

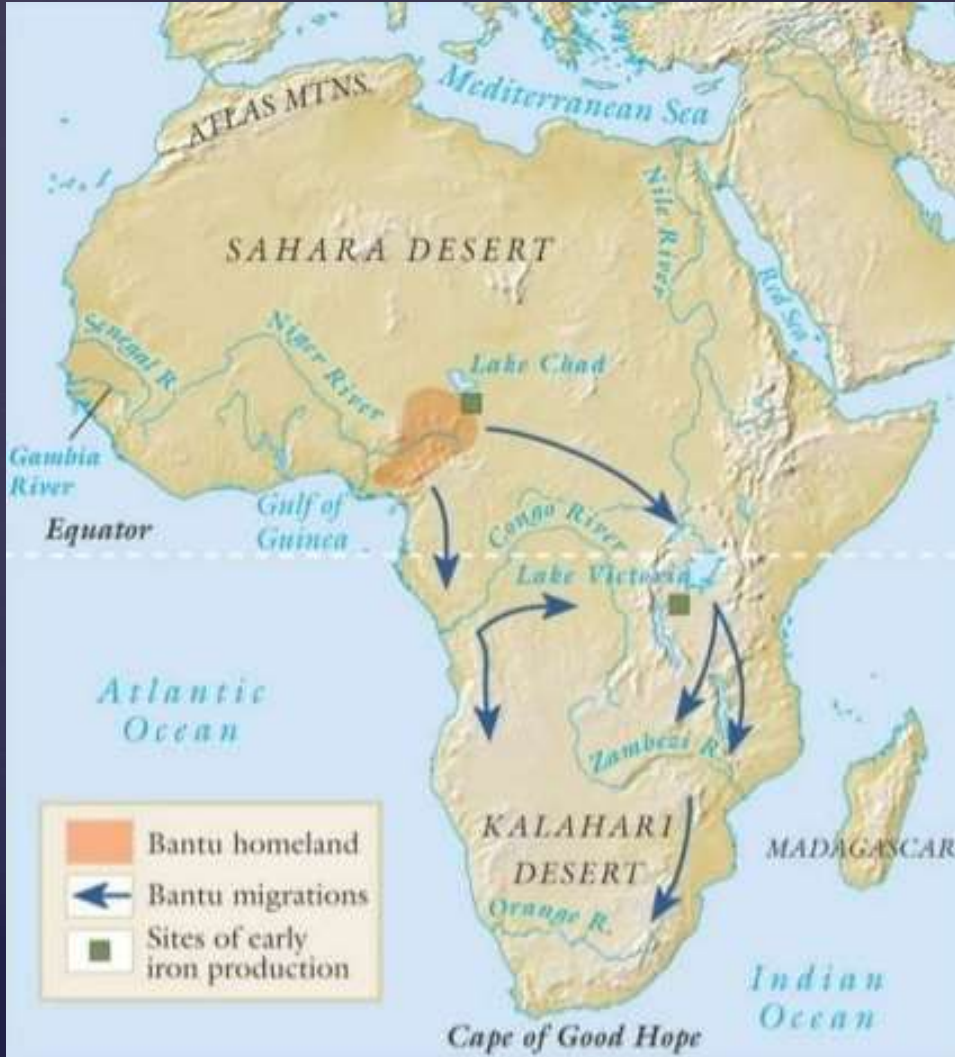


# Life In medieval Africa

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# Life in Medieval Africa

& Main Idea (Objective):



& The Bantu migrations helped shape many cultures in South Africa and the Sahara region of the continent.

# Life in Medieval Africa

↳ Lecture Focus (Essential Question):



↳ Have you ever noticed that even though people are different, they all have some things in common? Lets see why people in different regions of Africa have similar traditions and cultures.

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# Life in Medieval Africa

⌘ Around 3000 B.C.E., fishing groups along the Benue River, which is in present day Nigeria, packed their belongings into canoes and moved to Southern and Western Africa.



⌘ These wanderers called themselves *Bantu*, meaning “The People”.

# Life in Medieval Africa

⌘ The Bantu traveled slowly and by different routes.



⌘ Some paddled up the Congo River, a waterway that twist about 2,700 miles through the African Rain Forest.

# Life in Medieval Africa

↳ Many settled, for a time, in the grasslands of Central Africa.



↳ From there, they fanned out over much of the land south of the Sahara Desert and by 400 B.C.E, the Bantu people had settled much of Africa.



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# Life in Medieval Africa

⌘ Historians are not sure why the Bantu left their homeland.



⌘ Perhaps the land became overcrowded, farmers wore out soil or possibly they became pioneers and decided to explore their surroundings.

# Life in Medieval Africa

⌘ What is known is that wherever they went, the Bantu took their culture with them.



⌘ They were able to spread skills such as pottery creation, mining and ironworking throughout Africa, advancing civilizations and cultures along the way.

# Life in Medieval Africa

- ⌘ The Bantu also introduced their language into the areas in which they traveled.
- ⌘ In fact today more than 120 million Africans speak variations of the original Bantu language, including Swahili.



# Life in Medieval Africa

& The **Bantu Migrations** are the reason people across Africa share so many beautiful ideas, aspects of religion and traditions.



& **Migration** - Movements of a large number of people into a common area.

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# Life in Medieval Africa

⌘ The Bantu, for example, believed in one supreme creator and a spirit world where their ancestors would travel to upon death.



⌘ These beliefs can now be found throughout almost every culture in Africa.

# Life in Medieval Africa

## ↳ Questions:

- ↳ 1) Who were the first fishing groups to travel in canoes throughout Africa and what does their name mean?
- ↳ 2) Why did these African people leave their homeland?
- ↳ 3) What skills did they spread throughout Africa?
- ↳ 4) What are some examples of Bantu traditions that are now shared throughout Africa?



# Life in Medieval Africa

## ↳ Questions:

↳ 1) Who were the first fishing groups to travel in canoes throughout Africa and what does their name mean?

↳ Bantu, "The People"

↳ 2) Why did these African people leave their homeland?

↳ Possibly overcrowding, worn out soil and they may have become pioneer travelers

↳ 3) What skills did they spread throughout Africa?

↳ Pottery making, mining and iron working

↳ 4) What are some examples of Bantu traditions that are now shared throughout Africa?

↳ A supreme creator and spirit world

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# Importance of Family

⌘ The family formed the basis of African society.



⌘ People often lived in **Extended Families**, or families that were made up of several generations, including anywhere from ten to hundreds of members.

# Importance of Family

↳ Many villagers, especially the Bantu villages, were **Matrilineal**.



↳ **Matrilineal** – tracing a families decent through mothers rather than fathers.

# Importance of Family

⌘ When a women married, however, she joined her husband's family.



⌘ To make up for the loss, her family would receive gifts of cloth, metal tools, cattle, goats or even gold from the husbands family.

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# Importance of Family

⌘ All families valued children greatly.



⌘ They saw them as a link between the past and future.

# Importance of Family



⌘ Some people, like the **Yoruba** of what is now Nigeria, believed an ancestor might even be reborn in a child.



# Importance of Family

⌘ The Yoruba people knew that children guaranteed that the family would live on and spent much time raising proper families.

⌘ In praising the family a Yoruba poet wrote:

*“When a group of boys, girls, men and wives, go together in happy company, dignity attends them in every step...”*

*- Yoruba Poem, “Dignity”*



# Importance of Family

## ↳ Questions:

↳ 1) What is an extended family?

↳ 2) What does the term, **matrilineal** mean?

↳ 3) What did a women's family receive to make up for the loss of losing her in marriage?

# Importance of Family

## ↳ Questions:

↳ 1) What is an extended family?

⌘ Families made up of several generations

↳ 2) What does the term, *matrilineal* mean?

⌘ Tracing a persons decent through mothers rather than fathers

↳ 3) What did a women's family receive to make up for the loss of losing her in marriage?

⌘ They received gifts such as cloth, metal tools, cattle and gold

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# Education and Community

⌘ In Africa's villages, education was carried out by family members and other educated villagers.



⌘ Children learned the history of their people and the skills needed to survive as adults.

# Education and Community

⌘ In West Africa, griots, the great story tellers of society, helped in schooling.



⌘ Griots kept alive a **Oral History** of villages and cultures...passing down stories from generation to generation.

# Education and Community

‡ Many stories included lessons on proper living within society...many of which were told in short **proverb**.



‡ **Proverb** - a short saying stating a general truth or piece of advice.

# Education and Community

‡ One Bantu proverb stated: "A good deed will make a good neighbor".



‡ Grandparents and village elders also helped to keep oral histories alive for younger generations.



# Education and Community

## ↳ Questions:

↳ 1) How was education carried out in African villages?

↳ 2) How did griots help in education...what did they keep alive?

↳ 3) What does the term proverb mean?

# Education and Community

## ↳ Questions:

↳ 1) How was education carried out in African villages?

↳ Children learned history from family members and other villagers

↳ 2) How did griots help in education...what did they keep alive?

↳ Griots kept alive an oral history alive by passing down stories

↳ 3) What does the term proverb mean?

↳ a short saying stating a general truth or piece of advice

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# Role of Women

⌘ As in most medieval societies, women in Africa acted mostly as wives and mothers.



⌘ Men had more rights and controlled much of what women did.

# Role of Women

↳ Visitors to Africa, however, saw exceptions.



↳ European explorers were amazed to learn that women served as warriors and leaders in some African Kingdoms.

# Role of Women

& African women also won fame as rulers.



& In the 600's C.E., **Queen Dahia al-Kahina** led the fight against the Muslim invasion of her kingdom, which was located where **Mauritania** is today.

# Role of Women

↳ Another woman ruler was **Queen Nzinga**, who ruled lands in what are now Angola and Congo.



↳ She spent almost 40 years battling Portuguese slave traders that threatened her kingdom.

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# Role of Women

## ⌘ Writing Activity:

⌘ Answer the following question in a well crafted one paragraph response

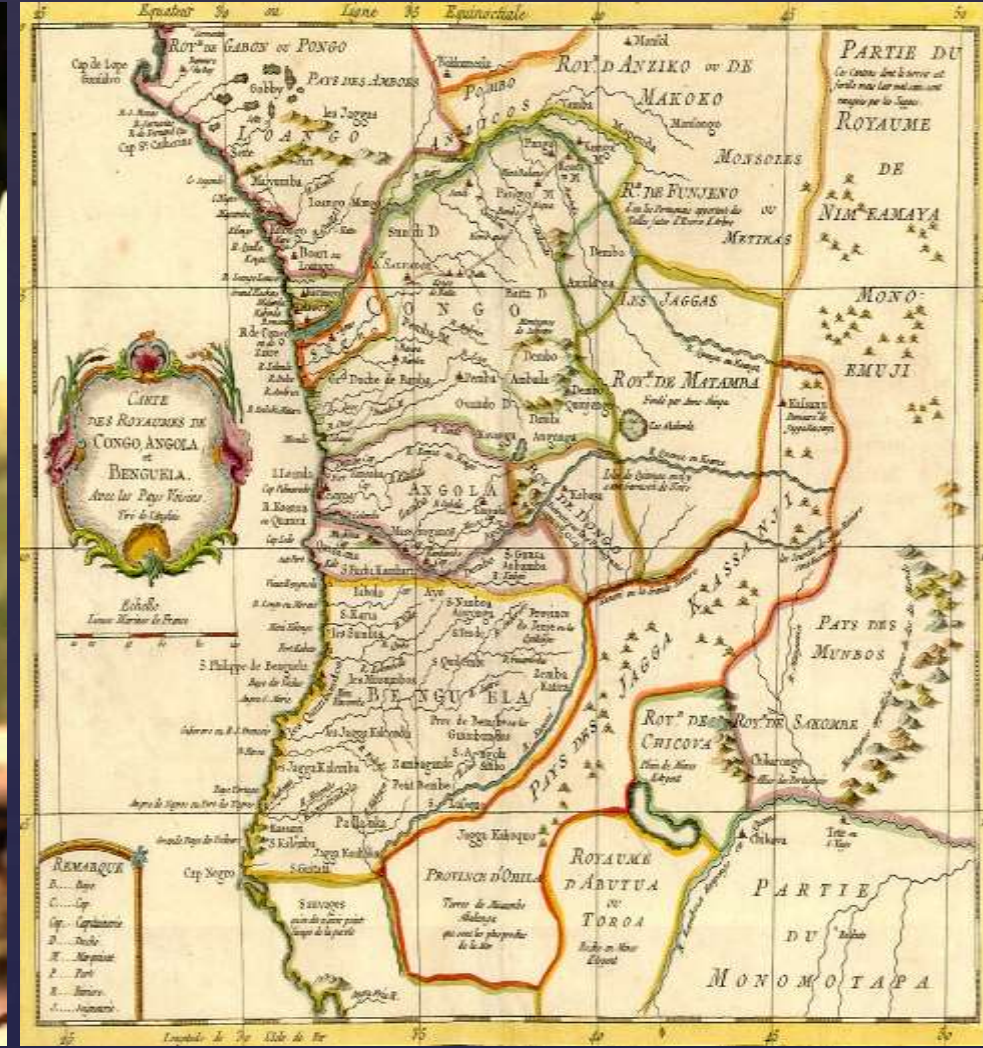
⌘ In Medieval Africa Griots and Village elders were responsible for keeping histories and values alive through oral stories. I want you to think about today's society. How do the leaders, teachers and governments of today communicate the values, history and rules of our modern societies?

# History Mystery Time: Queen Nzinga



⌘ History Mystery Time: Queen Nzinga Angolan Warrior Queen

# History Mystery Time: Queen Nzinga



↳ It was rare in the 1600's for women to take active roles in politics and war, but one African woman, **Queen Nzinga of Matamba** was known for her military leadership and political skills.

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# History Mystery Time: Queen Nzinga

↳ Nzinga was the daughter of the king of the **Ndongo** people.



↳ The Ndongo lived in southwest Africa in what is today called Angola.

# History Mystery Time: Queen Nzinga

↳ Nzinga was incredibly intelligent, a natural athlete and quickly learned archery and hunting.



↳ Nzinga's father failed to notice his daughter because he was too busy defending his kingdom from the Portuguese, who wanted to buy Africans and ship them overseas as slaves.

# History Mystery Time: Queen Nzinga

⌘ However, Nzinga knew she could be a strong leader.



⌘ She did not want to learn the enemies language, but she realized it could benefit her...she asked a captured priest to teacher her Portuguese.

# History Mystery Time: Queen Nzinga

⌘ In 1623 Nzinga became queen and declared all of her territory to be free and promised that all enslaved Africans who made it to her kingdom would be set free.



⌘ For nearly 30 years, she led her people in battles against the Portuguese.



# History Mystery Time: Queen Nzinga



⌘ During this war time Nzinga's kingdom collapsed and she was forced to flee west where she created a new state at Matamba.

⌘ She built a small army and allied her new country with the Netherlands.



⌘ She was never able to reclaim her old territory, however, she did built a powerful trading empire through the years.

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# History Mystery Time: Queen Nzinga

- ‡ She eventually allied with other African kingdoms to seal the trade routes used to ship enslaved Africans out of the country.
- ‡ In 1662 she negotiated a peace agreement with the Portuguese, finally ending her time as a warrior queen.
- ‡ Nzinga died the next year at the age of 81.

