

# Spread of Islam in Africa

## ► Links Far and Near

1. Turn to pages 82–83 in the Atlas. Read the introduction. Write **T** next to each of the following statements if it is true or **F** if the statement is false.
  - a. After the Arab invasion, North African culture was dominated by Islam. \_\_\_\_\_
  - b. There were no Jews or Christians in Africa before the introduction of Islam.  
\_\_\_\_\_
  - c. There were hundreds of African religions in existence at the time of the Arab Muslim invasions. \_\_\_\_\_

## ► People and Cultures

2. Look at picture A and read its caption. Then read the history question, “What was a caliphate?” Use the information to complete the following sentences.
  - a. A Muslim ruler thought to be the successor of Mohammed was called a  
\_\_\_\_\_.
  - b. A Muslim state ruled by a caliph was known as a \_\_\_\_\_.
  - c. The warriors shown in picture A were from the \_\_\_\_\_ Caliphate.

## ► Time and Change

3. Use map B, “North African Islamic Empires,” to sequence the following events in chronological order. Write 1 next to the event that occurred first and 9 next to the event that occurred last.
  - a. Arab Muslims conquer Alexandria. \_\_\_\_\_
  - b. Almohads overthrow Almoravids. \_\_\_\_\_
  - c. Almoravid Empire is established. \_\_\_\_\_
  - d. Arab Muslims invade Egypt from Medina. \_\_\_\_\_
  - e. Fatimids establish their caliphate. \_\_\_\_\_
  - f. Arab Muslims move south along the Nile River. \_\_\_\_\_
  - g. Christians defeat Almohads in Spain. \_\_\_\_\_
  - h. Almohad Empire begins. \_\_\_\_\_
  - i. Arab Muslims reach Spain. \_\_\_\_\_

**► Gathering the Facts**

4. Read the history question "Who was first?" and the introductions on pages 80 and 82. Write **T** next to each of the following statements if it is true or **F** if the statement is false.
- a. The Bantu are indigenous to Africa. \_\_\_\_\_
  - b. Arab Muslims are indigenous to Africa. \_\_\_\_\_
  - c. Kushites were indigenous to Africa. \_\_\_\_\_
  - d. Islam is an indigenous African religion. \_\_\_\_\_

**► Places, Regions, and Landscapes**

5. Use map C, "Religions in Africa," to classify the following African cities. Next to each city write the religions that were practiced there in 750. Write **IND** for indigenous, **IS** for Islam, **C** for Christianity, and **J** for Judaism. Some cities had more than one religion.
- a. Jenne-Jeno \_\_\_\_\_
  - b. Tangier \_\_\_\_\_
  - c. Fez \_\_\_\_\_
  - d. Axum \_\_\_\_\_
  - e. Kano \_\_\_\_\_
  - f. Carthage \_\_\_\_\_

**★ History Through Maps**

6. Use map C, "Religions in Africa, 750," and map D, "Religions in Africa, 1500," to answer the following questions.
- a. Which religion spread between 750 and 1500? \_\_\_\_\_
  - b. Which place remained Christian in 1500? \_\_\_\_\_
  - c. Which city practiced only indigenous religions in 1500? \_\_\_\_\_
  - d. To which areas did Islam spread from 750 to 1500? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
  - e. In which two cities did the religions practiced remain the same in 750 and 1500?  
\_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_
  - f. Which four cities along the eastern coast had followers of Islam in 1500?  
\_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_, and \_\_\_\_\_



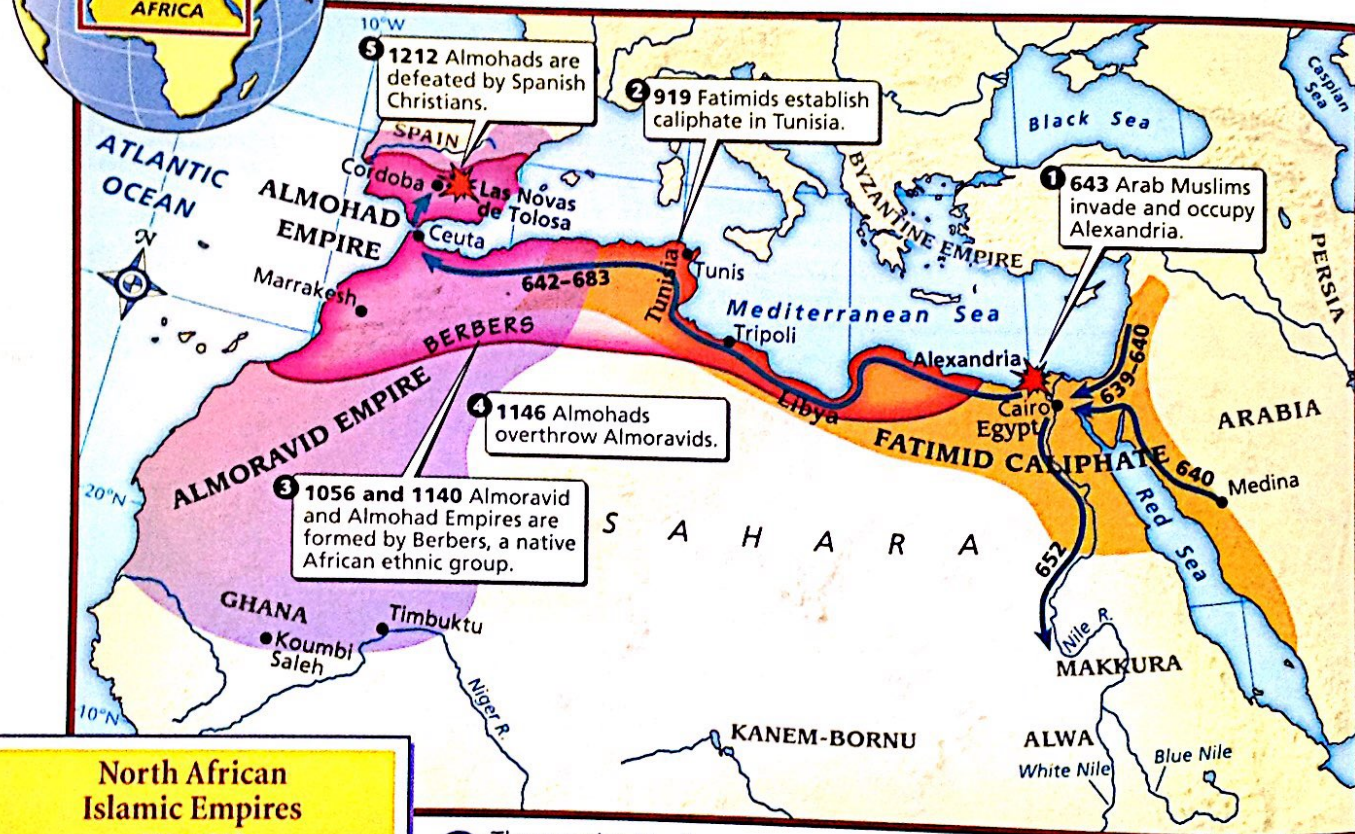
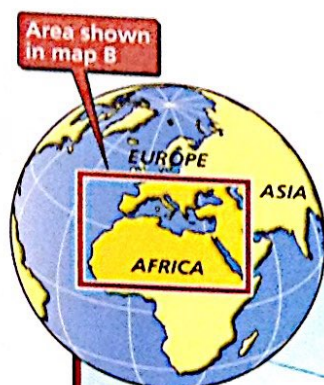
# Spread of Islam in Africa

In the 600s A.D., invaders from Arabia brought Islam to North Africa. Gradually, Islam spread south and east.

- Hundreds of African religions already existed throughout the continent before the arrival of Arab invaders.
- In addition, Jews and Christians had lived in North Africa since the Roman Empire controlled the region.
- Islamic, or Muslim, empires developed along the Mediterranean Sea in North Africa. Islam came to dominate the culture of North Africa.

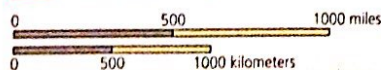


**A** This ancient illustration shows Muslim warriors from the Fatimid Caliphate. The Fatimids conquered Egypt and later founded Cairo.



## North African Islamic Empires 639-1269

- ← Arab Islamic conquest, 639-711
- Fatimid Caliphate, 969-1171
- Almoravid Empire, 1056-1147
- Almohad Empire, 1140-1269

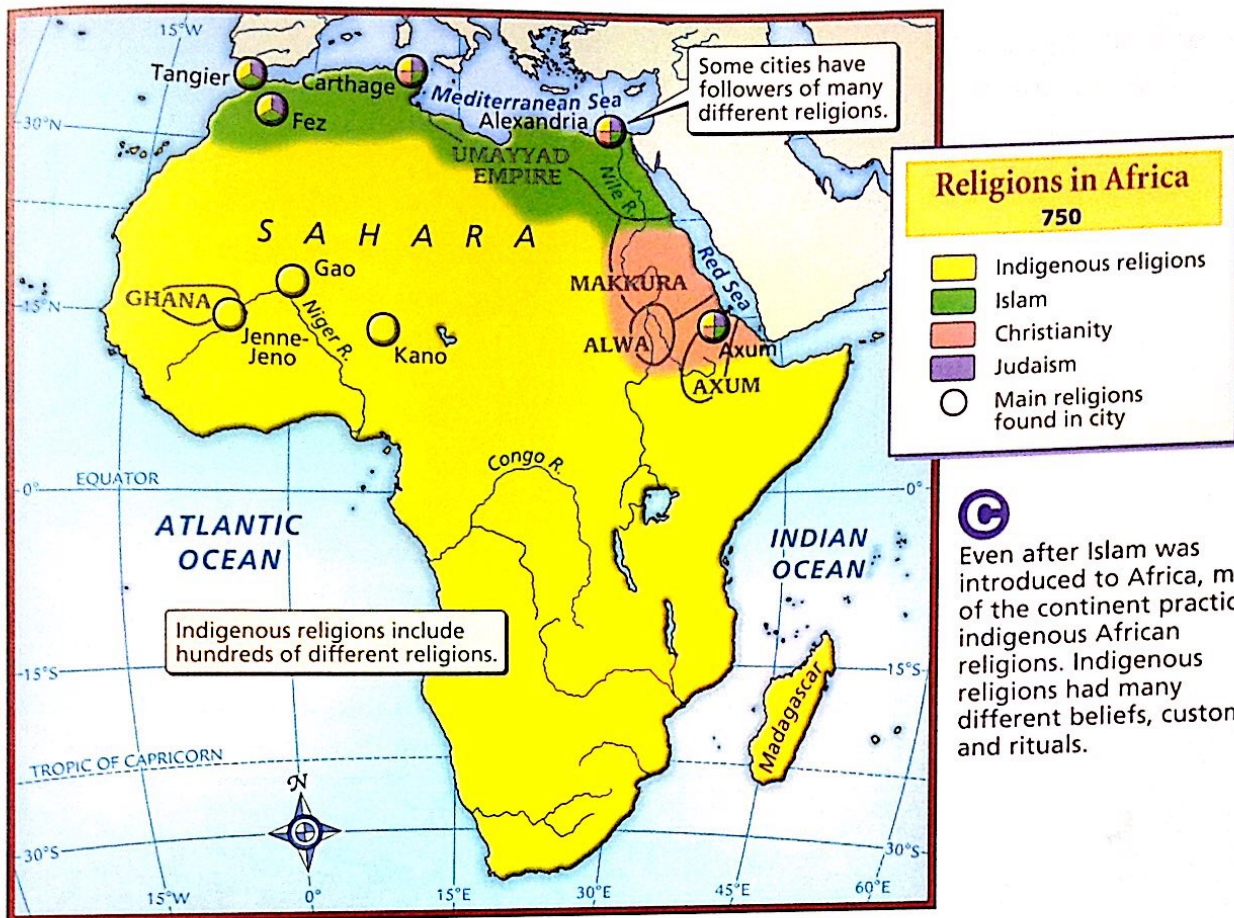


**B** Three major Muslim groups established empires in North Africa and southern Spain. These groups often fought with each other as well as with Christians who did not accept Muslim rule.

## What was a caliphate?

A caliphate was a Muslim state ruled by a person called a caliph. The caliph was considered a successor of the prophet Mohammed, the founder of Islam.





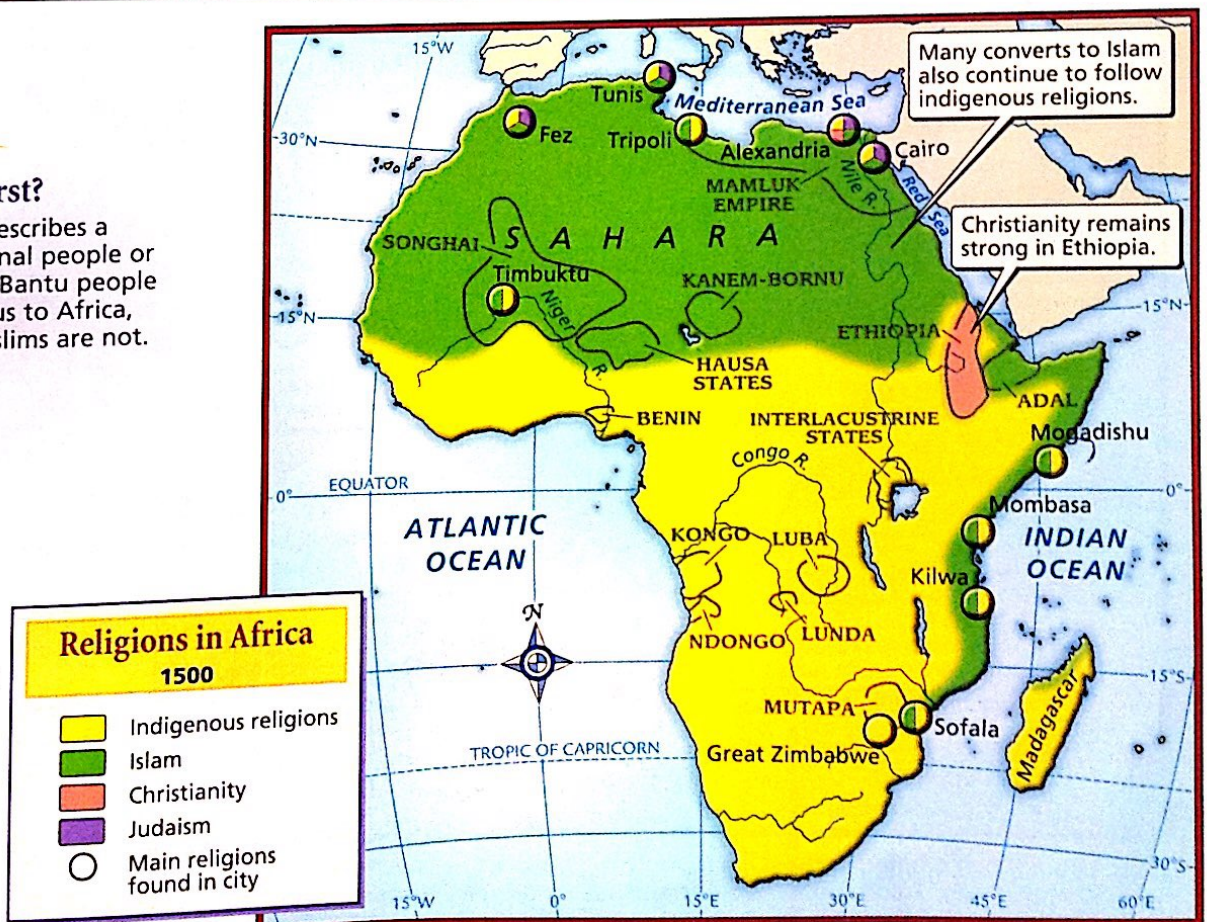
**C** Even after Islam was introduced to Africa, most of the continent practiced indigenous African religions. Indigenous religions had many different beliefs, customs, and rituals.

### Who was first?

Indigenous describes a region's original people or cultures. The Bantu people are indigenous to Africa, but Arab Muslims are not.

**D**

Compare map C and map D. Identify areas where Islam spread between 750 and 1500.





# UNIT 7 African Empires and European Colonies

590 B.C. to 1914 A.D.

1000 B.C.

500 B.C.

B.C. < > A.D.

590 B.C.  
Meroe is the cultural  
center of Kush.

500 B.C.  
Bantu migration begins.

350  
Christianity is adopted  
by king of Axum.

## Early Civilizations of Africa

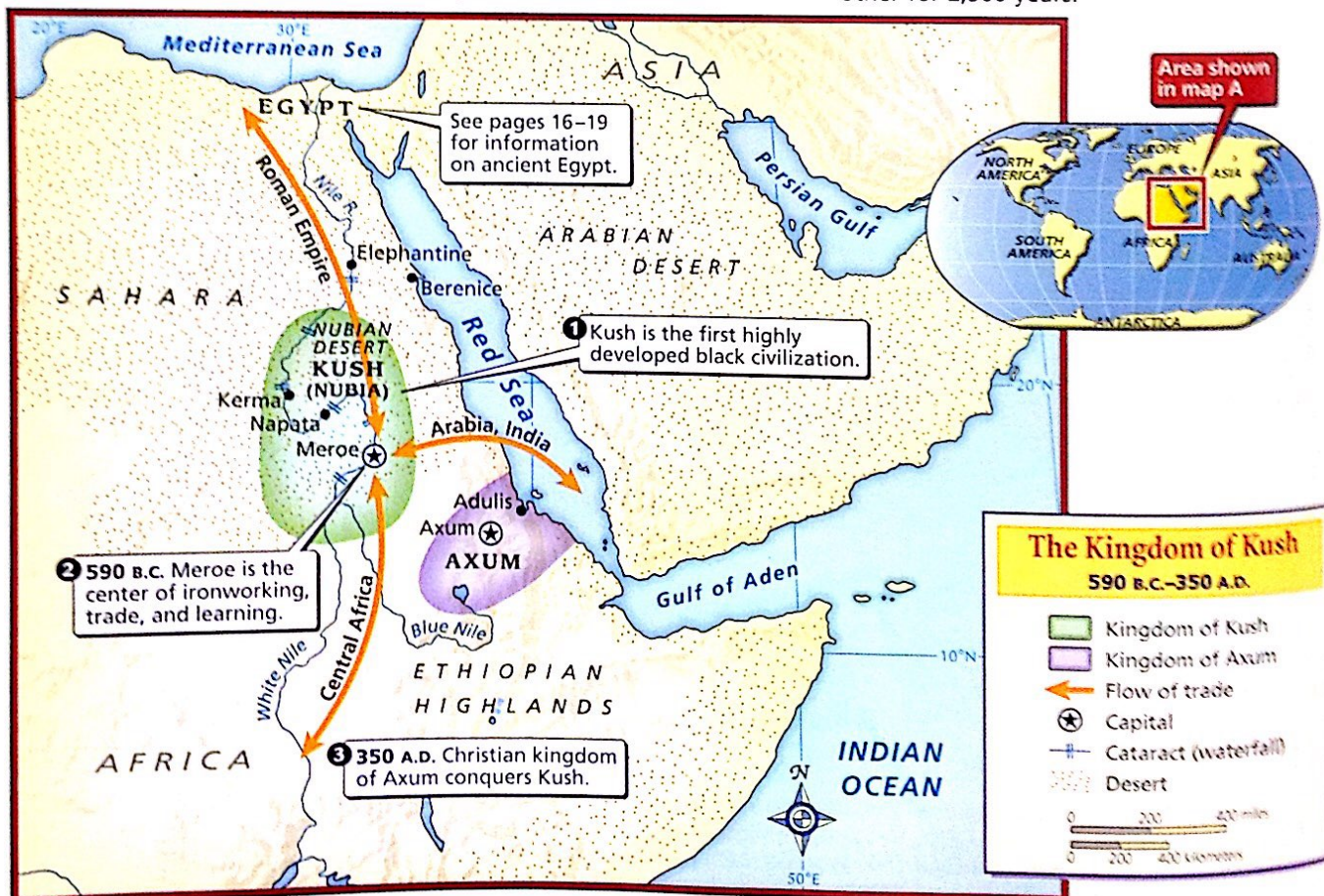
Many different cultures developed in Africa. Two early black African cultures developed around 3000 B.C. A civilization known as Kush developed in northeastern Africa. Bantu cultures developed in West Africa.

- The kingdom of Kush was located along the Nile River in the region of Nubia. Kush is often called Nubia.
- The Kushite civilization became a center for African learning, culture, and trade.
- Bantu people gradually spread farming and ironworking into central and southern Africa.



**A** Kush was a major trading center linking Central Africa, the Mediterranean region, Arabia, and India. Goods and ideas were exchanged between cultures through Kush.

**B** These tiles, which show a Kushite in the center, were found in Egypt. Kush and Egypt influenced each other for 2,500 years.





639 Muslim Arabs invade North Africa.

1240 Mali Empire is established.

1444 Atlantic slave trade begins.

1500 Swahili city-states thrive on trade.

1780 Slave trade reaches its height.

1000

1500

2000

700 Ghana becomes the first empire in West Africa.

1335 Songhai Empire is established.

1400 Timbuktu is the center of Mali culture.

1914 Europeans control most of Africa.

## Who is descended from the Bantu?

Descendants of the Bantu live in central and southern Africa. They speak related languages but belong to more than 300 distinct culture groups, including the Swahili, Zulu, and Kikuyu people.



**C** This farmer in southern Africa is a descendant of Bantu farmers who migrated to the region at least a thousand years ago.

**D** For about 1,500 years, the Bantu migrated south, mixing with original culture groups across the region. The Bantu brought a new way of life to southern Africa.

