



Chapter 2 After You Read

Read each section carefully, then write your answers on a separate sheet of paper.

Comprehension Review

1. What are some ways that the first Africans used their environment to help them survive?
2. Study the timeline. During what period did humans learn to grow food? When did they smelt iron?
3. What is the connection between the Ice Age and the concept of differentiation in humans?
4. What happens when there is genetic adaptation?
5. What is human DNA? Why is it so important?
6. How did the concept of race develop?
7. Define an ethnic group.
8. What are the names and locations of the three largest ethnic groups in Africa?
9. What is the total area of the African continent in square kilometers? How does it compare in land size to the United States of America?

Center Your Thinking

10. Why does the author say that “race may be an out-of-date concept”?

Vocabulary and Concept Development

1. Are **genetic adaptation** and **differentiation** two names for the same occurrence? Explain.
2. Write the first five words you think of when you hear the word, **scar**. Now think about the practice of **scarification** and its significance to the Yoruba people of Africa. Write the first five words you think of when you hear the word **scarification**. What new words, if any, does this new term bring to mind? Are they positive or negative? Use the results from this exercise to explain how certain words can bring out deep feelings.
3. How does the definition of **ethnic group**, used by modern **Africologists**, differ from the previous meaning assigned to the term?

Reading a Timeline

Use Unit 1 and Chapter 2 timelines to complete the following:

1. How many years after the Stone Age did the Middle Stone Age begin?
2. Write a brief paragraph to discuss human development during the three stages of the Stone Age shown on the Chapter 2 timeline.
3. What kind of things could Stone Age humans make out of stone?
4. Why would the diet of humans in the New Stone Age have more variety and be more predictable than that of earlier humans?



Use the Internet and various maps to conduct a comparative study of the physical land features of the seven continents of the world. In small groups, create large visuals of each continent and

their major physical features. Using short, descriptive statements, compare and contrast land sizes, waterways, forests, mountains, and other natural features.

PHYSICAL MAP OF AFRICA



COMPARING MAPS

Refer to the map on page 13 to determine which area of Africa has the highest concentration of large ethnic groups. What physical feature might have

attracted them? Why do you think none of the largest groups are found in North Africa?



It takes a resilient people to thrive in the diversified environments of Africa. Here, a village sits perched on the edge of the Sahara.

The African Continent

The entire land area of the United States would fit into the continent of Africa about three times. That may be hard to visualize using the **Mercator maps** found in most books. A Mercator map gives the illusion that the United States and Africa are roughly the same size. All maps are distortions since they do not represent the earth as it really is; rather, they represent the earth as humans can draw it on a flat, two-dimensional surface. The Mercator map distorts the geography of the earth to the advantage of the Northern Hemisphere, thus Greenland looks larger than China or South Africa when, in fact, it is much smaller. Russia, on the other hand, appears as large as Africa when it is actually smaller.

The **Peters Projection map** does precisely what it was intended to do—project the actual square kilometers of each landmass to show its actual size. It gives each continent the amount of physical representation as called for by its size in actual square kilometers. Therefore, a landmass of 10 million square kilometers (3.9 square miles) looks larger than one of 3 million

square kilometers (1.2 square miles). A Peters Projection map gives a more realistic representation of actual square kilometers.

Africa is a huge continent. It covers a total area of 30.2 million square kilometers (11.7 million square miles). By comparison, the land area of the United States is 9.3 million square kilometers (3.6 million square miles). Of course, Africa is a continent with 53 nations, and the United States is one nation on the North American continent. Africa, on the other hand, is the second largest continent in the world.

THE AFRICAN LANDSCAPE

The African landscape is a natural wonder of spectacular rivers, forbidding deserts, lush rain forests, and mountains that appear to touch the sky. Two enormous deserts—the Sahara, the world's largest, and the Kalahari—are major features of this beautiful and diverse continent. They provide a dramatic contrast to the vast rain forests and snow-capped mountains which serve as belts and buckles on the map of Africa.

Three of the world's great rivers cut through the landscape. The Nile, the world's longest river at 6,695 kilometers (4,151 miles), flows from Uganda to the Mediterranean Sea. In Central Africa, the Congo River carries one of the largest volumes of water in the world, exceeded only by the massive Amazon of South America. The Niger, a fabled river of powerful empires in West Africa, is known for the merchants who navigate it. These merchants buy and sell cotton, salt, gold, ivory, bronze statuettes, textiles, and an endless variety of spices. Many of Africa's greatest civilizations developed along banks of these rivers.

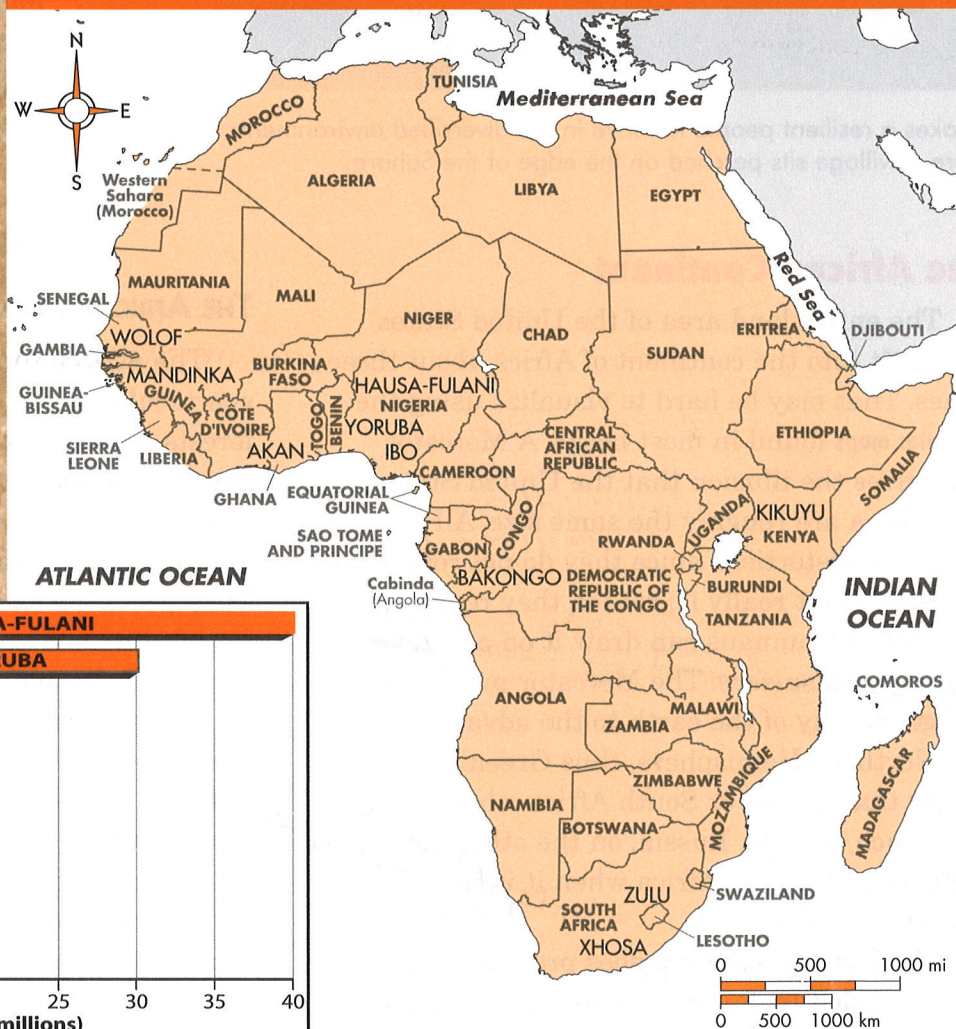
DID YOU KNOW ?

Many historians believe that people from at least 100 of the 2000 African ethnic groups were transported to the Americas during the European Slave Trade.

On the African continent, there are many characteristics, physical or cultural, which may indicate the ethnic identity of a person. For example, in West Africa, the **scarification**, or special markings on the cheeks of a man standing in the crowded streets of Lagos, Nigeria, may identify him as a person belonging to the Yoruba ethnic group. If the woman who drives a tourist van in Accra (ah-KRAH), Ghana (GAH-nah), speaks of the Almighty God as Onyame (ohn-YAH-

mee), she is most likely an Akan (ah-CHEM) person because that is the name for God in her language. Even when physical characteristics are similar—height and skin color—cultural differences will indicate the different ethnic groups to which the person belongs.

LARGEST AFRICAN ETHNIC GROUPS BY POPULATION



USING A KEY

In this map, a bar graph serves as the key. Identify Africa's largest ethnic group and the country in which it is located.

INTERPRETING DATA

Which of the ethnic groups listed is found in more than one country? What impact might this have on the cultures of those countries?

union. In addition, according to the projections of the United States Census Bureau, there will be no majority race in the United States of America in less than 50 years.

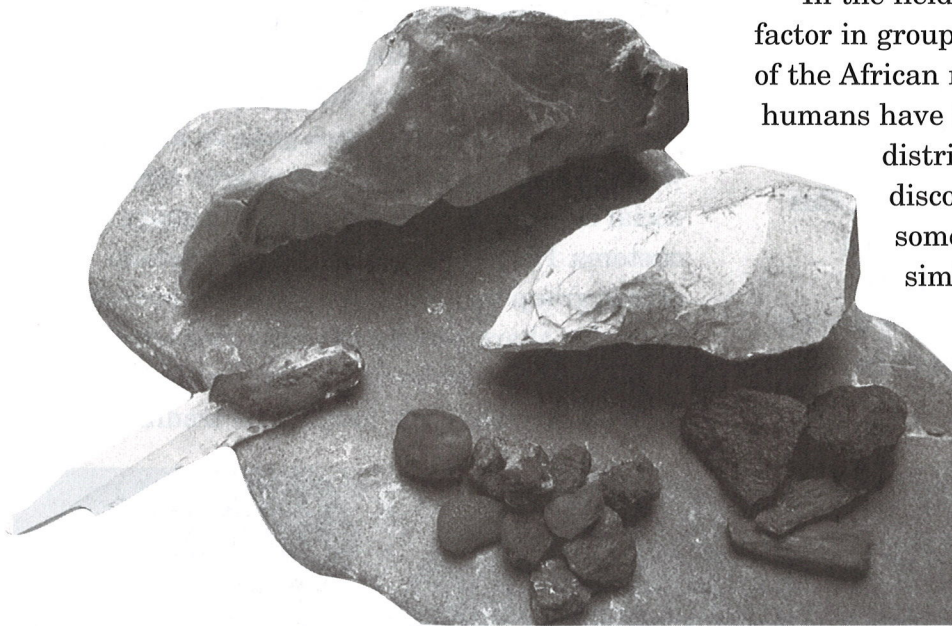
The concept of race developed as Europeans came into contact with Africa; but among Africans there was no racial distinction. Europeans gradually began to emphasize the obvious physical differences between themselves and Africans to claim their superiority and the inferiority of Africans. Over the centuries, this attitude among Europeans has produced a negative reaction to Africans and African Americans. Among Africans, differences among various ethnic groups were recognized for what they were—cultural differences.

Ethnic Identities

There are more language and ethnic groups on the African continent than on any other continent in the world. Africa has more than 2000 such groups. One nation, Nigeria, has more than 800 different ethnic or language groups. Each ethnic group usually speaks a different language. Modern **Africologists**, people who teach about Africa, define an **ethnic group** as a population within a specific culture that shares common social institutions—particularly language and customs. People who belong to a particular ethnic group may be easy to identify because they also share similar physical characteristics; however, they always share cultural features such as language, art, music, and traditions.



Certain cultural practices identify people as part of a particular ethnic group. Among West African groups, such as the Yoruba in Nigeria, scarification is often used to show beauty, for identification, as well as initiation and rites of passage.



Old Stone Age tools included crudely shaped rocks (bottom). More sophisticated arrowheads and blades (top), were fashioned during the Middle Stone Age.

climate resulted in **differentiation**—genetic and physical changes which made it easier for some humans to survive the Ice Age.

Genetic adaptation is a common occurrence in all living things that sometimes adapt, first genetically and then physically, to survive in a changing environment. Genetic changes are natural occurrences which often result in the preservation of a species. Scientists have used the physical differentiation produced by genetic adaptation to classify all living things, including human beings. Such classifications, when used productively, can be an important tool for humans to understand their environment and each other. When classifications such as race are used to persecute or discriminate against others, however, it can distort the way that people view each other and make race a dominant factor in human life.

In the field of genetic science, DNA is the key factor in grouping the human family. As a result of the African migration to the rest of the world, humans have become the most widely distributed species. Scientists have discovered that the DNA of people in some places in China may be more similar to the DNA of people in Kenya than to those who live in other regions of China. Similarly, an Irish person may have DNA very closely related to the DNA of a Mandinka person in Africa. From this scientific perspective, race may be an out-of-date concept.

The rest of the world is slowly beginning to understand the importance of DNA. In his Year 2000 State of the Union address, President Clinton reminded Americans that within 10 years, there would be no majority race in California, the most populous state in the



This diagram shows the configuration of a DNA molecule—the key to heredity. Studies show that the DNA in some people in China may more closely match the DNA of a Mandinka person in Africa than a Chinese person in other regions of China.

2



AS YOU READ

- What were the accomplishments of early Africans during the Stone Age?
- Why may the classification of humans by race be an out-of-date concept?
- What are some of Africa's largest ethnic groups?
- What are some of the natural wonders of the African continent?

Chapter Outline

- The First Africans
- Migration and Differentiation
- Ethnic Identities
- The African Continent

Vocabulary

- Stone Age • nomads • Ice Age • differentiation • genetic adaptation
- Africologists • ethnic group • scarification • Mercator map • Peters Projection map

The First Africans

The production of stone tools marks a special period in human history which began 4 million years ago and continued to 3400 B.C.E. This great expanse of time is called the **Stone Age**. During the Stone Age, the first Africans learned how to make pottery, polish stone tools, grow food, and raise animals. They used everything in their environment to assist them in surviving. Stone Age Africans made medicines from leaves and plant roots, clothing from grass, and tools from stone.

Migration and Differentiation

Stone Age people lived in groups of 20 to 30. They were **nomads** who moved from place to place. Those first Africans who migrated north and east to Europe and Asia faced enormous challenges during the **Ice Age** when glaciers, or thick sheets of ice, developed across much of Europe and Asia. Scientists believe that over thousands of years, adaptation to the colder

2,000,000–10,000
The Ice Age covers much of Europe, Siberia, and North America.

150,000
DNA studies place the first human and common ancestor of all humans in Africa.

50,000
The Middle Stone Age begins. Humans make arrowheads and blades.

15,000
The New Stone Age begins. Humans make pottery, polish stone tools, grow food, and raise animals.

2,000,000 B.C.E.

250,000

50,000

35,000

15,000 B.C.E.

250,000–50,000
The Old Stone Age begins. Humans create the first stone tools.

35,000
Global migration of the African population begins. Africans move to unpopulated areas of Europe and Asia.

Reading a Timeline

Use Unit 1 and Chapter 1 timelines to complete the following:

1. How many years have elapsed between the appearance of the African female, who was the first ancestor of all humans (use earliest date), and the present date?
2. Cite the event and date that illustrates that Africans were the first humans to
 - a. create stone tools.
 - b. smelt iron.
 - c. develop civilization.
 - d. domesticate plants.
3. According to the Chapter 1 timeline, what continents did Africans populate during their global migration?

GLOBAL connection

With your teacher's help, research your ancestors on the Internet in order to construct a family tree. If you cannot go back very far in your findings, imagine who your ancestors might have been and

where they might have originated. Trace those findings as far back as you can and construct a tree showing the roots of your own or an imagined family from their native land to America.

Multiple Perspectives

1. When famed archaeologist Richard Leakey found a stone tool made 3 million years ago, he took special note of the common heritage shared by the ancient humans who had made the tool and modern humans. The author states that Leakey's observations showed that he understood the unbroken connection between past and present. What does that mean? Does that unbroken connection continue today? Write a paragraph describing how that 3-million-year-old tool is linked to your life now. Also include a more modern unbroken connection such as your grandparents or great-grandparents. How does what they did and how they lived affect you?
2. What does the author infer about the relationship between African Americans and the history of all humans? Give reasons to support why you agree or disagree with the author's point of view.

CENTER YOUR WRITING

National Standards for Social Studies have identified the theme of Time, Continuity, and Change as an important area of study for students. Continuity means that there is a continuous thread that in some way links events in time. When focusing on this theme, the goal of the National Standards is to help students understand the connections between the events of the past and their lives in the present. Trace your ancestors

or the ancestors of someone you admire. Select the one you admire most. Use the following questions to write a one-page essay:

Who is an ancestor? How has the ancestor you selected inspired you the most and why? How has knowledge about that ancestor helped you to make decisions about your life today?