

AFRICA VOCABULARY

WORDS	DEFINITIONS
1. savanna	open grassland with scattered trees
2. sahel	West Africa's semi-desert vegetation zone
3. sub-Saharan Africa	Africa south of the Sahara Desert
4. oral history	Spoken record of past events
5. griots (GREE-ohz)	West African storytellers
6. polytheism	belief in more than one god
7. surplus	an excess supply of something
8. Mansa Musa	one of Mali's most famous leaders who made Timbuktu into an important city
9. rain forests	moist, densely wooded areas
10. rifts	long, deep valleys formed by the movement of the earth's crust
11. extended family	father, mother, children, and close relatives in one household
12. silent barter	a method of trading used between two or more people who do not speak the same language
13. animism	the belief that bodies of water, animals, trees, and other natural objects have spirits
14. matrilineal	descended through the mother's side of the family
15. overgraze	when livestock eat most of the grass and leave the ground exposed
16. ancestor worship	seeking guidance from and holding the spirits of deceased ancestors in high esteem

AFRICA VOCABULARY