AFRICAN CIVILIZATIONS

Arab Islamic Empire
- conquers region ~690 CE
- replaces Christianity & Latin w/ Islam & Arabic
- Arabization: adoption of Arab culture & identity in N. Africa

Kingdoms of West Africa
- trading cities/kingdom
- major commodities: gold & salt

Ghana
- Soninke farm villages united ~800 CE
- powerful & wealthy b/c controlled salt & gold trade routes
- called, "Land of Gold"
- Islam brought to Ghana by N. African arab merchants
- N. Africans tried to conquer but never could fully control it

Mali - Mandinka people
- won control of gold routes from Ghana
  ↳ absorbed Ghana
- Islam brought by N. African merchants
- practiced a syncretic version of Islam:
  ↳ mixed Islam w/ native culture
  ↳ Ex. Mali women had lots of authority/freedoms & this continued with the arrival of Islam

Songhai - rose out of decline of Mali
- largest state to ever exist in W. Africa
- practiced syncretic version of Islam
- N. Africans tried to conquer but failed

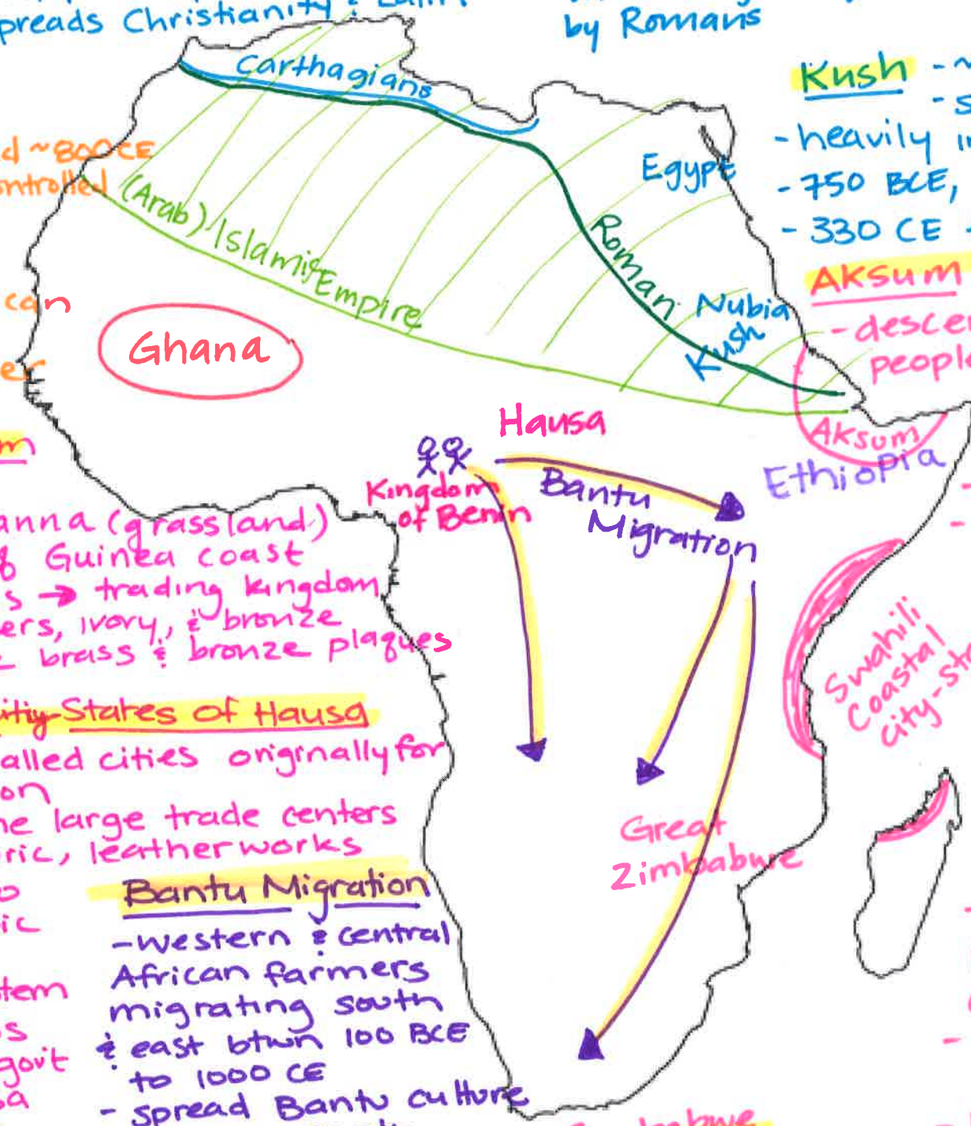
Roman Empire
- conquers Carthage, Egypt & Nubia
- uses region to feed & supply food for empire
- spreads Christianity & Latin

Carthagians
- Phoenician traders from Middle East founded kingdom
- ultimately conquered by Romans

Egypt / Nubia
- developed around banks of Nile Rive
  ↳ North Nile: Egypt
  ↳ South Nile: Nubia
- interacted w/ each other → trade
- 1500 BCE Egypt conquers Nubia
  ↳ Nubians adopt Egyptian gods, art, architecture

Kush
- ~1069 BCE, rose out of decline of Egypt
- same region as Nubia
- heavily influenced by Egyptian culture
- 750 BCE, conquers parts of Egypt
- 330 CE falls → conquers by Aksum

Aksum
- SW of Nubia
- descendants of E. African farmers & Jewish people → language of Geez emerge from these 2 cultural mixing
- powerful trading kingdom
- 300 CE Christianity arrives
- 600 CE Islam arrives (through conquest)
  ↳ all of its neighbors convert
  ↳ Aksum maintains Christian identity → isolating → leads to decline



Forest Kingdom of Benin
- South of Savanna (grassland) in rainforest of Guinea coast
- farming villages → trading kingdom
  ↳ traded peppers, ivory, & bronze
- made elaborate brass & bronze plaques and sculptures

Walled City-States of Hausa
- clay walled cities originally for protection
- cities become large trade centers → cotton, fabric, leatherworks
- Converted to Islam, Arabic influence writing system
- Islamic laws influence gov't
- Many Hausa rulers were women

Bantu Migration
- western & central African farmers migrating south & east btwn 100 BCE to 1000 CE
- spread Bantu culture to east & south

Great Zimbabwe
- Bantu people, south & inland from coastal cities
- built giant stone houses
- part of the trade network with coastal cities

Swahili City-State
- rose in power after Aksum declined
- all independent politically but connected economically
- wealthy from trade
- Indian, Arab, Persian, Chinese & SE Asian merchants came to these cities to trade for ivory, iron, copper, gold, slaves, etc.

Ethiopia
- Aksum became Ethiopia
- when Aksum fell, people & culture did not disappear
- geography helps maintain autonomy & Christian identity
- kept in touch w/ Christian communities in Rome & Middle East
- practiced a syncretic form of christianity
  ↳ incorporated E. African music/dances in worship