Empires of Africa

Central Sudanic States

Kanem-Bornu
- Kanem organized first millennium C.E.
  - Long lasting empire
- Organized mid-15th Century
  - Replaced Kanem
  - Created by separatists from Kanem
  - Kanuri ethnic group ruling class
- Centralized Government
- Organized descent system
- Islamic
- Trouble with neighbors
  - Competitor of Hausa for trade
  - Resisted Fulani advancements
- Existed in form till mid-19th century

Hausa
- 1000-1500 C.E.
- Made up of seven major city-states
  - Kano and Katsina
  - Autonomous
  - Dependent of Trans-Saharan Trade
  - United by common language and culture
- Primarily agriculturist
- Converted to Islam in mid-15th Century
- Heavily influenced by Fulani migrants
- Formed model of Islamic culture for west Africa
  - Patrilineal family structure
  - Bilateral descent
  - Secondary social role for women

Fulani
- Migrated to area mid-14th Century
- Nomadic herdsmen
  - Cattle
- Settled Hausa lands 17th-18th century
- 1804 declared Jihad against Hausa
  - Overthrew Hausa ruling class
- British later ruled Nigeria through the Fulani elites
- Impacts
  - Dominated Nigeria area during colonial era
  - One of the largest ethnic groups

Forest States of West Africa

Ashanti
- Rose around 1680 C.E.
- Expanded 1700-1750 C.E.
  - At the expense of smaller weaker neighbors
- Government
  - Central government
    - Worked with tribal chiefs
- **Asantehene**
  - King
  - Had full power
    - Consulted chiefs and people

- **Society**
  - Large gold deposits
  - Matrilineal
  - Rich language and culture
    - Oral literature and music
  - Used Arabic for official purposes but were not Muslims
- Involved in Slave Trade with Britain
  - Shut down in 1807
- Declared a British crown colony in 1901
  - Now Ghana

**Yoruba**
- Consisted of 50 or so city-states
  - Now western Nigeria
  - Common language, belief system, and creation myth
  - Oyo was main city
    - Destroyed by Fulani 1820-1830 C.E.
    - Ibidan replaced as cultural center
- Government
  - Each city ruled by an Oba
    - Hereditary
    - Ceremonial
  - Chiefs
    - Day to day decisions
    - Not hereditary
  - Lots of wars between city-states
    - Captives sold into slavery to Americas

**Benin**
- Mid-14th Century
- Edo speakers
- Modern day mid-west Nigeria
- Early contact with Europeans
  - 1485 C.E. first contact
    - Portuguese
  - 17th Century
    - French, Dutch, Portuguese, and English
    - Conquered by British in 1897
- Militarily strong
  - 16th Century expanded westward
  - Benin City
    - Earth walls and dry moats
      - Over 100 miles
- Government
  - Oba ruler
    - Religious and administrative leader
  - Uzama
    - Seven Hereditary nobles