

Africa

PLACES TO GO:

Mount Kilimanjaro



Mount Kilimanjaro is...

- located three degrees south of the equator in Kilimanjaro National Park, Tanzania.
- the highest mountain in the continent of Africa.
- 5,895 meters tall with a diameter of about 40 miles, making it the world's tallest free-standing mountain.
- is comprised of three cones, known as Kibo, Mawenzi and Shira. Both Kibo and Mawenzi have permanent snow and ice caps. Kilimanjaro's highest peak is the Uhuru Peak.

When climbing the mountain...

- climbers move from a tropical environment of rainforests to an arctic environment.
- it usually takes a total of five to six days with climbers spending four or five nights in mountain huts along the way.









The Great Pyramid of Giza



Facts

- Also called the Pyramid of King Khufu and Pyramid of Cheops
- The oldest and largest of the three pyramids in the Giza Necropolis
- The only one of the Seven Wonders of the Ancient World that survives substantially intact
- Believed to have been built as a tomb for Fourth dynasty Egyptian Pharaoh Khufu (Cheops in Greek) and constructed over a 20 year period, concluding around 2540 B.C.E.
- was the tallest man-made structure in the world for over 3,800 years







STOCKS

The Great Sphinx



Location

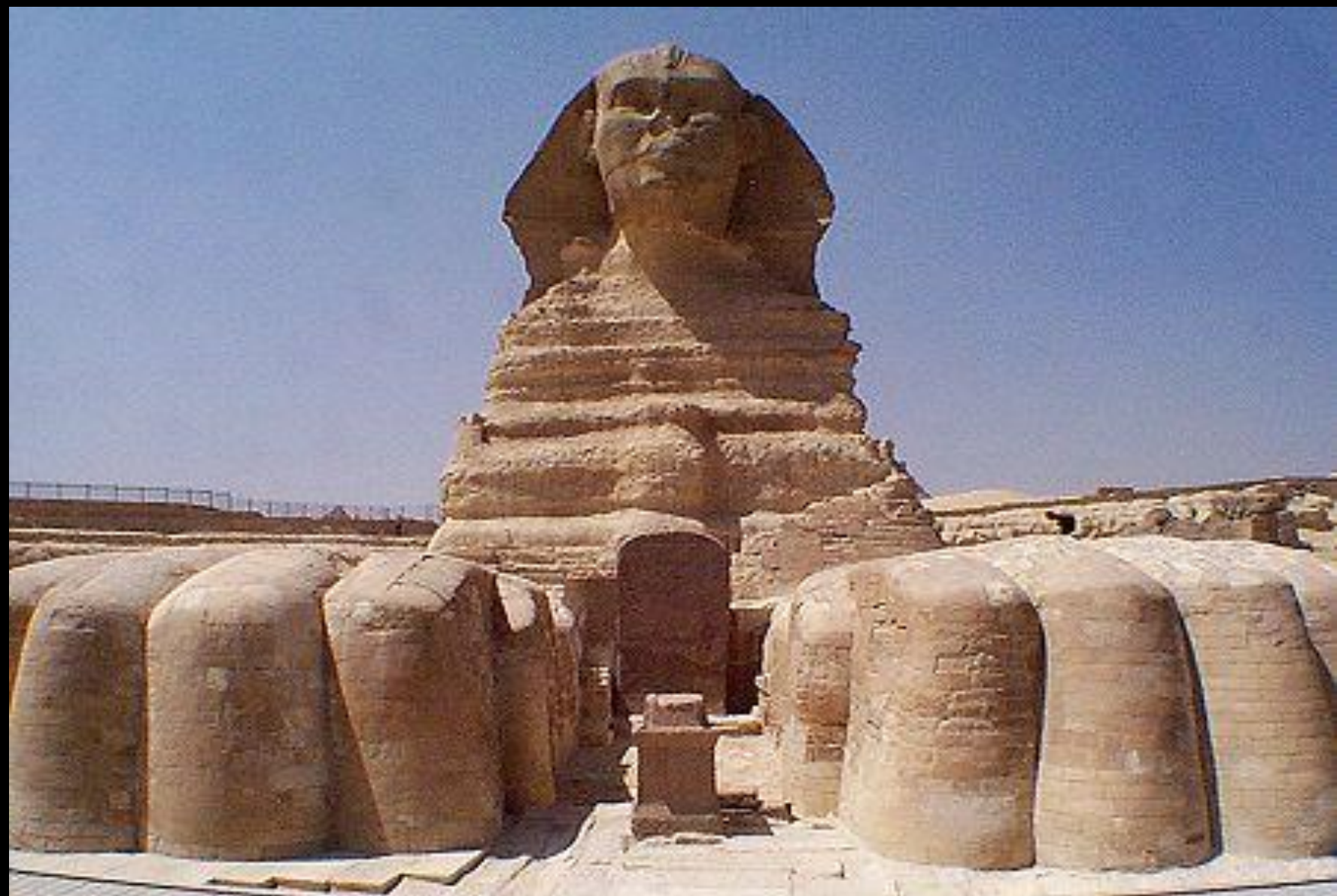
- The Great Sphinx is located in Egypt on the Giza (Gizeh) plateau, situated about six miles west of Cairo. This area is part of the necropolis of ancient Memphis, the seat of power for the pharaohs. The Sphinx faces due east a short distance from a trio of large pyramids. Giza is a rich archaeological site which also contains the smaller Queen's pyramids, temples, causeways, and numerous rectangular tombs (mastabas) for attendants and other family members.



Sphinx Facts

- statue with the body of a male lion with the head of a human
- thought to have been built around 2540 B.C.E.
- but some believe it to have been built closer to 10500 B.C.E.
- made from limestone





Did you know?

- Most people first associate "Sphinx" to the Great Sphinx of Egypt, which was "rediscovered" by the western world when Napoleon's soldiers came across it in 1798. However, there are other sphinxes in Egypt as well as in other cultures and myth.

Did you know?

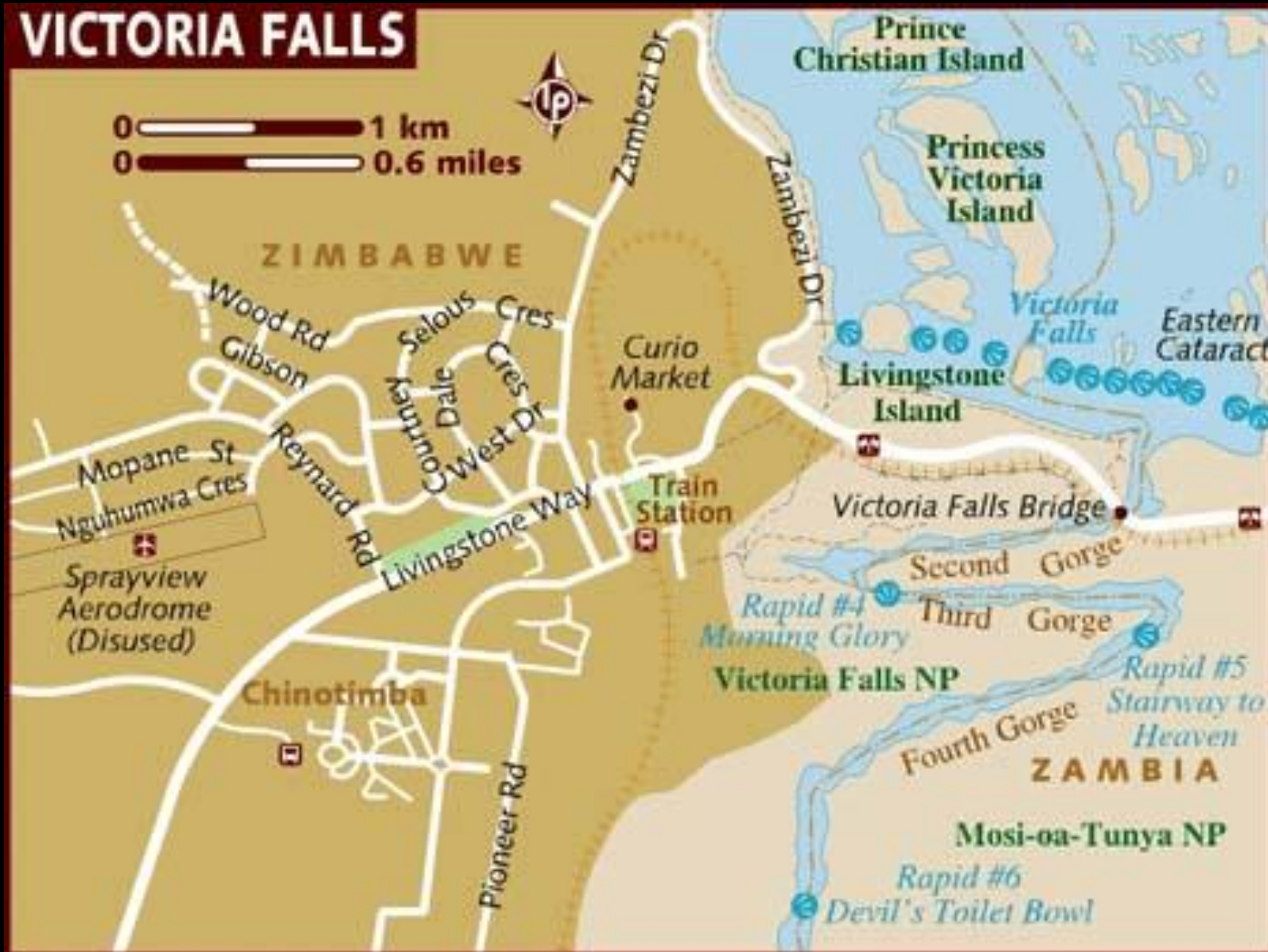
- The name itself derives from the Greek word "sphingo," to strangle, or "sphingein," to bind tight, based on the Greek Sphinx's habit of strangling its victims. The name was subsequently applied to the Egyptian and other arabic sphinxes because of their physical similarity to descriptions of the mythical Greek Sphinx, although the construction of the Great Sphinx certainly predates the Greek story.

The Sphinx's riddle:

- Which creature in the morning goes on four legs, at mid-day on two, and in the evening upon three, and the more legs it has, the weaker it be?

Victoria Falls

VICTORIA FALLS



Victoria Falls are...

- described by the Kololo tribe living in the area in the 1800's as "Mosi-oa-Tunya" – "the Smoke that Thunders" and in more modern terms as "the greatest known curtain of falling water."
- a spectacular sight of awe-inspiring beauty and grandeur on the Zambezi River, bordering Zambia and Zimbabwe.



Columns of spray can be seen from miles away as 546 million cubic meters of water per minute plummet over the edge (at the height of the flood season) over a width of nearly two kilometers into a deep gorge over 100 meters below. The wide basalt cliff, over which the falls thunder, transforms the Zambezi from a wide placid river to a ferocious torrent cutting through a series of dramatic gorges.





Great Zimbabwe National Monument

Facts

- Also called “stone buildings”
- Stone ruins spread out over a 722 hectare (1,784 acre) area
- Within the modern-day country of Zimbabwe, which itself is named after the ruins
- Near the town of Masvingo, which before majority rule was called Fort Victoria.
- The word "Great" distinguishes the site from the many hundred small ruins, known as Zimbabwes, spread across the Zimbabwe highveld

More Facts

- Construction started in the 11th century and continued for over 300 years
- The ruins at Great Zimbabwe are some of the oldest and largest structures located in Southern Africa
- At its peak, estimates are that the ruins of Great Zimbabwe had as many as 25,000 inhabitants





PEOPLE OF NOTE:



Nelson Mandela

- Anti-apartheid activist
- Former president of South Africa
- Served 27 years in prison for views against the government
- Winner of the 1993 Nobel Peace Prize



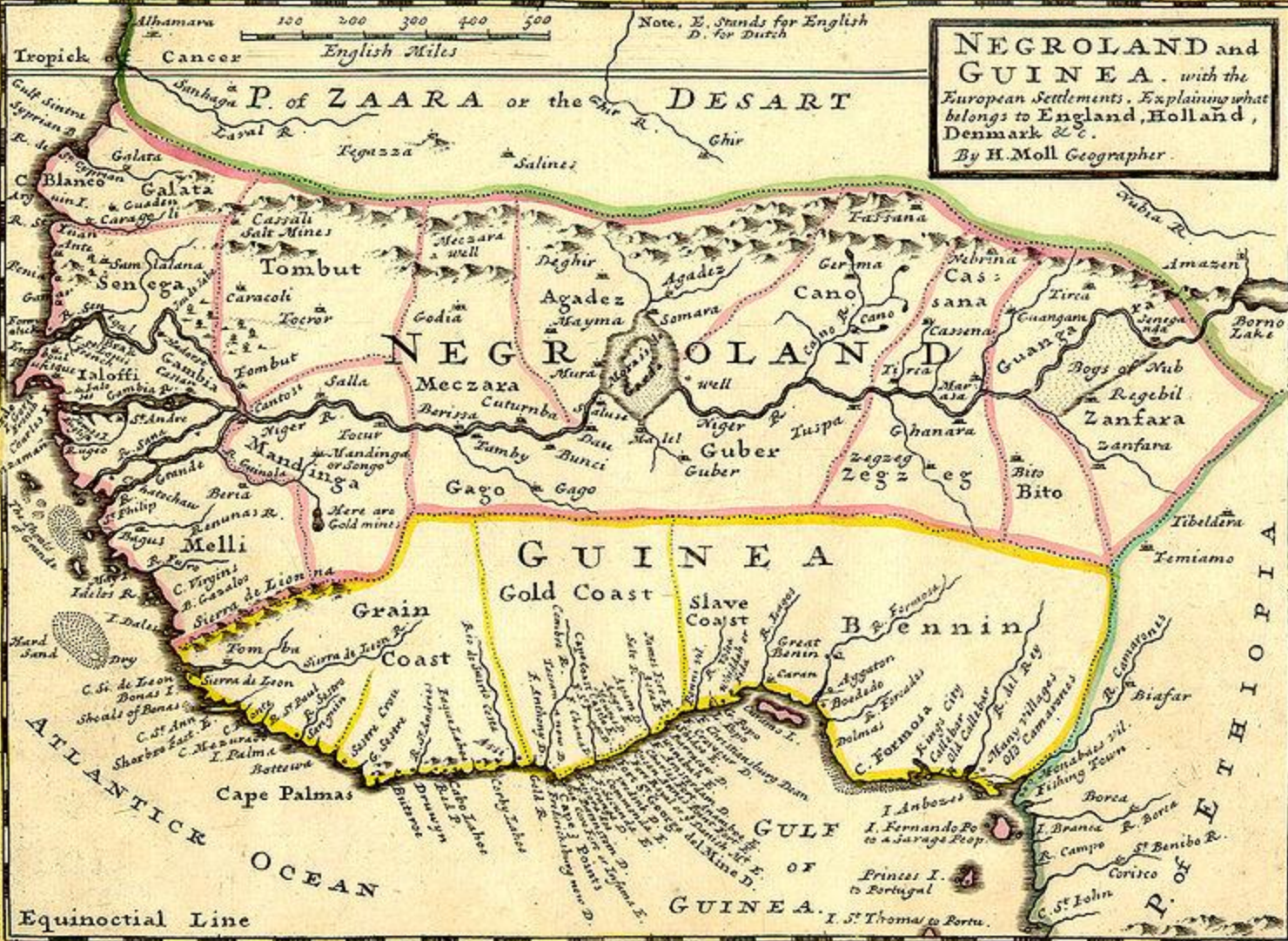
Desmond Tutu

- Anti-apartheid activist
- 1984 Nobel Peace Prize recipient
- Chaired the Truth and Reconciliation Commission
- Campaigns for awareness of AIDS, tuberculosis, homophobia, poverty and racism
- Received the Albert Schweitzer Prize for Humanitarianism, the Gandhi Peace Prize in 2005
- Received the Presidential Medal of Freedom in 2009

**REGIONS HISTORICALLY KNOWN BY
THEIR PRIME COLONIAL EXPORT:**

15 D. West from London

10 Deg. E. from London



NEGROLAND and GUINEA. with the European Settlements. Explaining what belongs to England, Holland, Denmark &c.
By H. Moll Geographer.

Tropick of Cancer

English Miles

Note. E. Stands for English D. for Dutch

P. of ZAARA or the DESART

NEGROLAND

GUINEA

BENNIN

ATLANTICK OCEAN

GULF OF GUINEA

ETHIOPIA

Equinoctial Line

15

10

5

0

5

10

15

25

20

15

10

5

25

20

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10

5

15

The Grain Coast

- Pepper Coast is the name of a coastal area in western Africa that encloses the present republic of Liberia. It got its name from the melegueta pepper. The pepper is also known as the *grain of paradise*, which gave rise to an alternative name, the *Grain Coast*. But in some cases, this term covers a wider area incorporating Sierra Leone and the Cote d'Ivoire.

The Slave Coast

- The **Slave Coast** is the name of the coastal areas of present Togo, Benin and western Nigeria. In the pre-colonial time it was one of the most densely populated parts of the African continent. It became one of the most important export centers for the Atlantic slave trade from the early 16th century to the 19th century.

The Gold Coast

- **Gold Coast** was a British colony on the Gulf of Guinea in west Africa that became the independent nation of Ghana in 1957.

The Ivory Coast

- The region, and then the country, was originally known in English as *Ivory Coast*. In October 1985, the government requested that the country be known in every language as Côte d'Ivoire, without a hyphen between the two words.

A BRIEF, QUICK HISTORY:

- Scientists believe that Africa was the birthplace of mankind. By 100,000 BC modern humans lived by hunting and gathering with stone tools. From Africa they spread to Europe.

- By 5,000 farming had spread to North Africa. People herded cattle and they grew crops. At that time the Sahara Desert was not a desert. It was a green and fertile area. Gradually it grew drier and became a desert.

- Meanwhile about 3,200 BC writing was invented in Northeast Africa, in Egypt. (It is sometimes forgotten that one of the world's oldest and greatest civilisations was African). The Egyptians made tools and weapons of bronze. However by the time Egyptian civilisation arose most of Africa was cut off from Egypt and other early civilisations by the Sahara Desert. Africa was also hampered by its lack of good harbours, which made transport by sea difficult.

- Farmers in Africa continued to use stone tools and weapons however about 600 BC the use of iron spread in North Africa. It gradually spread south and by 500 AD iron tools and weapons had reached what is now South Africa.

- In 814 BC the Phoenicians from what is now Lebanon founded the city of Carthage in Tunisia.

- In 146 BC Rome destroyed the city of Carthage and made its territory part of their empire.

- By 100 AD the kingdom of Axum in Ethiopia was highly civilised. Axum traded with Rome, Arabia and India. Axum became Christian in the 4th century AD.

- In 30 BC Egypt became a province of Rome. Morocco was absorbed in 44 AD. However the rest of Africa was cut off from Rome by the Sahara Desert.

- In 642 the Arabs conquered Egypt.

- After 800 AD organised kingdoms emerged in northern Africa. They traded with the Arabs further north. (Trade with the Arabs led to the spread of Islam to other parts of Africa). Arab merchants brought luxury goods and salt. In return they purchased gold and slaves from the Africans.

- One of the earliest African kingdoms was Ghana (It included parts of Mali and Mauritania as well as the modern country of Ghana). By the 9th century Ghana was called the land of gold. However Ghana was destroyed in the 11th century by Africans from further north.

- By the 11th century the city of Ife in Southwest Nigeria was the capital of a great kingdom.

- Another African state was Benin. (The medieval kingdom of Benin was bigger than the modern country). From the 13th century Benin was rich and powerful.

- Meanwhile the kingdom of Mali was founded in the 13th century. By the 14th century Mali was rich and powerful. Its cities included Timbuktu, which was a busy trading centre where salt, horses, gold and slaves were sold. However the kingdom of Mali was destroyed by Songhai in the 16th century.

- Arabs sailed down the east coast of Africa. Some of them settled there and they founded states such as Mogadishu.

- Inland some people in southern Africa formed organised kingdoms. About 1430 impressive stone buildings were erected at Great Zimbabwe.

- In the 16th century Europeans began to transport African slaves across the Atlantic. However slavery was nothing new in Africa. For centuries Africans had sold other Africans to the Arabs as slaves.

- In the 18th century ships from Britain took manufactured goods to Africa. They took slaves from there to the West Indies and took sugar back to Britain. This was called the Triangular Trade.

- Some Africans were sold into slavery because they had committed a crime. However many slaves were captured in raids by other Africans. Europeans were not allowed to travel inland to find slaves. Instead Africans brought slaves to the coast. Any slaves who were not sold were either killed or used as slaves by other Africans. The slave trade would have been impossible without the co-operation of Africans many of whom grew rich on the slave trade.

- In the 16th century a people called the Turks conquered most of the North African coast. In 1517 they captured Egypt and by 1556 most of the coast was in their hands.

- Further south Africans continued to build powerful kingdoms. The empire of Kanem-Bornu expanded in the 16th century using guns bought from the Turks. However in the 16th century Ethiopia declined in power and importance although it survived.

- Meanwhile the Europeans founded their first colonies in Africa. In the 16th century the Portuguese settled in Angola and Mozambique while in 1652 the Dutch founded a colony in South Africa.

- In the 19th century European states tried to stop the slave trade. Britain banned the slave trade in 1807.

- 1814 the British took the Dutch colony in South Africa
- 1830 the French invaded northern Algeria
- 1884 the Germans took Namibia, Togo and Cameroon and in 1885 they took Tanzania.
- 1885 Belgium took over what is now Democratic Republic of Congo.
- 1896 the French took Madagascar. They also expanded their empire in northern Africa.
- 1912 the French took Morocco and Italy took Libya.
- 1914 the British took control of Egypt. By then all of Africa was in European hands except Liberia and Ethiopia.
- 1896 the Italians invaded Ethiopia but they were defeated by the Ethiopians
- Further south the British took Zimbabwe, Zambia, Malawi, Uganda and Kenya. The British also took control of Egypt. Angola and Mozambique remained Portuguese.

- However in the early 20th century attitudes to imperialism began to change in Europe. Furthermore in Africa churches provided schools and increasing numbers of Africans became educated. They became impatient for independence. The movement for African independence became unstoppable and in the late 1950s and 1960s most African countries became independent. In 1960 alone 17 countries gained their independence. However Mozambique and Angola did not become independent until 1975.

- Newly independent states were often failures. Many suffered civil wars and brutal dictators like Idi Amin. Today most of Africa remains very poor. One reason is corruption on a massive scale. Many African rulers bled their countries dry and made themselves very rich. Another reason is gross economic mismanagement. In the 1970s Socialist policies proved disastrous in countries like Zambia and Tanzania while in the 2000s Robert Mugabe wrecked the Zimbabwean economy.

- Africa also suffered severely from the AIDs pandemic.

- However it was not all bad news. Botswana is one African success story. Furthermore many African countries have now adopted market economies. With the right policies there is hope for Africa.



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