**GUIDED READING Eastern City-States and Southern Empires**

**Section 3**

**A. Summarizing** As you read this section, make notes to answer the questions.

1. How did the monsoons help change the existing villages of East Coast Africa into bustling seaports?

2. How did Kilwa's location contribute to its wealth and power?

3. What was the importance of the Portuguese conquest of Sofala, Kilwa, and Mombasa?

4. What were the geographical advantages of Great Zimbabwe?

5. How did the Muslims influence the development of East African cities?

6. How did the Mutapa Empire become great? List four reasons.
   a.  
   b.  
   c.  
   d.  

**B. Clarifying** On the back of this paper, identify each of the following: Swahili, Great Zimbabwe, and Mutapa.
**SKILLBUILDER PRACTICE**  **Analyzing Causes**

As you read the passages below, look for cause-and-effect relationships in the Portuguese conquest of East African trade cities. Then complete the cause-and-effect diagram below. (See Skillbuilder Handbook)

**The Portuguese Reach East Africa**

In 1498, Vasco da Gama, a Portuguese navigator, became the first European to reach East Africa. Having rounded the tip of the Cape of Good Hope, he and his expedition were sailing north to India in search of Asian wealth. Instead, the Portuguese discovered great wealth in city-states along Africa’s east coast. In the marketplaces of Kilwa, Mombasa, and Sofala there were porcelain bowls and vases from China, jewels and cotton cloth from India, and gold and ivory from Zimbabwe. The Portuguese were anxious to trade for these African riches, but the Swahili people were not interested. According to some accounts, the Swahili viewed the Portuguese as ill-mannered and their trading goods as cheap.

Armed with muskets and cannons, weapons unknown in East Africa, the Portuguese began a campaign of piracy on the seas and attacks on land. One by one, the Swahili cities fell to Portuguese attackers. Although the Portuguese captured the Swahili towns, they did not succeed in ruling them. They could not replace the governments and trade networks. Heavy taxes and frequent wars led to the destruction of trade and the eventual decline of the coastal city-states.

1. Eager for Asian wealth, Portuguese sail north to India along East African coast.

2. 

3. 

4. 

5. 

6. Trade is destroyed and East African city-states decline.
The first Western accounts of the East African coast appear in the writings of Al-Idrisi, a 12th-century Moroccan Muslim scholar. Al-Idrisi spent most of his life in Palermo at the court of Roger II, a Norman ruler of Sicily, where he compiled a world history. Watch for details that are obviously false or exaggerated as you read this excerpt from Al-Idrisi’s history, The Book of Roger.

The Zanj of the East African coast have no ships to voyage in, but use vessels from Oman and other countries which sail to the islands of Zanj which depend on the Indies. These foreigners sell their goods there, and buy the produce of the country. The people of the Djawaga islands go to Zanzibar in large and small ships, and use them for trading their goods, for they understand each others’ language. Opposite the Zanj coasts are the Djawaga islands; they are numerous and vast; their inhabitants are very dark in color, and everything that is cultivated there, fruit, sorghum, sugar-cane and camphor trees, is black in color. Among the number of the islands is Sribuza . . . pearl fisheries and various kinds of aromatic plants and perfumes are to be found there, which attract the merchants.

Among the islands of Djawaga included in the present section is Andjuba [Anjouan-Johanna], whose principal town is called Unguja in the language of Zanzibar, and whose people, although mixed, are actually mostly Muslims. The distance from it to Banas on the Zanj coast is 100 miles. The island is 400 miles round; bananas are the chief food. . . . It is a healthy, sweet, and pleasant food. The island is traversed by a mountain called Wabra. The vagabonds who are expelled from the town flee there, and form a brave and numerous company. . . . They are courageous, and feared for their arms and their number. The island is very populous; there are many villages and cattle. They grow rice. There is a great trade in it, and each year various products and goods are brought for exchange and consumption.

From Medouna [on the Somali coast] to Malindi, a town of the Zanj, one follows the coast for three days and three nights by sea. Malindi lies on the shore, at the mouth of a river of sweet water. It is a large town, whose people engage in hunting and fishing. On land they hunt the tiger and other wild beasts. They obtain various kinds of fish from the sea, which they cure and sell.

They own and exploit iron mines; for them iron is an article of trade and the source of their largest profits. They pretend to know how to bewitch the most poisonous snakes so as to make them harmless to everyone except those for whom they wish evil or on whom they wish to take vengeance. They also pretend that by means of these enchantments the tigers and lions cannot hurt them.

It is two days’ journey along the coast to Mombasa. This is a small place and a dependency of the Zanj. Its inhabitants work in the iron mines and hunt tigers. They have red colored dogs which fight every kind of wild beast and even lions. This town lies on the sea shore near a large gulf up which ships travel two days’ journey. . . . In this town lives the King of Zanzibar. His guards go on foot because they have no mounts: horses cannot live there.


Research Options
1. **Categorizing** Use a map to locate cities along the coast of East Africa that Al-Idrisi mentions in his account. In which modern-day African countries are these cities located?
2. **Synthesizing** Use the Internet, a book about Africa, or an encyclopedia to research either modern-day Comoros (the Djawaga islands) or Zanzibar. Then work with a small group of classmates to write a script for a travelogue about Comoros or Zanzibar.
Mutota launched a series of conquests in southern Africa that gained him control of a kingdom abundant in gold. His heirs continued to run the empire until they succumbed to the greater power of other seekers of gold—the Portuguese.

Mutota lived in Great Zimbabwe, an ancient city in southern Africa, until 1420 when it was largely abandoned. People may have left because of overgrazing and dwindling resources. According to the local oral tradition, Mutota headed north seeking better access to salt. When he found it, he conquered the area and started a new empire.

Mutota came from a special segment of the Shona culture, the people who had built Great Zimbabwe. Among the Shona was a group of clans that was called the Karanga. This group was dominated by a clan known as the Rozwi. The Rozwi leader was viewed as the king, and he led the people in both their political and religious lives. Mutota, one of those Rozwi leaders, was one of the kings of the Karanga.

Traveling north, Mutota sought to replace Great Zimbabwe. In just a few short years, he managed to secure most of the area between the Zambezi and Limpopo rivers and founded the Mutapa Empire. He created a new capital in the valley of the Zambezi River. The town was surrounded by a wooden fence. There were three areas that housed the king, the queen, and the young male children of noble families. The noble children lived at the court as a show of support from their families. They were also available as hostages should their families’ support for the king weaken.

This gain in territory brought other rewards. The conquests gave Mutota control over large amounts of gold, which he tightly monitored. Whenever anyone living in the realm found gold, he or she instantly summoned a witness who could testify that the discoverer had taken none of the precious substance. Then they marked the spot and left to avoid arrest for taking the king’s gold.

To further increase his wealth, Mutota began to impose a tax on all goods entering his realm. Trade was brisk and included textiles, beads, porcelain, and brass goods. Exports included not just gold but copper and ivory as well.

Mutota died in 1450, but his son Matope completed his work. Matope’s realm stretched 600 miles from the Indian Ocean to the interior of Africa and 700 miles north to south. Ruling for 30 years, Matope became the greatest ruler in southern Africa.

Some years after Matope’s death, the empire forged by his father and him was still strong. However, the Portuguese were beginning to play a role in this region, and one Portuguese explorer left observations on the power of the reigning king of Mutapa. Making comparisons to other rulers in the area, he called him “the greatest of all these kings” and said “all obeyed him as far as Sofala.” Nevertheless, the Mutapa lands were the object of Portuguese interest in the region for the same reason that Mutota had wanted them: to gain control of gold.

The Portuguese first tried to convert the Karangas and then tried to conquer them. Both efforts failed. The Portuguese had trading posts along the Zambezi River but were unable to wrest control of the gold trade from Muslim merchants. It was not until the early 1600s, when the king of Mutapa was beset by internal disputes, that the Portuguese finally had an opening. In the midst of an internal power struggle, the king of Mutapa asked the Portuguese for help. They supplied it, but only after the king signed a paper that promised to give the king of Portugal “... all the mines of gold, copper, iron, lead, and pewter which may be in my empire, so long as the king of Portugal... shall maintain me in my position.” Mutota’s vision of a unified and strong state was now destroyed.

Questions
1. Making Inferences What reasons did Mutota have for leaving the area of Great Zimbabwe?
2. What ways did Mutota use to control the supply of gold?
3. What was the Mutapa capital like?
RETEACHING ACTIVITY

Eastern City-States and Southern Empires

Determining Main Ideas  The following questions deal with eastern city-states and southern empires of Africa. Answer them in the space provided.

1. Where were some places that Muslim traders shipped enslaved Africans? What purposes did the slaves serve in these regions?

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2. What were some of the ways in which Great Zimbabwe acquired wealth?

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__________________________________________________________________________

3. How did the Portuguese gain control of the Mutapa, and what did the Portuguese conquest of this empire initiate?

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__________________________________________________________________________

Determining Main Ideas  Write your answers in the blanks provided.

4. Great empire in Southeastern Africa, established by the Shona people: ____________

5. Empire that was built by Mutota: ____________

6. Language that is a blend of the Arabic and Bantu languages: ____________