

Name: _____ Period: _____ Date: _____

AFRICA STUDY GUIDE

Part 1: Use Note #1 (Mankind – Survivors Video Questions)

1. The Sahara is as big as what country?	
2. What two commodities/items/things were the MOST valuable for trading in West Africa?	
3. What types of things made travel in Africa difficult?	

Part 2: Use Note #2 (Africa's Geography)

4. Africa is home to _____ countries, _____ different languages, and 1.2 billion people.	
5. What connects the interior of Africa and helps the movement of trade and people?	
6. What natural resources are found in Africa?	
7. Name for an area that is characterized by its climate, physical terrain, and soil type.	

***Read the statement below and decide which vegetation zone of Africa it refers to. Your choices are: Sahara, Sahel, Savanna, or Rain Forest.**

8. One of the harshest places to live in the world.	
9. Sunlight never reaches the forest floor.	
10. Relatively flat with few mountains or hills.	
11. Hot, humid, and rainy year-round	
12. A large variety of animals (lions, zebras, elephants) live here.	
13. High temperature in the day, low temperatures at night, rocky hills, stretches of gravel, and no rainfall.	
14. Tall grasses and trees do to a good amount of annual rainfall.	
15. This word means border or margin and is the border region between the Sahara Desert and the Savanna.	
16. Fertile soil and the Niger River allow for farming and raising livestock.	
17. Covers 30% of the African continent.	
18. Covers 50% of the African continent.	
19. Semi-desert, strip of dry grasslands with little rainfall allowing the growth of low grasses and low shrubs.	
20. An area of towering trees, dense leaves, and climbing vines.	

Part 3: Use Note #3 (African Civilizations)

21. The people of _____ Africa had gold and people _____ of the Sahara had salt.	
22. Word meaning a connection based on family relationships.	
23. Why did historians have to rely on only archaeology and oral history to study West Africa?	
24. Word meaning an account of something passed down by word of mouth from one generation to another.	
25. List 3 types of oral history.	
26. What is a proverb?	
27. Word meaning a professional storyteller and oral historian.	

***Read the statement below and decide which African civilization it describes. Your choices are: Ghana, Mali, or Songhai.**

28. Led by Sundiata and became a powerful trading empire.	
29. Capital and trading center was Koumbi.	
30. Visited by explorer Ibn Battuta.	
31. Made Gao the capital.	
32. Timbuktu was the main center for trade and learning and was forbidden to foreigners.	
33. Led by Askia the Great and became a great center for learning.	
34. Adopted technology from the Nok people to make iron tools and weapons.	
35. Led by Mansa Musa who went on a pilgrimage to Mecca and gave away a lot of gold.	
36. Captured by Moroccan troops and became a series of military camps.	
37. Taxed traders passing through their empire (they were located in the middle of the Trans-Saharan trade route).	
38. Discovered more gold mines and became the most powerful kingdom in Africa.	
39. Organized, strengthened, and unified by Sunni Ali.	
40. Declined due to weak leadership, invasions, and the empire having grown too large.	
41. Declined due to Almoravids, overgrazing, and internal rebellions.	

Part 4: Use Note #4 (Brain Pop – Mansa Musa)

42. What happened in Cairo, Egypt because of the gold passed out by Mansa Musa?	
43. Who did Mansa Musa bring back to Mali as he returned home from his pilgrimage?	
44. Mansa Musa was devoted to building institutions that would help spread _____.	