

# Interactive Notebook Setup

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- 9/9/2019
- Major African States
- This will be one page

**Great Zimbabwe**

Hausa Kingdoms

Ethiopian Empire

# Great Zimbabwe



# Great Zimbabwe

- Great Zimbabwe, or "house of stone", is the name given to hundreds of great stone ruins spread out over a 200 sq mile area within the modern day country of Zimbabwe
- The exact origin of the word Zimbabwe is not known
- The ruins at Great Zimbabwe are some of the oldest and largest structures located in Southern Africa
- Lasted from 11th century to the 15th century

# Great Zimbabwe

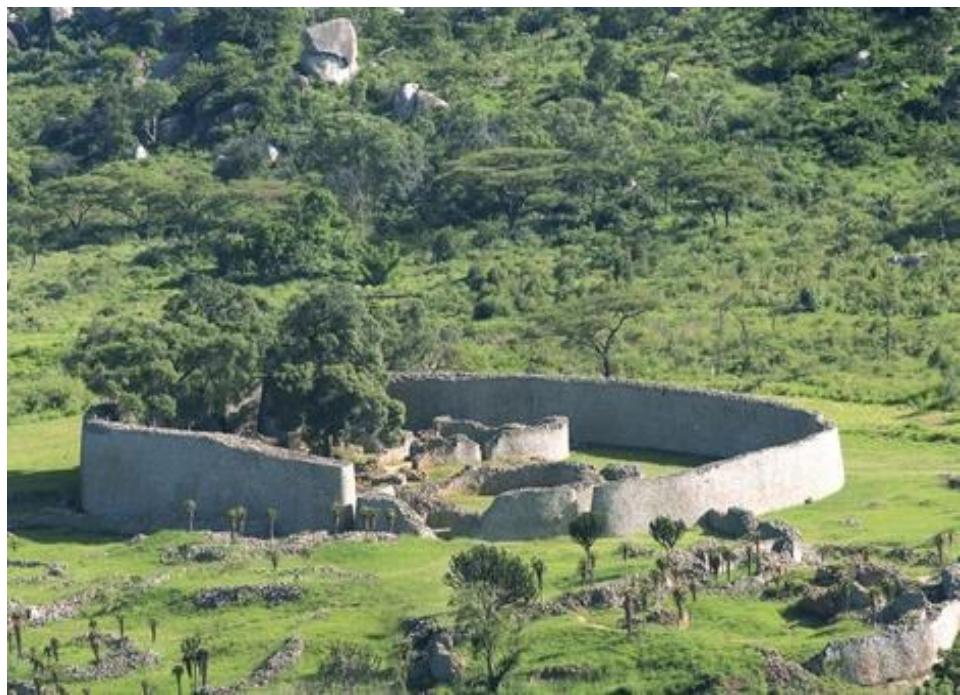
- **Controlled massive gold mines**
  - ▣ It is believed that over 65% of the Gold traded throughout Africa might have come from this region
- **Most citizens participated in farming and cattle-herding** and this formed the basis of Great Zimbabwe's economy







# Great Zimbabwe



- At its peak, estimates are that the ruins of Great Zimbabwe had as many as 18,000 inhabitants
- **Kings controlled and taxed the trade** between the interior and coastal regions
- **Traded gold, ivory, and slaves and local products as part of Indian Ocean Trade**
- They made alliances with local leaders and made money from the transactions

# Great Zimbabwe



- Massive walls provided protection for citizens and the city's trade
- There are areas where the walls are as high as 20 feet tall and 17 feet thick!



# Great Zimbabwe



- Ecological crisis caused from overgrazing and the destruction of forests may have led to their decline

# Hausa Kingdoms

- The origins of the Hausa Kingdoms is not totally known
- Likely developed due to some sort of migration from the Saharan region due to some sort of ecological development
- Developed in northern central Africa between the Niger River and Lake Chad which flourished from the **15th to 18th century CE**



# Hausa Kingdoms

- The region never developed into a centralized kingdom
- Made up of **7 powerful city-states**
- Though never politically unified each **city-state shared major characteristics of language, culture, and polytheistic religion**
  - ▣ Especially art and religion



# Hausa Kingdoms

- Each city-state was heavily involved in trade within the region and throughout Africa/Middle East
- Each city-state specialized in and traded specific craft goods
  - Such as:
    - ▣ Dyes like Indigo
    - ▣ Silver Jewelry
    - ▣ Bags
    - ▣ Saddles



# Hausa Kingdoms

- ▣ **Kings** of each city-state **built fortresses and** had established **walled towns as both political and economic centers**



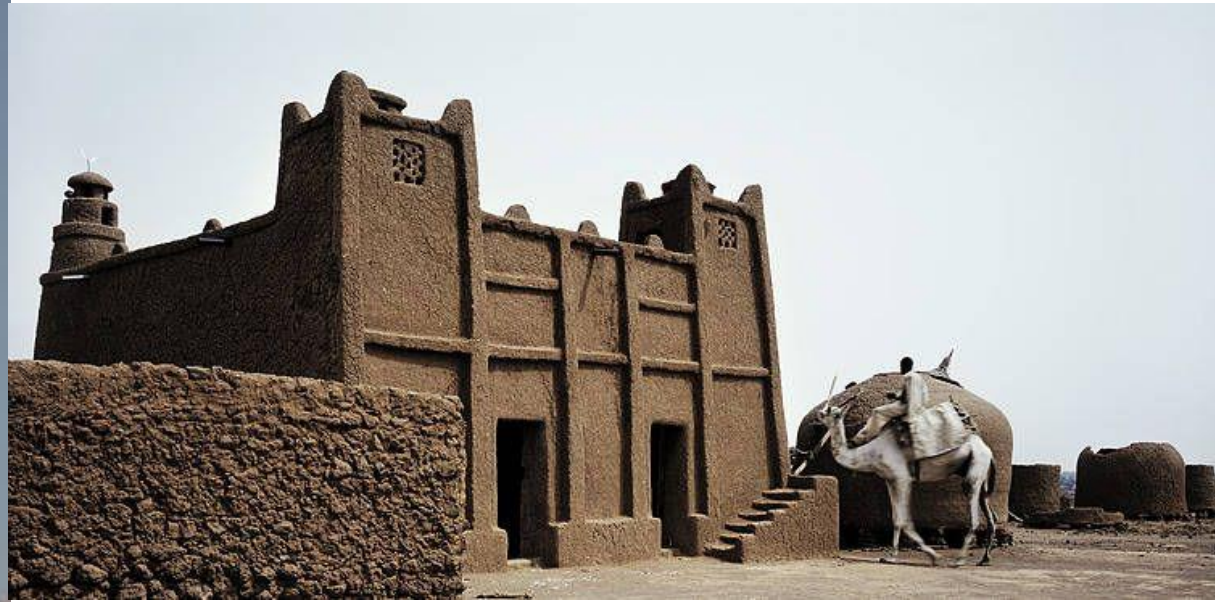
Kano City wall, one of the most spectacular heritage of Africa south of the Sahara



# Hausa Kingdoms

- Kings/Political leaders converted to Islam to gain better trade relationships with Islamic civilizations in Middle East
- The Islam that took hold was very syncretic and blended heavily with local polytheism
- Most average people didn't convert because they had no interest/need to develop better trade relationships

# Hausa Kingdoms



# Ethiopian Empire

- Christianity reached N. Africa in 1<sup>st</sup> Cen. CE.
  - ▣ Alexandria became one of most prominent centers of early Christianity
- Mid-4<sup>th</sup> cen. Christianity established a foothold in Kingdom of Axum
  - ▣ 1<sup>st</sup> converts were probably local merchants who traded with Christians who came to port of Adulis on Red Sea.
  - ▣ King of Axum converted around the time of Constantine
- Late 7<sup>th</sup> cen. Axum fell into decline



# Ethiopian Empire

- **Founders** of the empire **claimed to be** direct **descendants** of important **Biblical figures**
  - Most notably King Solomon



# Ethiopian Empire

- Used shared belief **Christianity** as a way to **unify** their **empire**
- 12<sup>th</sup> cen. Ethiopian king ordered the carving of 11 massive churches out of solid rock
- King built major churches and decision making and laws were **based on** beliefs and teaching of **Christianity**

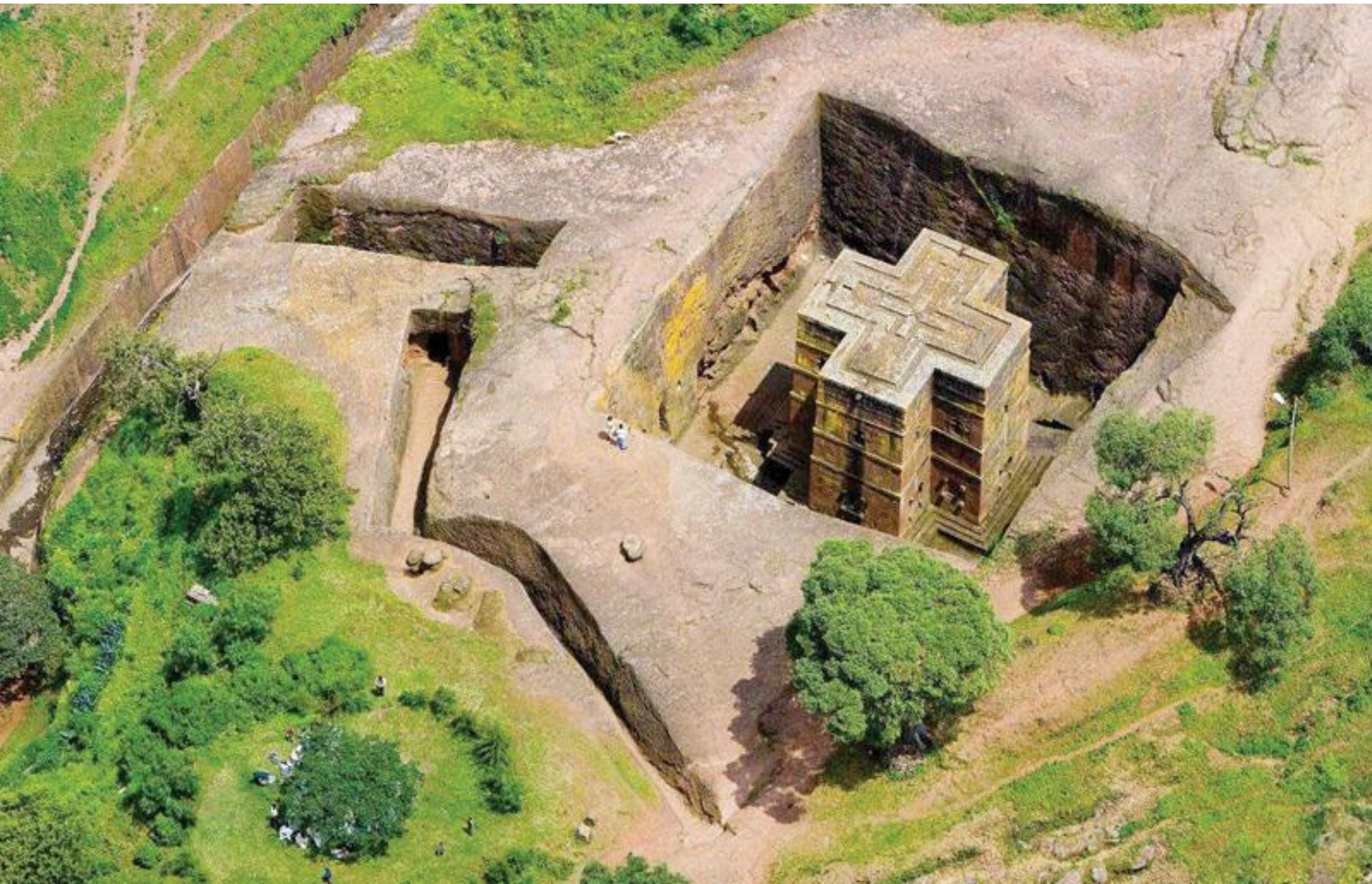
# Christian Church, Lalibela [Ethiopia]













# Bet Abba Church





# Cave Church





# Ethiopian Empire

- Ethiopian Christians were cut off from European/Middle Eastern Christians-
- Developed a very **syncretic** version of **Christianity**
  - ▣ They **believe in** a large host of **evil spirits populating the world and they carry amulets for protection**
  - ▣ Rock churches link to rock shrines that were important in Ethiopian religion

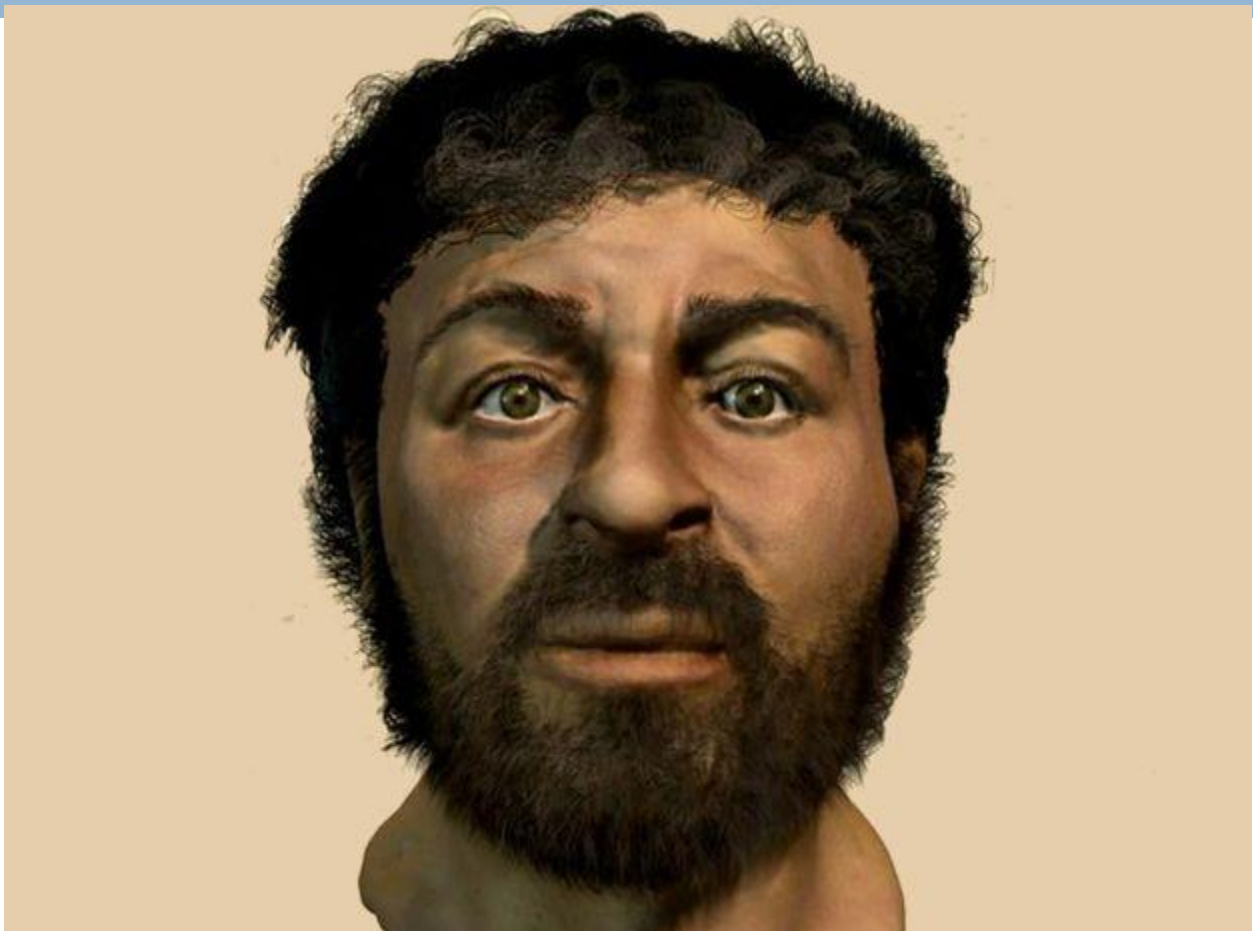


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# Christian Church, Lalibela [Ethiopia]



Coptic Christian Priest

# Ethiopian Empire

- Never conquered by outsiders due to protection provided by natural boundaries
- When Europeans arrived in African in the late 1400's they never tried to conquer Ethiopia because of their shared Christian beliefs