

CHAPTER 8 READING QUESTIONS – Carter Brehm

- 1. Describe the “common elements” in African societies.**
 - a. In each of the stateless societies, their culture was based on kinship. They all shared a Bantu language base, and they believed in one “creator.”
- 2. Trace how Islam entered Africa.**
 - a. Once Muslims owned most of the Middle East, their traders and Sufi mystics expanded outwards towards Northern Africa, spreading their religion along the way. This was only possible because of the Arab’s more peaceful conversation with surrounding company.
- 3. Describe the Sudanic states and how were they organized.**
 - a. They were kingdoms that developed in the shadows of Ghana’s power. Mali and Songhay were the main Sudanic States. They were led by a council of elders (or sometimes a single patriarch) and leaders were considered sacred. They used rituals to separate these rulers from their people.
- 4. How did Islam and the beliefs of indigenous societies fuse among African peoples?**
 - a. Rulers adopted the Islamic faith, but mixed it with the African religions to prevent culture shock. Women were oppressed under the Islamic faith, but they remained matrilineal because of African tradition. Islam was responsible for establishing a fixed law and education.
- 5. Describe the connection between east Africa and Islam.**
 - a. Trade bonded the two together. Swahili became the new language and the culture shifted massively under Arab influence. The wealth of gold available to the Swahili helped them trade with the Arabs for salt.
- 6. Where did cultures in Africa develop that were NOT affected by Islam? Describe the nature of their organization.**
 - a. Any nation that didn’t rely on trade was not affected by Islam. This included the interior of Africa because they were too far away from the Arabs. Most of these nations were simple, but some complex ones managed to avoid global trade. These nations had a more oral approach to tradition and focused mainly on agriculture. Art especially flourished.