

SSWH1: ANALYZE THE ORIGINS, STRUCTURES, AND INTERACTIONS OF SOCIETIES IN THE ANCIENT WORLD FROM 3500 BCE/BC TO 500 BCE/BC

Element D: Identify the Bantu migration patterns and contribution to settled agriculture.

Economic and Technology

- Agricultural villages became common in West Africa below the Sahara Desert about 4,000 years ago.
 - Sometime after, these villages developed iron technology which they used to produce tools of agriculture.
 - Extensive linguistic evidence suggests that ancient West Africans from around the modern border between Nigeria and Cameroon began to use this technology to clear forest to the Southeast for farming.

Social and Political

- This led to a slow migration of these Bantu speaking people to the southeast and south from about 500 BCE to 600 CE.
 - This migration brought agriculture, iron technology, and a new language to a region previously dominated by hunter-gatherers.
- Anthropologists believe this migration laid the foundation for a common cultural heritage present in much of West, Central, East, and South Africa.

Religion

❑ Ancient Africans believed in animism or the belief that spirits are present in animals, plants, and other natural objects.


