

## Ancient African Civilizations

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### LD 4: African Archaeological Zones

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**Introduction:** The key to reconstructing the ancient past of Sub-Saharan or Pre-Colonial and Black Africa lies in our ability to discern archaeological sites, zones, and early art styles of the African continent. Since the Independence of much of Africa from European colonialism has only occurred in the past twenty to thirty years, much still needs to be done to resurrect the earliest African civilizations. The Internet and our texts provide one means of identifying the existence of pre-Colonial states and civilizations, and ancient urban centers in Africa.

**Instructions:** Using both the Internet and your textbooks and assigned readings you are to identify the ancient states, civilizations, arts, and urban centers of earliest Africa. You are to work in groups of four to five individuals and you should subdivide your efforts between those who use the Internet and those who use available readings. So that you can begin this effort, please use the key words from “The Matrix” handout provided as a handout in an earlier class. Please provide a brief description and identify the features of the culture or civilization that you believe is most distinctive about the civilization that you have identified. Please identify the civilization or ancient urban center with the modern African country within which it resides.

#### Key Words: Cultures and Cities

- Napata
- Meroe
- Axum
- Axumite
- Nok
- Benin
- Ghana
- Mali
- Songhay
- Tassili
- Zimbabwe
- Swahili
- Jenne
- Kilwa