

Lesson 1 The Growth of Coastal Trading Cities

MAIN IDEAS

Geography Bantu-speaking people spread out across central and southern Africa to create new cultures.

Economics African coastal city-states established profitable trade relationships with Arab traders.

Culture Islam had a great influence on the culture and government of East Africa.

The Land and Its People

ESSENTIAL QUESTION What were the Bantu migrations?

A Diverse Geography

- Central Africa: tropical rain forests; home to many bird species
- Southern Africa: large grasslands; home to elephants, giraffes, lions
- Diverse ethnic groups; many descended from the Bantu

Bantu Influences

- Bantu: large group from west-central Africa; speak Bantu languages
- **Bantu Migrations**—movement of Bantu through south, east Africa
- Bantu exchanged ideas, intermarried; this led to cultural blending

REVIEW QUESTION

What was the result of the Bantu migrations?

Coastal City-States Emerge

ESSENTIAL QUESTION How did Africans and Arabs interact?

Coastal Trade Routes

- By 1100s Bantu groups established farming, trade along east coast
- Traded raw materials for finished goods with Arabia, Persia, India

Kilwa

- Many trading towns, city-states dotted East African coast by 1200
- **Kilwa**—important city-state founded by Arab, Persian settlers
 - location made it meeting point for Southern African, Asian traders
 - ships from India could sail there in one monsoon season

REVIEW QUESTION

What factors helped Kilwa become wealthy and powerful?

The Influence of Islam

ESSENTIAL QUESTION What influence did Arabs have on culture and government in East Africa?

Cultural influence

- As Indian Ocean trade increased, more Arabs settled in East Africa
 - led to creation of **Swahili**—new Bantu language with Arabic elements
 - many middle-class Africans converted to Arab religion of Islam

Influence in Government

- Wealthy Muslim merchants, officials introduced Islamic laws, ideas
- East African city-states remained independent; competed for trade
 - lack of unity made them vulnerable to later European invasions

REVIEW QUESTION

How did Muslims influence the development of East Africa?

Lesson Summary

- The Bantu migrations helped to create new cultures.
- Indian Ocean trade fostered exchanges among the peoples of East Africa, Arabia, Persia, and India.
- Interaction between Arab and African traders led to the spread of Islam in East Africa.

Why It Matters Now . . .

More than one-third of Africans today are Muslims.