

Chapter 6—Commonalities and Variations: Africa and the Americas, 500 B.C.E. –1200 C.E.)

Seeking the Main Point

To what extent did the histories of Africa and the Americas parallel those of Eurasia? In what ways did they forge new or different paths?

Download and save this document so you can return to it as you take notes and for studying. As you read the chapter, fill in the chart below to remind you of the important similarities and differences between histories of Africa and the Americas in comparison to Eurasia. If you are unsure about whether an event was similar or different, put it in both columns. If you copy and paste from the text, make sure to put quotation marks around the copied material; however, if you can think of a way to put it into your own words, you should do so.

| | Similarities to Eurasia | Differences from Eurasia |
|--|-------------------------|--------------------------|
| Continental Comparisons | • | • |
| African Civilizations | • | • |
| Meroë: Continuing a Nile Valley Civilization | • | • |
| Axum: The Making of a Christian Kingdom | • | • |
| Along the Niger River: Cities without States | • | • |
| Civilizations of Mesoamerica | • | • |
| The Maya: Writing and Warfare | • | • |
| Teotihuacán: The Americas' Greatest City | • | • |
| Civilization and the Andes | • | • |
| A Pan-Andean Religious Movement: The Chavín Phenomenon | • | • |
| A Civilization of the Coast: Moche | • | • |
| Empires of the Interior: Wari and Tiwanaku | • | • |
| Histories without Civilization: The World of Bantu Africa | • | • |
| Cultural Encounters | • | • |
| Society and Religion | • | • |
| History without Civilization: | • | • |

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| North America | | |
| Pit Houses and Great Houses: The Ancestral Pueblo | • | • |
| The Mound Builders of the Eastern Woodlands | • | • |
| Reflections: Deciding What's Important: Balance in World History | • | • |

After you have read the chapter, use your notes to compose an essay that answers this question:

Compare and contrast the histories of Africa and the Americas with that of Eurasia.

Be sure to include an opening, introductory paragraph in which you state your thesis. Then use the body of your essay to provide evidence from the chapter to support that thesis. You might consider returning to Chapters 3, 4, and 5 to strengthen your comparisons. In organizing an essay comparing three regions, it may be useful to consider categories such as political organization or social order in turn. End by writing a clear conclusion to your essay.