

Chapter VII
Classical Era Variations: Africa and the Americas
500 B.C.E. – 1200 C.E.

The African Northeast

1. What is Africa's one distinctive environmental feature?

2. In what ways was Arabia another point of contact with the larger world for African peoples?

3. How did the history of Meroë and Axum reflect interaction with neighboring civilizations?

Along the Niger River: Cities without States

1. How does the experience of the Niger Valley challenge conventional notions of "civilization"?

2. What was the basis for long-distance commerce in the middle Niger flood-plain?

3. Why was Jenne-jeno important?

4. In what ways did the arrival of Bantu-speaking peoples stimulate cross-cultural interaction?

5. How do you describe the Bantu religion in relation to Buddhism, Christianity, or Islam?

Civilizations of Mesoamerica

1. Why did the Maya live in an “almost totally engineered landscape?”
2. With what Eurasian civilizations might the Maya be compared?
3. What may have been the ecological and political factors of the Mayan demise?
4. In what ways did Teotihuacan shape the history of Mesoamerica?

Civilizations of the Andes

1. What kind of influence did Chavin exert in the Andes region?
2. What features of Moche life characterize it as civilization?

North America in the Classical Era: From Chaco to Cahokia

1. In what few ways were the histories of the Ancestral Pueblo and the Mound Builders similar to each other?
2. How was the Mississippi River valley, (and the eastern woodlands), different than the Chaco region in the southwest?
3. What are the features of the Hopewell culture?
4. What are the features of the dominant center of Cahokia?

Explain the significance of each of the following:

Coptic Christianity—

Griots—

Khiokhoi of South Africa—

Tikal—