WHI.10 11 & 12 Grab Bag Part 2

**Africa**

During the Middle Ages (or Medieval Period) African civilizations developed in sub-Saharan (south of the Sahara Desert) west and east Africa.

Trade with these people brought important economic, cultural and religious influences to Africa from Europe and Asia

Countries and empires that flourished during this time in Africa include:

* West Africa- Ghana, Mali, Songhai
* East Africa- Axum
* Southeast Africa- Zimbabwe

**Axum**

Axum- African kingdom in Eastern Africa, located near the Nile River and the Ethiopian Highlands

Rises to power between 100 and 900 A.D.

Christian Empire

Important because it was a center of trade because of where it was (between west Africa and the Indian Ocean)

**Zimbabwe**

Located near the Zambezi and Limpopo rivers and the Indian Ocean coast

City of Great Zimbabwe was the capital of the prosperous Kingdom of Zimbabwe

Great Zimbabwe was a massive stone city

* + 1780 acres in size
  + Royal palace
  + 18,000 residents
  + High walls

**West African Kingdoms**

The kingdoms of Ghana and Mali and the Songhai Empire existed at different times during the Middle Ages, but were all located in western Africa, south of the Sahara Desert, and near the Niger River

**Ghana**

Oldest of the west African kingdoms 830-1235 AD

Traded in gold, salt and ivory

**Mali**

The Kingdom of Mali 1230-1600 AD replaced the Kingdom of Ghana

Eventually would be a Muslim kingdom

Continued the trade of gold and salt

**Songhai Empire**

Replaced the Kingdom of Mali

One of the largest Islamic empires in history

Home to center of trade and learning, Timbuktu

**Timbuktu**

Important trading and learning center within the Islamic Songhai Empire

“Mud Mosque” demonstrates the area’s Muslim history

Timbuktu also had a famed university where at one point up to 25,000 students studied.