Pre-Colonial Africa Unit Overview

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| **Essential Questions** |

* 6.H.2.4 - What role did key historical figures and cultural groups have in transforming society?
* 6.G.1.2 - What factors influence the movement of people, goods, and ideas and what are the effects of that movement on societies and regions over time?
* 6.E.1.1 - How does conflict, compromise, and negotiation over the availability of resources (natural, human and capital) impact the economic development of various civilizations, societies and regions?
* E.1.2 - How is quality of life impacted by the economic choices of civilizations, societies and regions?
* C. 1.1 - How is culture reflected through the values of civilizations, societies and regions?
* 6.C.1.2 - In what ways did religion transform various societies, civilizations and regions?
 | * I totally get it
* I kinda get it
* I don’t get it
 |
| **Books, Videos, & Movies to Dig Into** | **We learn about this because it helps us understand…** |
| * Movie: *Lion King*
* Book: *Anansi the Spider: A Tale from the Ashanti*
* Book: *Ancient African Civilizations: Kush and Axum* by Stanley Burstein
* Book: *Mansa Musa and the Empire of Mali* by P. James Oliver
* Book: *Great Zimbabwe (African Civilizations)* by Mark H. C. Bessire
* Video Clip: Crash Course on Mansa Musa: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jvnU0v6hcUo
* Timbuktu - Africa's City of Gold - Ancient Civilizations: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=d6wKaIEzxGo>
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* Mansa Musa transformed west African civilization by converting to Islam, sharing the wealth of west Africa and making Timbuktu a center of Islamic learning.
* The lack of salt but the abundance of gold in western Africa led to the Gold-Salt trade which brought people, goods, and ideas across the Sahara Desert.
* East African city-states blended traditional African cultures with those of peoples from the Middle East and South Asia as a result of an extensive trade network spanning the Indian Ocean.
* West African civilizations began to decline and eventually disappeared due to Portugal's efforts to control gold and other valuable resources.
* The peoples' standard of living in Ghana, Mali, and Songhai were impacted positively and negatively by their control of gold resources and trade with outside civilizations.
* West African folktales and art reflect the peoples' history, cultural values and religious beliefs.
* The expansion of Islam into sub-Saharan Africa, and Western Africa specifically, radically
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| **Vocabulary to master** |
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| * Savannah
 | * Congo River
 | * Timbuktu
 | * Great Zimbabwe
 | * Aksum
 | * Zulu
 |
| * Sahara Desert
 | * Mt. Kilimanjaro
 | * Griots
 | * Sundiata
 | * Great Zimbabwe
 | * Bantu
 |
| * Mansa Musa
 | * Kush
 | * Salt/Gold Trade
 | * Sahel
 | * Great Rift Valley
 | * Imperialism
 |
| * Askia the Great
 | * Animism
 | * Nubia
 | * Proverbs
 | * Serengeti Plain
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**Africa Unit Reflection**

* Complete the boxes on the overview sheet according to the key.
* Pick three words we did NOT cover during our unit study.
* Look up the words and supply a kid-friendly definition for each.

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| Word | Definition | Picture or Symbol  |
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* Videos on ancient Africa: <http://www.watchknowlearn.org/Category.aspx?CategoryID=1349>
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