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**IDX G9 HISTORY S STUDY GUIDE ISSUE 5**

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**11.1 Early Civilizations of Africa**

**Geography's Influence on Development**

Africa's geography significantly influenced its early societies. Key points include:

* Africa is the second-largest continent, with diverse climates and terrains.
* Vegetation regions include tropical rainforests, savannas, and deserts.
* Geographic features acted as barriers or highways for movement.

**Geographic Patterns**

Africa's vegetation regions create distinct patterns:

* Tropical rainforests along the Equator.
* Savannas, the most populated regions, lie north and south of the rainforests.
* Deserts, including the Sahara, limit movement and trade.

**Resources and Trade**

Africa's mineral wealth, including salt, gold, iron, and copper, spurred trade:

* Trade routes expanded with the introduction of camels around A.D. 200.
* Camels could carry heavy loads and travel long distances without water.
* Trade networks flourished across the Sahara, benefiting merchants.

**The Great Rift Valley**

The Great Rift Valley is a significant geographic feature:

* It extends 4,000 miles from Southwest Asia to East Africa.
* Served as a passageway for early migrations.

**Migrations and Cultural Diversity**

Migration patterns contributed to Africa's cultural diversity:

* Paleolithic hunters evolved into Neolithic farmers by 5500 B.C.
* Neolithic villages appeared in the Sahara when it was well-watered.
* Desertification around 2500 B.C. forced migrations to maintain livelihoods.

**The Bantu Migrations**

The Bantu migrations significantly impacted African cultures:

* West African farmers migrated south and east between 1000 B.C. and A.D. 1000.
* They spread skills in farming, ironworking, and animal domestication.
* The Bantu language influenced many languages spoken in the region today.

**Nubia and Egypt**

Nubia, located along the Nile, developed alongside Egypt:

* Trade led to rivalry and cultural exchange between Nubia and Egypt.
* Nubia was under Egyptian control for nearly 500 years.
* King Piankhi conquered Egypt around 730 B.C.

**Meroe: Trade and Iron**

Meroe became a significant center for trade and iron production:

* It controlled key trade routes and was rich in iron ore.
* Iron tools and weapons were produced to support the kingdom.

**Cultural Exchange**

Nubian culture absorbed elements from Egypt while developing its own identity:

* Nubians worshiped their own gods and created a unique writing system.
* After the golden age, Nubia faced decline and was eventually conquered by Axum around A.D. 350.

**Outside Influences in North Africa**

North Africa was influenced by Mediterranean and Red Sea trade:

* Carthage, founded by Phoenicians, dominated western Mediterranean trade.
* Rome gained control of North Africa after defeating Carthage.
* Christianity spread in North Africa, with St. Augustine as a key figure.

**Islam's Spread in North Africa**

Islam replaced Christianity as the dominant religion in North Africa:

* Muslim Arabs conquered North African cities in the 690s.
* Arabic became the primary language, and cities like Cairo flourished.
* Islam spread into West Africa through trade.

**11.2 Kingdoms of West Africa**

**Development of Trading Centers**

Trading centers emerged as trade expanded beyond villages, leading to the rise of wealthy commercial cities between 800 and 1600. Powerful kingdoms gained control over these trade routes.

**Trade in the Sahara**

* Salt was rare in many African regions but essential for health.
* As the Sahara dried, Neolithic people migrated to more fertile areas, leading to agricultural development.
* Surplus food from farming villages initiated trade networks linking various regions.

**Gold and Salt Trade**

Gold and salt dominated Sahara trade. Gold was abundant in present-day Ghana, Nigeria, and Senegal, while salt was scarce in the savanna. Merchants exchanged gold for salt, with one pound of gold equating to one pound of salt.

**The Kingdom of Ghana**

By A.D. 800, the Soninke people united to form the kingdom of Ghana, controlling gold-salt trade routes. The capital, Kumbi Saleh, was a bustling trade center with a royal palace and prosperous Muslim merchants.

**Weights of Gold**

In the 1400s, standardized weights for gold dust currency were developed, facilitating trade and representing local proverbs.

**Influence of Islam**

Muslim merchants introduced Islam to Ghana, influencing governance and trade practices. The Almoravids eventually conquered Ghana but could not maintain control, leading to the rise of Mali.

**The Kingdom of Mali**

After Ghana's collapse, Sundiata of the Mandinka people founded the Mali Empire around 1235, controlling gold trade routes. Mansa Musa, the most notable ruler, expanded the empire and promoted religious tolerance.

**The Hajj of Mansa Musa**

Mansa Musa's pilgrimage to Mecca in 1324 strengthened ties with Muslim states and promoted education in Mali, leading to the establishment of an Islamic university in Timbuktu.

**The Kingdom of Songhai**

In the 1400s, Songhai emerged as a powerful kingdom under Sonni Ali, who controlled trade routes and cities. Askia Muhammad later expanded the empire and improved governance through a bureaucratic system.

**Smaller Societies of West Africa**

Other societies, such as the kingdom of Benin and the Hausa city-states, thrived through farming and trade. Benin was known for its artistic bronze works, while Hausa city-states developed into commercial centers.

**The Forest Kingdom of Benin**

* Located in the rainforests, traded pepper, ivory, and slaves.
* Organized under an oba (king) with a council of chiefs.
* Capital city was surrounded by a three-mile wall, showcasing wealth and artistry.

**Hausa City-States**

* Built clay-walled cities for protection against invasions.
* Kano was the most prosperous city-state, influenced by Islamic law.
* Amina of Zazzau expanded trade routes and territories.

**11.3 Kingdoms and Trading States of East Africa**

**Influence of Religion and Trade**

Focus Question: What influence did religion and trade have on the development of East Africa?

**Axum: Center of Goods and Ideas**

Axum was strategically located between the mountains of Ethiopia and the Red Sea, facilitating trade.

* People of Axum descended from African farmers and Middle Easterners, leading to a unique culture.
* Development of the Geez language from cultural merging.

**Effects of Trade on East African Societies**

Trade brought wealth and connected Axum to a triangular trade network involving Africa, India, and the Mediterranean.

* Goods traded included ivory, animal hides, gold, iron, spices, and textiles.
* Trade routes facilitated cultural exchange and the spread of ideas.

**Christianity in Axum**

Christianity spread to Axum by the 300s, becoming the official religion under King Ezana.

* Christian churches replaced older temples, showcasing biblical art.
* Axum's ties with North Africa and the Mediterranean strengthened initially but weakened with the rise of Islam.
* Isolation led to civil war and economic decline.

**Ethiopia: A Christian Outpost**

Despite Axum's decline, its cultural and religious influence persisted in northern Ethiopia.

* Ethiopia maintained independence due to geographic isolation and a strong Christian identity.
* King Lalibela's churches, carved from rock, exemplify Ethiopian architectural skill.
* Ethiopian Christians maintained connections with the Holy Land and absorbed local customs.

**Ibn Battuta's Travels**

Ibn Battuta, a Moroccan judge, documented his extensive travels across Africa and Asia.

* Described the trading traditions of Mogadishu, highlighting hospitality and merchant practices.
* Noted the cultural richness and diversity of trading cities.

**Judaism in Ethiopia**

Ethiopian kings claimed descent from Solomon and the Queen of Sheba, with some practicing Judaism.

* The Falasha community lived in the mountains until the late 1900s.

**East African City-States**

As Axum declined, city-states like Kilwa, Mogadishu, and Mombasa emerged along the coast.

* Arab and Persian merchants established Muslim communities in the 600s.
* Trade flourished due to favorable monsoon winds, connecting Africa with Asia.

**Trade and Cultural Exchange**

Trade led to the emergence of a vibrant culture and the Swahili language.

* Architecture reflected a blend of East African and Arabic styles.
* Swahili language incorporated many Arabic words and was written in Arabic script.

**Great Zimbabwe**

Great Zimbabwe was a powerful inland empire known for its impressive stone ruins.

* Built by Bantu-speaking peoples between 900 and 1500, it became a trade hub.
* Artifacts indicate connections to coastal trade networks and skilled artisans.
* Decline by 1500 due to overpopulation, civil war, and external pressures from Portuguese traders.

**11.4 Societies in Medieval Africa**

**Factors Influencing Development**

Africa's size and geography contributed to cultural diversity. Key factors include:

* Varied geography and climates.
* Migration and trade.
* Neolithic Revolution leading to settled farming.
* Surpluses enabling artisan specialization.
* Advancements in transportation (e.g., camels).

Communities evolved into towns and states through trade and wealth accumulation.

**Family Patterns**

The family was the basic societal unit, with variations in structure:

* Nuclear family: Parents and children living together.
* Extended family: Multiple generations living together.
* Patrilineal: Inheritance through father's side.
* Matrilineal: Inheritance through mother's side.

Kinship ties fostered community responsibility and social connections.

**Artistic Expression**

African cultures developed unique artistic traditions reflecting beliefs and environments:

* Art served social and religious purposes.
* Examples: Mende slit drum, Maasai and Ethiopian shields.
* Symbolism in art represented community identity.

**Political Patterns**

Political organization varied by community size and culture:

* Power often shared among community members.
* Consensus decision-making in smaller societies.
* In larger kingdoms, centralized authority with local chiefs.

Example: Kingdom of Kongo had limited monarch power, governed by traditional laws.

**Religious Beliefs**

Religion was central to medieval African societies:

* Worship of many gods and a supreme being.
* Belief in ancestral spirits influencing the living.
* Spread of Christianity and Islam by A.D. 1000.

Local practices often merged with new religions.

**Traditions in Art and Literature**

African artistic traditions date back to ancient times:

* Materials: Gold, ivory, wood, bronze, cloth.
* Art served social, religious, and community bonding purposes.
* Oral literature preserved histories through griots.

Literature and art fostered community values and identity.