Learning Targets

• To make students aware of civilizations that evolved outside the more well-known civilizations of Eurasia/North Africa
• To explore the development of civilizations in Africa and the Americas
• To consider the factors that make civilizations develop in some regions but not in others
• To raise the possibility of complex civilizations without any recognizable centralized control

Big Picture Questions

1. “The particular cultures and societies of Africa and of the Americas discussed in this chapter developed largely in isolation.”
   What evidence would support this statement, and what might challenge it?
2. How do you understand areas of the world, such as Bantu Africa and North America, that did not generate “civilizations”?
   Do you see them as “backward,” as moving slowly toward civilization, or as simply different?
3. How did African proximity to Eurasia shape its history? And how did American separation from the Eastern Hemisphere affect its development?
4. To what extent did the histories of Africa and the Americas parallel those of Eurasia? In what ways did they forge new or different paths?

Margin Review Questions

1. What similarities and differences are noticeable among the three major continents of the world?
2. How did the history of Meroë and Axum reflect interaction with neighboring civilizations?
3. How does the experience of the Niger Valley challenge conventional notions of “civilization”?
4. With what Eurasian civilizations might the Maya be compared?
5. In what ways did Teotihuacán shape the history of Mesoamerica?
6. What kind of influence did Chavín exert in the Andes region?
7. What features of Moche life characterize it as a civilization?
8. What was the significance of Wari and Tiwanaku in the history of Andean civilization?
9. In what ways did the arrival of Bantuspeaking peoples stimulate cross-cultural interaction?
10. In what ways were the histories of the Ancestral Pueblo and the Mound Builders similar to each other, and how did they differ?

Key Terms

**Axum:** Second-wave-era kingdom of East Africa, in present-day Eritrea and northern Ethiopia; flourished from 100 to 600 C.E. (pron. AX-uhm)

**Bantu expansion:** Gradual migration of Bantuspeaking peoples from their homeland in what is now southern Nigeria and the Cameroon into most of eastern and southern Africa, a process that began around 3000 B.C.E. and continued for several millennia. The agricultural techniques and ironworking technology of Bantu-speaking farmers gave them an advantage over the gathering and hunting peoples they encountered. (pron. BAHN-to)

**Batwa:** Forest-dwelling people of Central Africa who adopted some of the ways of their Bantu neighbors while retaining distinctive features of their own culture; also known as “Pygmies.” (pron. BAHT-wah)

**Cahokia:** The dominant center of an important Mississippi valley mound-building culture, located near present-day St. Louis, Missouri; flourished from about 900 to 1250 C.E. (pron. cah-HOHK-ee)

**Chaco Phenomenon:** Name given to a major process of settlement and societal organization that occurred in the period 860–1130 C.E. among the peoples of Chaco canyon, in what is now northwestern New Mexico; the society formed is notable for its settlement in large pueblos and for the building of hundreds of miles of roads (the purpose of which is not known). (pron. CHAH-koh)

**Chavin:** Andean town that was the center of a large Peruvian religious movement from about 900 to 200 B.C.E. (pron. cha-BEAN) Maya civilization: A major civilization of Mesoamerica; flourished from 250 to 900 C.E.

**Meroë:** City in southern Nubia that was the center of Nubian civilization between 300 B.C.E. and 100 C.E. (pron. MER-oh-ee)

**Moche:** An important regional civilization of Peru, governed by warrior-priests; flourished from about 100 to 800 C.E. (pron. MO-che)
Mound Builders: Members of any of a number of cultures that developed east of the Mississippi River in what is now the United States and that are distinguished by their large earthen mounds, built during the period 2000 B.C.E.–1250 C.E. Niger Valley civilization: Distinctive city-based civilization that flourished from about 300 B.C.E. to about 900 C.E. in the floodplain of the middle Niger and that included major cities like Jennejeno; the Niger Valley civilization is particularly noteworthy for its apparent lack of centralized state structures, having been organized instead in clusters of economically specialized settlements.

Piye: Ruler of Kush (r. 752–721 B.C.E.) who conquered Egypt, reuniting it under his rule.

pueblo: “Great house” of the Ancestral Pueblo people; a large, apartment building–like structure that could house hundreds of people.

Teotihuacán: The largest city of pre-Columbian America, with a population between 100,000 and 200,000; seemingly built to a plan in the Valley of Mexico, Teotihuacán flourished between 300 and 600 C.E., during which time it governed or influenced much of the surrounding region. The name Teotihuacán is an Aztec term meaning “city of the gods.” (pron. teh-oh-teeWAH-kahn)

Wari and Tiwanaku: Two states that flourished between 400 and 1000 C.E. in the highlands of modern Bolivia and Peru. At their height they possessed urban capitals with populations in the tens of thousands and productive agricultural systems.