

## Chapter 8 Notes: African Civilizations

### Section 1: Diverse Societies in Africa

Africa includes a broad range of Earth's environments that make life there difficult:

- Deserts: Sahara (north) Kalahari (south)
- Rain Forest (tsetse fly prevents farming with animals)
- Mediterranean Climates (northern coast and southern tip)
- Savannas grassy plains cover 40% of the continent
- Narrow coastline with few harbors

Early Religion of Africa included one creator god, and animism (belief that spirits are present in animals, plants, and natural forces)

Had an oral history passed down by griots

The Nok people of West Africa developed iron smelting in around 500 B.C.

Archaeologists have found thousands of artifacts of West African civilization at the city of Djenné-Djeno.

### Section 2: Migration

Push-pull factors influence the migration of people.

Experts can trace the patterns of movement of people by studying the spread of languages.

The Bantu-speaking peoples migrated from the southern edge of the Sahara and spread over the rest of Southern Africa.

### Section 3: The Kingdom of Aksum

Aksum was located in the southern Red Sea region in the Ethiopian Highlands.

The kingdom of Aksum conquered Nubia or Kush on the Upper Nile and was made up of many people groups.

Merchants of Aksum traded with Egypt, Arabia, Persia, India and the Roman Empire.

Christianity also diffused into Aksum when king Ezana became a Christian and made it the official religion.

The establishment of Christianity was the longest lasting achievement of Aksum. Today, Ethiopia is home to millions of Christians.