



History and Governments

TERMS & NAMES

Great Zimbabwe

Masai

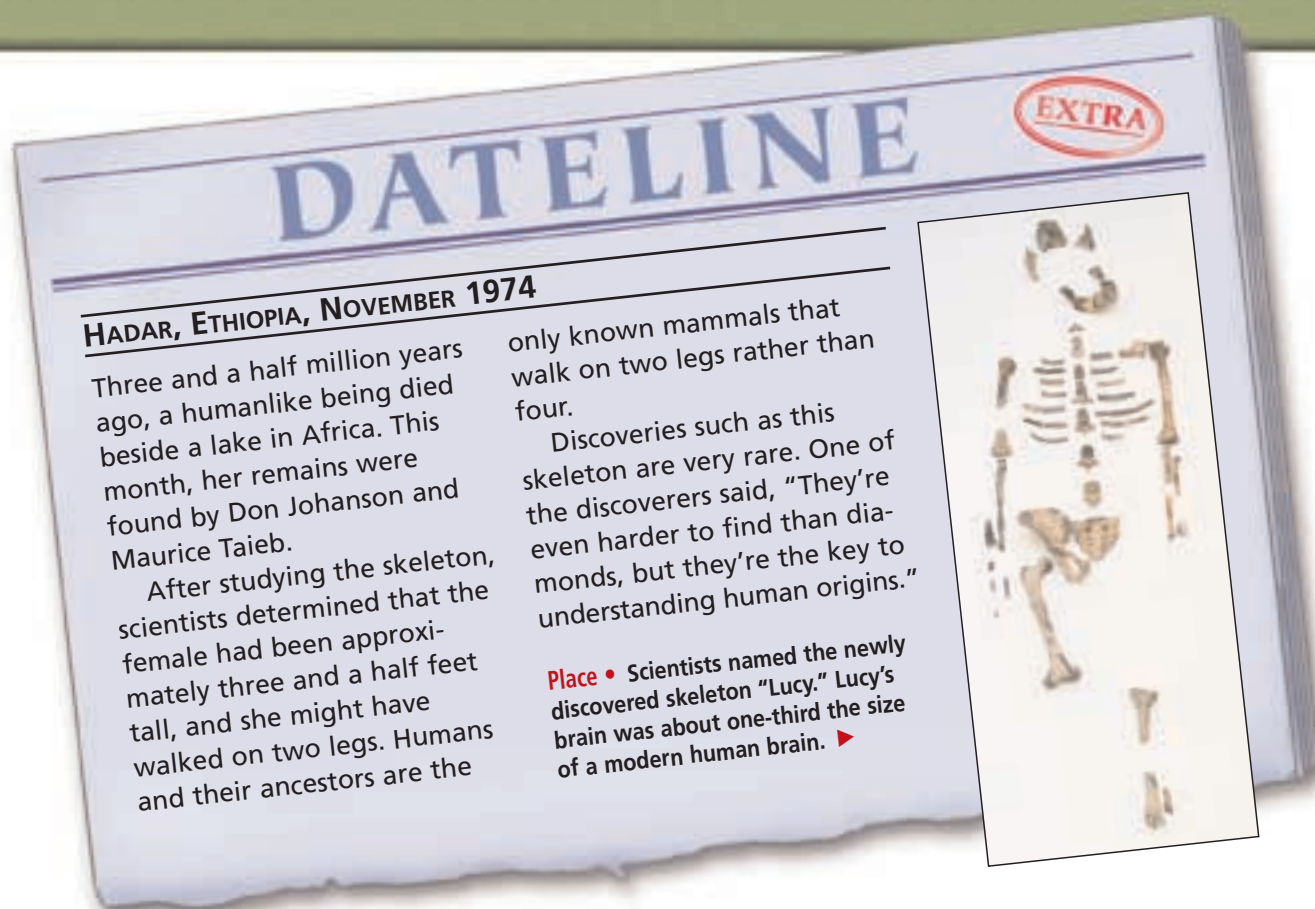
Zulu

MAIN IDEA

There is a great diversity of cultural groups in Eastern and Southern Africa.

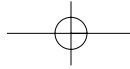
WHY IT MATTERS NOW

This diversity has contributed to several conflicts as different countries work to establish stable democratic governments.



Early Humans in Eastern and Southern Africa

The oldest fossils of human ancestors have been found in African sites ranging from Ethiopia to South Africa. Stone tools made 2.5 million years ago have also been found in Eastern Africa. Slowly, early humans spread across Africa before migrating to other continents. The humans that remained in Africa became farmers and herders.



Early Eastern and Southern African Kingdoms

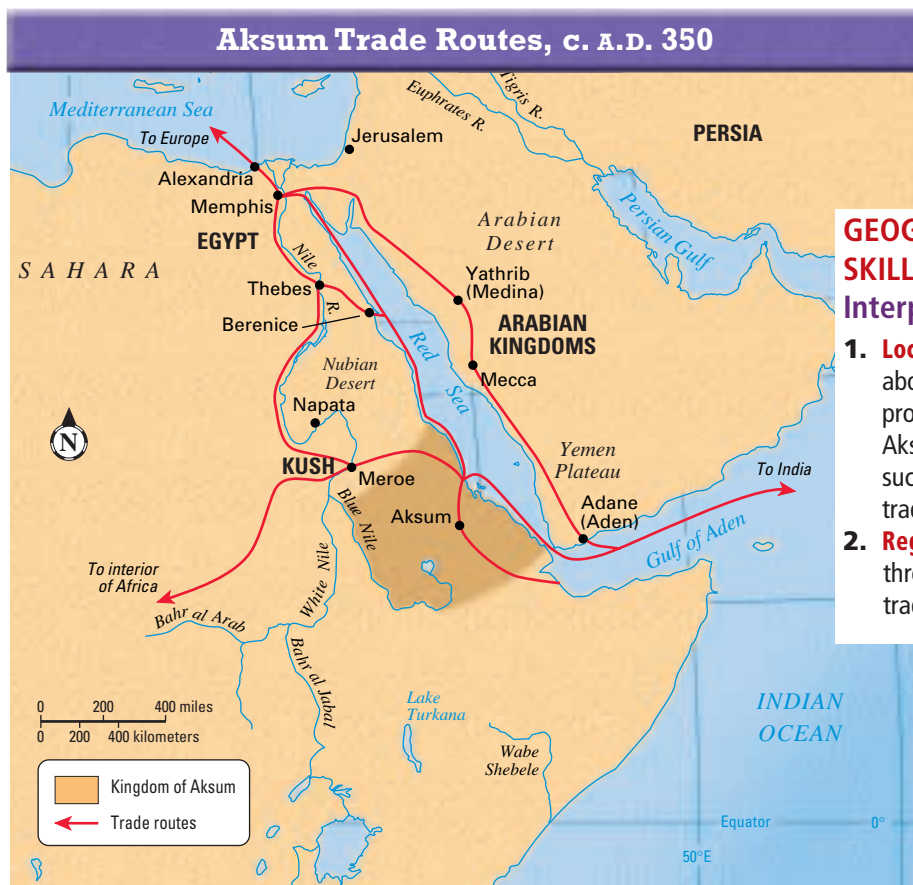
As the human population in Africa grew, societies became more complex. People began to trade with other regions. The income from trade helped build kingdoms.

The Aksum Empire Approximately 2,000 years ago, a great trading empire called Aksum (AHK·soom) developed in what is now Ethiopia. Find Aksum on the map below. Ships carried goods from Southern Africa, Arabia, Europe, and India to Aksum. About A.D. 350, King Ezana of Aksum became a Christian. Christianity spread throughout Ethiopia. When Islam came to Arabia, Aksum lost much of its trade because the Muslim Arabians preferred to trade with other Muslim nations.

Trade in Zimbabwe and Mozambique Around A.D. 700, trading empires arose in Southern Africa, in what are now Zimbabwe and Mozambique. These empires were rich in gold, copper, and iron. The mined metals were sent down the Zambezi River and then shipped across the Indian Ocean.



Human-Environment Interaction • Making stone tools is difficult. This symmetrical hand axe found in Tanzania had to be carefully chipped into shape. ▲





BACKGROUND

In the late 1800s, figurines of a bird were found in the ruins of the Great Zimbabwe. This Zimbabwe Bird is depicted on the flag of the present-day country of Zimbabwe, which you can see on page 286.

The Africans traded their precious metals for textiles and spices from India, and silk and porcelain from China. Porcelain is a hard, white, glasslike material first made by the Chinese.

The Shona was one of the great trading empires of the lower Zambezi River from about 1100 to 1500. Its people created walled stone structures. These stone enclosures were called *zimbabwes* (zihm•BAB•wayz). The **Great Zimbabwe** is a spectacular stone ruin of a city made up of three parts. The Great Enclosure is the largest single ancient structure in Africa south of the Sahara. The Hill Complex, begun in 900, is the oldest section. The Valley Ruins include remnants of earthen and mud brick buildings. This city was abandoned in the 1400s. (See page 311 for more about the Great Zimbabwe.)

Other Eastern and Southern African Societies

Eastern and Southern Africa had other societies besides the great trade kingdoms. Two of these societies were the Masai (mah•SY) and the Zulu (ZOO•loo).

Place • A typical Masai village is set up in a circle. This layout helps the Masai defend their villages from attack. ▼

The Masai and the Zulu The **Masai** once lived in nearly all of Kenya and about half of what is now Tanzania in Eastern Africa. They raised grazing animals, especially cattle. The Masai were nomads who moved from place to place so their animals would have fresh land to graze. Land generally belonged to the whole group, not to one person or family. In the 1800s, the Masai began fighting among themselves over water and grazing rights. Many Masai warriors died in these wars. Long periods without rain followed, during which many Masai cattle died. The Masai society was weakened by these events.



Strange ?? but TRUE

Floating Seeds Many sailors on trading vessels heading to and from the eastern coast of Africa saw huge seed pods floating on the ocean's surface. The seed pods were called *cocos de mer*, or coconuts of the sea.

It wasn't discovered until the late 1700s that the pods came from giant fan palm trees on the Seychelles Islands just north of Madagascar. The seeds of these trees are the largest in the world—some reaching 50 pounds in weight. It can take up to 10 years for a *coco de mer* to ripen.





The **Zulu** migrated to Southern Africa about 1,800 years ago. They have traditionally lived in settled villages, grown grains, and raised cattle. In 1815, a man named Shaka Zulu became chief of the Zulu. He led his people in a series of wars to expand Zulu territory. As the Zulu conquered other peoples, they made them Zulu as well. Shaka Zulu held unlimited power. Anyone who disagreed with him could be killed. Shaka's half-brother assassinated him in 1828.

European Colonization Soon after the death of Shaka Zulu, the Zulu began losing land to European settlers. The British and Germans then invaded Masai territory in the 1880s and 1890s. The Masai, weakened by war and drought, were no longer powerful. The Europeans quickly took the lands they wanted. The Masai were forced to live on reserves—small territories set aside for them. By the late 1800s, the United Kingdom, Germany, and France had claimed most of Eastern and Southern Africa.

African Independence

World Wars I and II weakened Europe. After the wars, European nations began to lose control of their African colonies. This paved the way for the independence of African nations. Most of the countries of Eastern Africa, such as Kenya, Tanzania, Rwanda, and Burundi, became independent between 1960 and 1964. Most of the countries of Southern Africa achieved independence later. Almost all of the new African governments were democracies, but many of them were subsequently overthrown and became dictatorships. Today, many African nations are again turning toward democracy.

Place • These women and children in Mogadishu have struggled through years of brutal civil war in Somalia. ▼



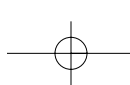
Region • The Zulu, like this warrior chief, were members of a highly organized military society. ▲

Reading Social Studies

A. Clarifying
What events in Europe enabled African nations to gain their independence?

Government in Somalia

From 1969 to 1991, Somalia was governed by a dictator, Siad Barre (SEE•ahd BAH•reh), who had unlimited power. In the 1980s, more than 100 leading citizens published an open letter criticizing the government. An open letter is a letter that is published in a newspaper. In the United States it is legal to publish letters criticizing leaders. In Somalia it was not. Forty-five of those who signed the open letter were arrested.



The arrests led to more protests. By 1990, fighting forced Barre to agree to reform his government. In 1991, he was driven from office. Since then, twelve clans have been fighting for control of the government.

Government in Rwanda

Through much of the 1900s, Rwandan women could not own land, hold jobs, or participate in government. In 1991, a new constitution was passed. It gave women the right to own property and hold jobs. But the new laws were not enforced. Then, in 1994, a civil war began in Rwanda. So many men were killed that women began taking over as heads of households. Finally, as a result of the deadly wars, women were able to claim their constitutional rights. Since the conflict, more laws benefiting women have been passed. Today, not only can a Rwandan woman own property, but she can inherit property as well.



Place • Recently, Rwandan women have gained the right to own property and to work in fields such as medicine. ▲

Reading Social Studies

B. Analyzing Issues How did civil war in Rwanda lead to enforcement of women's rights?

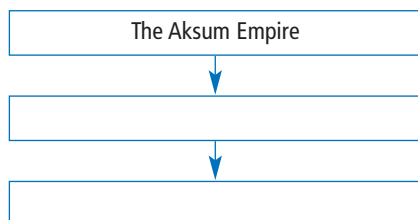
SECTION 1 ASSESSMENT

Terms & Names

1. Identify: (a) Great Zimbabwe (b) Masai (c) Zulu

Taking Notes

2. Use a flow chart like this one to show the different societies that have flourished in Southern Africa.



Main Ideas

3. (a) Explain how location helped build trade empires in ancient Ethiopia, Zimbabwe, and Mozambique.
- (b) What factors contributed to the weakening of the Masai society?
- (c) Describe how the lives of women in Rwanda have changed in recent years.

Critical Thinking

4. Clarifying

What led to the downfall of Siad Barre in Somalia?

Think About

- how Barre ruled Somalia
- the actions of the citizens

ACTIVITY -OPTION-

Imagine you are a Rwandan woman in 1992. Write an **open letter** criticizing the government for not enforcing your constitutional rights.