Objectives

- Understand how geography affected migration, cultural development, and trade in Africa.
- Describe the rise and decline of Nubia.
- Explain how outside forces led to change in North Africa.
Terms and People

- **Sahara** – the largest desert in the world, covering almost all of North Africa
- **savanna** – a grassy plain
- **cataract** – waterfall
- **desertification** – the process by which a desert spreads, often caused by climate change
Terms and People (continued)

- **Bantu** – the root language of a diverse group of West African people who migrated into southern Africa between 1000 B.C. and A.D. 1000

- **Nubia** – an ancient kingdom that flourished in present-day Sudan at the same time as the ancient Egyptians, from about 2700 B.C. to A.D. 350

- **Meroë** – the Nubian capital after 500 B.C., which controlled the Nile’s north-south trade route and the east-west trade route from the Red Sea to North Africa
How did geography and natural resources affect the development of early societies throughout Africa?

The vast Sahara Desert is one of many geographic features of Africa that have influenced its history and development.

Migrations of people and ideas contributed to the rich diversity of this continent.
The variety of climate and geography in Africa influenced its diversity of culture.

One of its most notable geographic features is the vast **Sahara** Desert.
African vegetation regions are wide bands across the continent.

- The most populated regions are the savannas.
- Deserts, rain forests, and rivers with cataracts hindered easy movement.
Despite the difficulty of travel, trade expanded by A.D. 200 due to camels from Asia.

- They could carry heavy loads 20 or 30 miles a day.
- Merchants on both sides of the Sahara profited from these “ships of the desert.”
Neolithic farmers cultivated the Nile Valley. Villages also appeared in the Sahara.

- The Sahara was a well-watered area at the time.
- However, around 2500 B.C. climate change led to desertification of the Sahara.
- As farmland was lost, people began to migrate south.
The West Africans who migrated south and east spoke a language called **Bantu**.
The kingdom of **Nubia** took shape at the same time as the great Egyptian civilization.

- It was located south of Egypt on the upper Nile River.
- **Nubia** was under the control of Egyptians for many years.
- It was forced to move its capital to **Meroë** because of Assyrian invaders.
People in the Nubian capital Meroë mastered ironworking and the city became a trade center.

Nubians worshipped their own gods and developed their own form of writing.

Ultimately, the civilization declined. Nubia was invaded from the south by the kingdom of Axum in A.D. 350.
Early civilizations in Africa had strong ties to the Mediterranean Sea and were influenced by outsiders.

- Phoenician traders built the city of Carthage, which was powerful between 800 B.C. and 146 B.C.
- Romans farmed North Africa to feed their people.
Islam spread to North Africa in the 690s and became the dominant religion there.

Muslim civilization flourished in cities such as Cairo, Fez, and Marrakesh.
Section Review

QuickTake Quiz

Know It, Show It Quiz