

African History

Africa's kingdoms, trade routes, and modern nations, taught as a full story.

Grade fit: Grades 5-12 · Format: printable PDF unit

About this unit

African history is usually squeezed into two chapters about colonialism. This unit starts thousands of years earlier with Kush, Aksum, Ghana, Mali, Songhai, Great Zimbabwe, and the Swahili coast, follows the trade and scholarship that made those states wealthy, then walks students through colonization, independence, and the 54 nations of Africa today. Inside SFC Nations students can found a nation on real African terrain, choose its resources and government, and feel how geography and trade shape a state's power.

What students will be able to do

- Name and locate the major African kingdoms and empires on a map
- Explain how gold, salt, and trans-Saharan trade built West African wealth
- Describe the role of Timbuktu and African scholarship in world learning
- Trace the causes and long consequences of colonization and independence
- Compare the economies and governments of modern African nations
- Use primary sources and oral history traditions as evidence

These are sample pages only. The complete unit, answer keys, and printable worksheet packs are part of the Homeschool Nations bundle.

Sample lesson — topics covered

Ancient Africa: Nubia, Kush, Egypt, and Aksum

Students study the Nile corridor as one connected world, including Nubian and Kushite rulers, and Aksum's Red Sea trade, coinage, and early Christian kingdom.

West African empires: Ghana, Mali, and Songhai

Gold, salt, cities, and universities. Students map trans-Saharan routes, follow Mansa Musa's pilgrimage, and analyze why Timbuktu became a center of books and learning.

East and Southern Africa

The Swahili coast, Indian Ocean trade, Great Zimbabwe's stone cities, and the kingdoms of the Congo basin and the Ethiopian highlands.

Try it this week

1. Map the trans-Saharan trade routes and label three goods moving each direction
2. Write a one-page profile of an African ruler using at least two sources
3. Found an SFC nation on real African terrain and justify your resource picks

Sample worksheet

Name: _____ Date: _____

1. In one sentence, what is the big idea of this African History unit?

2. Describe one decision you made in your nation and what happened next.

3. What evidence from your nation's data supports that answer?

4. What would you do differently next week, and why?

Weekly plan at a glance

- Monday: read the week's kingdom or era, take five notes
- Tuesday: map work, place people and places geographically
- Wednesday: source study, one primary or oral source with questions
- Thursday: apply it in your nation, log the decision and result
- Friday: written paragraph or discussion defending a claim

Full unit — including every worksheet, rubric, and answer key — unlocks with the Homeschool Nations bundle at sfcnations.com/homeschool-nations-launch