Chapter 20: The Transition Zone

Unit 6
Section 1: Physical Geography
Landforms

- South of the Sahara is considered a transition area between the desert climate and savanna.
- Transition zone - physical area in which land undergoes a radical change.
Landforms

• Not only is the transition zone a physical divider in Africa, it is also a cultural divider
  – North Africa=Muslim
  – South of Sahara=Christian and local religions
Landforms

• Sahel
  – Mainly flat with some plateaus
  – Steppe region: 3,000 miles wide
  – East of this area: the Horn of Africa
  – Little rainfall in this region
  – Good for herding livestock
Water Systems

• Due to the dryness of this area, droughts are common.

• Lake Chad
  – Once the second-largest wetland in Africa
  – 3 rivers feed into it:
    • Chari, Logone, Yobe
  – Today: due to droughts, much of the rivers and lake is drying up
Water Systems

• Lake Volta
  – Ghana
  – One of the largest human-made lakes
  – Multiple countries share the river systems that lead into this lake
  – Good for irrigation and fisheries
    • Negative consequences??
Water Systems

• Niger River
  – One of the major rivers in western Africa
  – Means of transportation

• Delta-triangular-shaped section of land formed as waters of a river slow down and split into many channels as they deposit sand and silt
Water Systems

- **Senegal River**
  - Many people live along the banks
  - Dams were built to help people better use the resources

- **Blue and White Nile Rivers**
  - Feed into the Nile River of Egypt
Climate, Biomes, and Resources

• 2 hot seasons
  – First: February-April
  – Second: May-August
    • Rainy season only impacts the southern part of the region

• Harmattan-hot, dry wind that blows from the NE or E in western part of Sahara
Section 2: Human Geography
History and Government

• 9000-4000 BC, Sahara was actually filled with water...not like the desert region it is today
• Many people settled here and thrived by domesticating plants and animals
• But when the climate shift happened, most people moved south to set up new homes
History and Government

• Egyptian civilization ruled over much of the area from 2000-1000 BC

• Kush civilization was growing in present-day Sudan
  – Took over the Egyptian civilization from 2000 to 1500 BC
  – Moved south and controlled that area until about 300 AD

• Axum was a trading empire in Ethiopia and ruled from 100-700 AD
  – Attacked Kush civilization
Empires of the Transition Zone

• Mali Empire
  – Became wealthy by establishing trade routes for gold and salt
  – Mansa Musa
  – Muslim empire and helped spread the religion to territories it conquered
  – Lasted until around 1600 AD, were taken over by the Moroccans
Colonization and Independence

- European countries take over...
Colonization and Independence

• Independence:
  – Poor economies...why?

  – Corrupt or poor governments...why?
Conflict

• Ethnic conflicts  
  – Sudan
Population Patterns

• Rapid population growth
• Where are people living?
  – Cities?
  – Rural areas?
Society and Culture Today

• Religion?
• Issues with education, health, and urbanization
• Poverty and sanitation
Family and Women

• Large families, families live close together
• Patriarchal
• Clans
• Shift towards nuclear family
Economic Activities

• Primary
  – Agricultural: Subsistence farming

• Primary/Secondary:
  – Oil and gas
  – Phosphates, iron, copper, tin, uranium
Section 3: People and Their Environment
Managing Resources and Human Impact

• Agriculture

• Desertification

• Water supplies
Addressing the Issues

- Water management
- Conservation technologies
- Connecting with outside countries/UN to help fund and plan
- Local changes in farming techniques
- GMOs