History

African history is a massive and intricate subject, world-shaking events have shaped the continent's history, from the early men and women who left their footsteps in volcanic ash to the liberation of Nelson Mandela, and a whole lot of wars, conquests, civilizations and revolutions in between.

Colonialism

Hot on the heels of the 19th-century explorers came the representatives of European powers, who began the infamous 'scramble for Africa', vying with each other to exploit real or imagined resources for their sovereigns, and demarcating random and unlikely national borders that still remain to this day. At the [Berlin](#) Conference of 1884–85, most of Africa was split neatly into colonies. [France](#) and Britain got the biggest swathes, with [Germany](#), [Portugal](#), [Italy](#), [Spain](#) and [Belgium](#) picking up bits and pieces. Forced labor, heavy taxation, and swift and vengeful violence for any insurrection were all characteristics of the colonial administrations. African territories were essentially organized to extract cheap cash crops and natural resources for use by the colonial powers. To facilitate easy administration, tribal differences and rivalries were exploited to the full, and Africans who refused to assimilate to the culture of their overlords were kept out of the market economy and the education system. Industrial development and social welfare were rarely high on the colonialists' agenda, and the effects of the colonial years, which in some cases only ended a few decades ago, continue to leave their mark on the continent.

Africa for the Africans

African independence movements have existed for as long as the foreign overlords, but the formation of organized political resistance gained momentum in the 1950s and '60s, when soldiers who had fought in both World Wars on behalf of their colonial masters joined forces with African intellectuals who had gained their education through missionary schools and universities. Young men and women went abroad to study and were inspired by the fiery speeches of communist figures and the far-reaching goals of nationalist movements from other countries. They returned home dreaming of 'Africa for the Africans'. Some realized this dream peacefully, others only after decades of bloodshed and struggle, but by the 1970s the dream had become a reality, and a new era of independent African governments was born.

In many cases, however, it didn't take long before the dream turned into a nightmare. Fledgling African nations became pawns in the Cold War machinations of self-serving foreign powers, and factors such as economic collapse and ethnic resentment led them to spiral down into a mire of corruption, violence and civil war.

Slavery

If Africa sometimes seems like a continent suffering from post-traumatic stress disorder, one of the least thoroughly digested of its many traumas was the slave trade. Part of African reality long before the white man set foot there; slavery was the fate of criminals, the indebted and prisoners of war. However, its domestic form was more benign than what came later, when Arab slave traders sent raiding parties into the interior, kidnapping the fittest and strongest. Entire regions became depopulated as villagers fled, and the impact of the Arab tactics of divide and rule, in which one chieftain turned against another, have been insidious. By the 16th century, European powers were hard on the Arabs' heels. With African rulers acting as middlemen – the West African empires of Dahomey and Ashanti in today's Benin and Ghana grew fat on slavery's proceeds – British, French, Spanish, Portuguese and Dutch traders shipped between 12 and 20 million souls across the Atlantic to work the New World's tobacco, sugar and cotton plantations. The brutal trade finally ended in 1833 when Britain, its conscience pricked by the abolition movement, outlawed slavery in its colonies.

What is striking is how deep in the continent's subconscious this terrible episode has been buried. Some academics estimate that had it not been for the slave trade, Africa's mid-19th-century population would have been double its 25 million figures. Yet with the exception of the markets along the Swahili coast (a 2, 900km stretch of Kenyan and Tanzanian coastline), Ghana's castles and Senegal's Goree Island, one rarely stumbles upon its traces. The complicity of rulers of the day may explain a reluctance to engage with the issue. As Senegalese president Abdoulaye Wade, whose ancestors were slave owners, told African delegates campaigning for reparations: 'If one can claim reparations for slavery, the slaves of my ancestors or their descendants can also claim money from me.' The other complicating factor may be awareness of the time it took many African states to outlaw slavery – Ethiopia's Emperor Haile Selassie, for example, only set about it in the 1920s – and embarrassment at the knowledge that it still quietly persists in countries such as Sudan, Mauritania and Niger. This awkward fact was highlighted in May 2005 when a pressure group arranged a release ceremony for 7,000 slaves in Niger. Humiliated by the media coverage, the government warned those involved they faced prosecution if they admitted to being slave masters, and the ceremony was scrapped.

Works Cited:

Read more: http://www.lonelyplanet.com/africa/history#40683#ixzz1nuWglnT0

Tour Operators

- Students partners will be "tour operators" for the next several classes. You and your partner will be will be assigned to analyze and include in your tour booklet a map sketching the borders of the old Kingdoms overlaying the borders of modern African nations and evaluate how this has caused modern day conflict due to the imposition of new borders by the colonial powers.

- Each group will develop a booklet tour of the assigned African information and choose at least two modern day conflicts to compare from different regions. Make sure the tour follows particular rules, so groups must first *research and learn about the geography, culture, and history of the two African regions.

Africa's Kingdoms and Empires
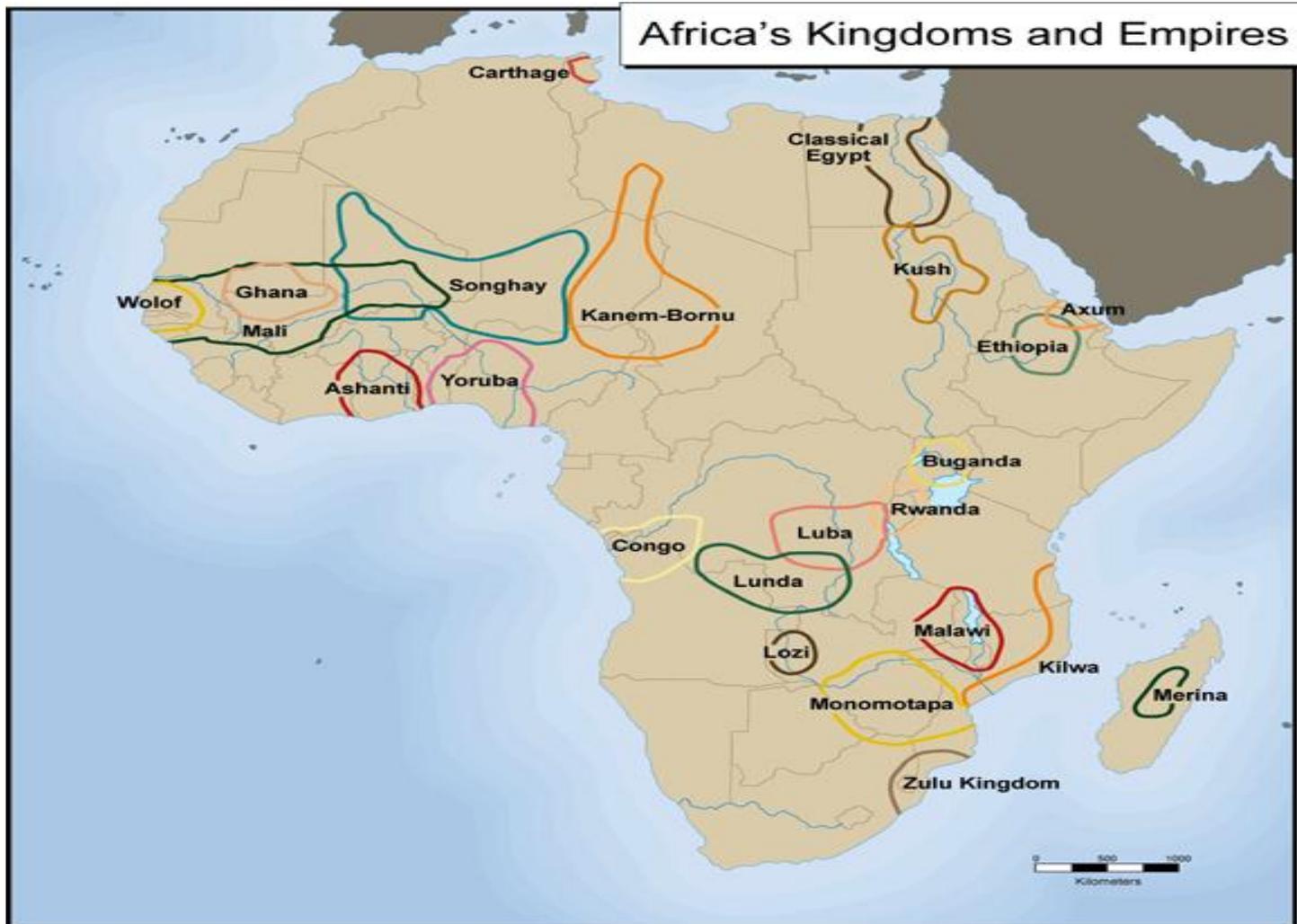
Links for research:

- http://www.phschool.com/curriculum_support/online_world_desk_reference/EG/introduction.html
- https://www.cia.gov/library/publications/the-world-factbook/docs/profileguide.html
- http://news.nationalgeographic.com/news/2002/12/photogalleries/dayinlife/index.html
- http://www.kidspast.com/world-history/0095-kush.php
- http://www.lonelyplanet.com/africa/history#40683
- http://chnm.gmu.edu/cyh/teaching-modules/141
- http://chnm.gmu.edu/cyh/teaching-modules/95
- http://www.nationalgeographic.com/xpeditions/guides/multidafricaguide.pdf
- http://worldhistoryforusall.sdsu.edu/movies/newvid.swf
- http://chnm.gmu.edu/cyh/website-reviews/browse/?tags=Africa
- http://education.nationalgeographic.com/education/multimedia/from-sudan/?ar_a=1

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- Go to above website type your name and click start:
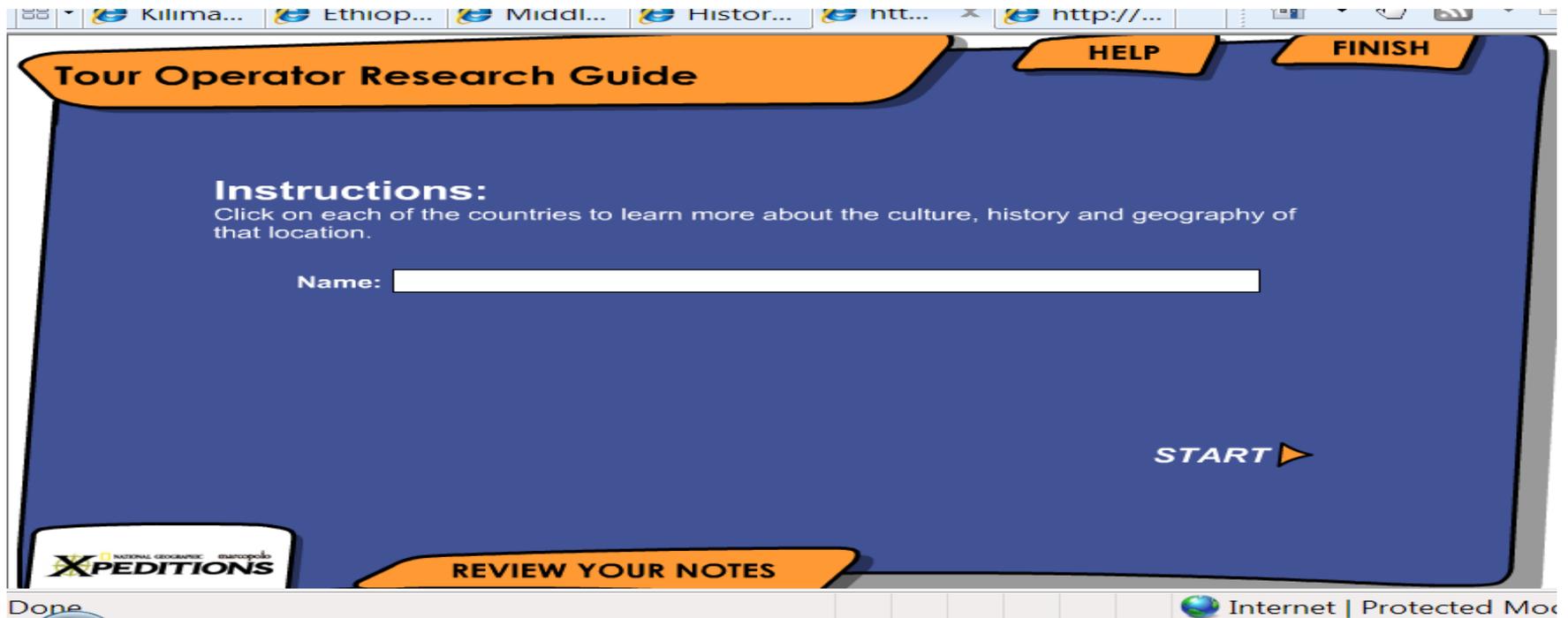
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- Click Africa on the world map, then choose your region:

http://interactives.mped.org/view_interactive.aspx?id=363&title=

- Choose your region: Example-Dem. Rep. Of The Congo is the Central/Southern Region.

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- Read through the Research Guide and take notes.

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- Click finish and print.

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- Click finish and print.

Tour Operator Research Guide

Mrs. Jonas

Africa

Dem. Rep. of the Congo

Notes: 1994 refugees from Rwanda and Burundi came to DROC by 1997 DROC was torn apart due to ethnic strife and civil war. Govt was taken over in 1997 by rebellion led by Laurent KABILA and challenged in 1998 by several surronding countries. Cease-fire signed July 10, 1999, but fighting continued Kabila assassinated Jan 16 2001. His son was named head of state 10 days later, by oct 2002 he got Rwandan forces to withdraw, Dec 2002 an agreement was signed to end fighting and set up nat'l govt
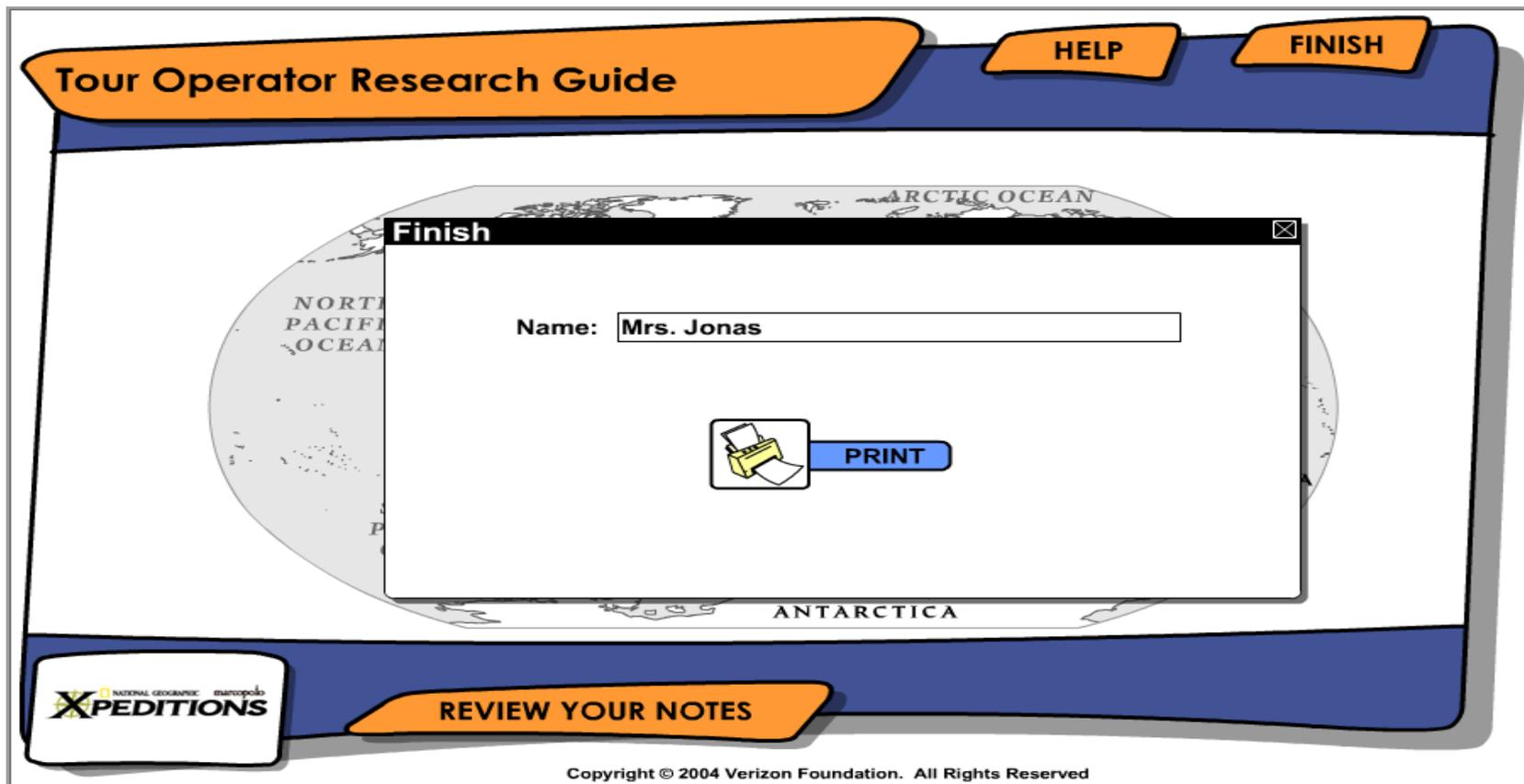
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Thinkfinity | *verizon*foundation

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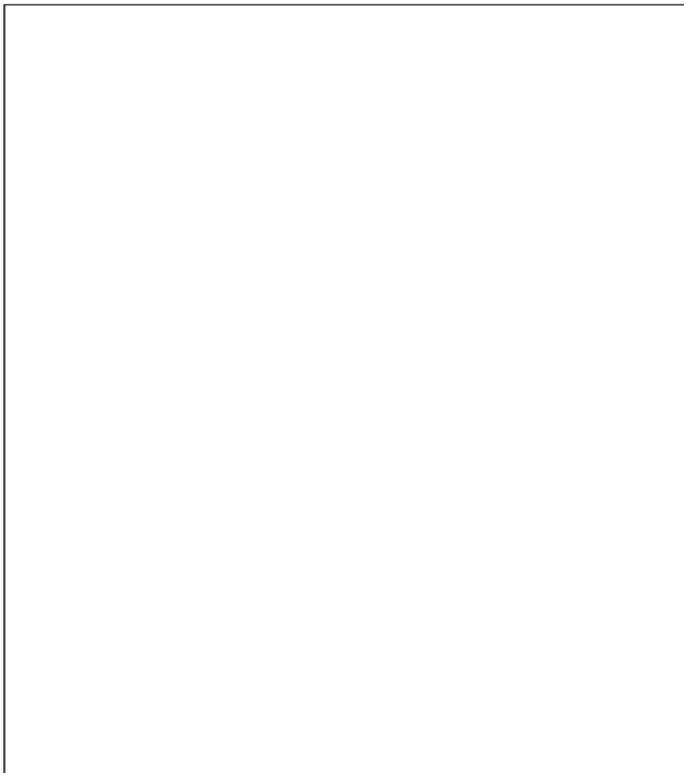
To create your booklet go to this link:
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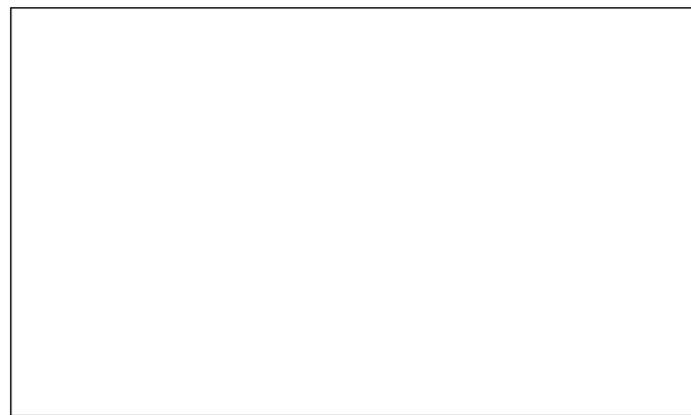
You may create maps at:

http://education.nationalgeographic.com/education/mapping/outline-map/?map=Africa&ar_a=1

Booklet Required Information

African Language Groups Map

Map-SketchOldKingdomvs.New

Old Kingdom Name-Border   Modern Nation Name-Border

Booklet Required Information

Cause of Modern Conflict Summ

Conflict-Because of Border

Conflicts in Region 1   Conflicts in Region 2

Booklet Required Information

Scramble for Africa

Map of Africa before 1850- Indicates coastal forts and trading posts established by Britain, France, Spain, and Portugal by 1850.

Map of Africa 1850-1914

Colonies developed from coastal forts and trading post, and Africa was then inhabited and ruled by these countries.

Map of African territories colonized by Italy, Belgium, and Germany by 1914.

Jonas