Interactive Notebook Setup

- 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
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.
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.
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 1st Cen. CE.
  - Alexandria became one of most prominent centers of early Christianity
- Mid-4th cen. Christianity established a foothold in Kingdom of Axum
  - 1st 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 7th 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
- 12th 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
Christian Church, Lalibela [Ethiopia]

Coptic Christian Priest
Ethiopian Empire

- Never conquered by outsiders due to protection provided by natural boundaries

- When Europeans arrived in Africa in the late 1400’s they never tried to conquer Ethiopia because of their shared Christian beliefs