

Africa Through Change

Trace lasting patterns and major shifts across African history.

SS7H1 "Analyze continuity and change in Africa."

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK _____ Read it twice

YOUR JOB In each paragraph, underline one detail that shows continuity and circle one detail that shows change. Number the three changes 1, 2, and 3 to help you compare them.

Trade, Borders, and Independence

- ① Long before European colonization, powerful West African states grew beside trade routes across the Sahara Desert. Ghana became wealthy by taxing trade in gold and salt. Later, Mali controlled many routes and cities. Its ruler, Mansa Musa, made a famous pilgrimage to Mecca in 1324 and supported learning in Timbuktu. Songhai then gained control of key trading centers, including Timbuktu and Gao. Although each empire rose and fell, trade, Islamic scholarship, and connections with distant regions continued to shape life in West Africa.
- ② In the late 1800s, European governments claimed most of Africa during the partition of Africa. At the Berlin Conference of 1884 to 1885, European leaders set rules for claiming land, while African people were not represented. Colonial borders often cut across the homelands of ethnic groups or forced different groups into one colony. These artificial boundaries remained when colonies became independent. In some places, competition over political power, land, or resources has added to conflict and civil war. The borders did not cause every conflict, but they created lasting challenges.
- ③ After World War II, many Africans organized nationalist movements to demand self-rule. Pan-African ideas encouraged people across the continent and in the African diaspora to support African unity and freedom from colonial rule. Ghana became independent from Britain in 1957, and many other African countries gained independence during the 1950s and 1960s. Independence changed who governed these countries, replacing colonial governments with African-led governments. Yet new nations still had to manage colonial borders and build economies shaped by colonial rule. Africa's history therefore includes both major change and continuing effects from earlier periods.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE _____ Use the passage

1 What is one continuity among the kingdoms of Ghana, Mali, and Songhai?

2 How did European colonial borders create lasting challenges for some African countries?

3 How did Pan-African ideas and nationalist movements support independence?

4 Identify one change after independence and one challenge that continued after independence.

3 YOUR TURN _____ Your own words

Write a three-sentence historical claim about continuity and change in Africa. Include one continuity from colonial rule into independence, one change caused by European partitioning, and one change connected to independence. Use at least three accurate details from the passage.

PART 1 • READ AND MARK

In each paragraph, underline one detail that shows continuity and circle one detail that shows change. Number the three changes 1, 2, and 3 to help you compare them. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 • ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	What is one continuity among the kingdoms of Ghana, Mali, and Songhai?	Trade, Islamic scholarship, and connections with distant regions continued to shape West Africa.
2	How did European colonial borders create lasting challenges for some African countries?	The borders divided some ethnic homelands and placed different groups in one colony. They remained after independence and could add to conflict over power, land, or resources.
3	How did Pan-African ideas and nationalist movements support independence?	They encouraged African unity and helped people demand freedom from colonial rule and self-rule.
4	Identify one change after independence and one challenge that continued after independence.	African-led governments replaced colonial governments. New nations still had to manage colonial borders and economies shaped by colonial rule.

PART 3 • YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

Colonial borders remained after independence, creating a continuity from European rule into the era of African-led governments. European partitioning changed political boundaries by dividing some ethnic homelands and combining different groups in colonies. Nationalist and Pan-African movements changed government after World War II, helping Ghana gain independence from Britain in 1957.

Accept equivalent evidence-based responses that correctly distinguish a lasting condition from a historical change. For the open response, check for all three required ideas and at least three accurate details from the passage.