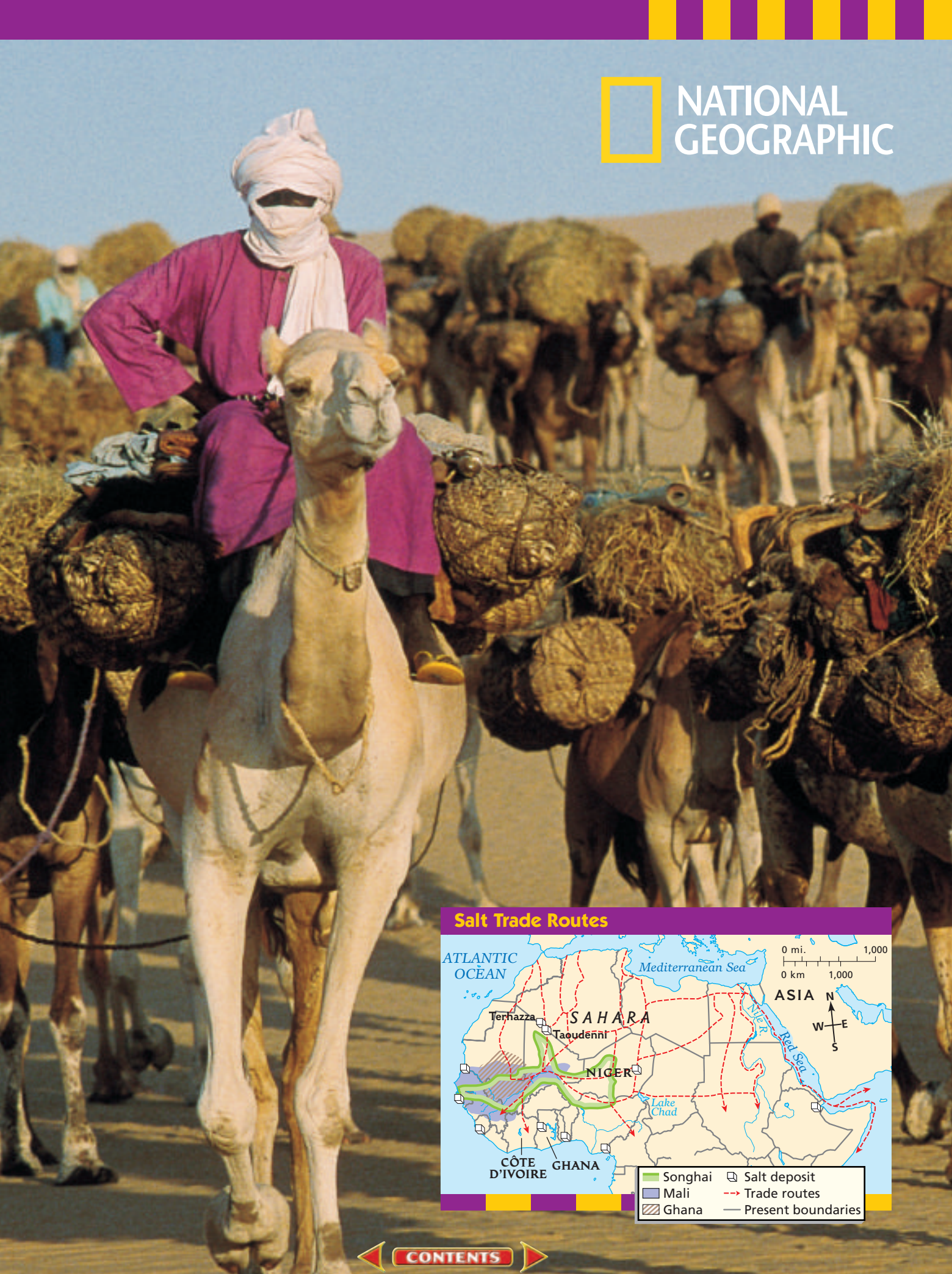
Trade routes also provided avenues for spreading ideas and inventions. By the A.D. 800s, Arab traders brought to Africa a system of weights and measures, a written language, and the concept of money. They also brought a new religion—Islam.

Today trucks have replaced many of the camels. Salt no longer dominates trade in the region. However, salt is still important, and the salt trade continues in Mali and in the markets of other West African nations.

QUESTIONS

- 1 What goods were exchanged in the salt trade?
- 2 How did the salt trade affect regions south of the Sahara?

A present-day salt caravan in Niger ►



Salt Trade Routes

