Lesson 1: Geography of Africa

7.4.1 Study the Niger River and the relationship of vegetation zones of forest, savannah, and desert trade in gold, salt, food, and slaves; and the growth of the Ghana and Mali empires.

What are the 4 main vegetation zones in Africa?

A. 4 vegetation zones

1. Desert: covers 30% of Africa
   - similar to conditions we studied on the Arabian Peninsula
   - Temperatures reach up to 140 degrees; less than 10" of rain per year
   - Very little plant, animal or human life
   - The Sahara desert, the world's largest desert in the northern part of Africa
   - The Kalahari desert, in the south, blocked access to most of the coast

→ How do you think people adapted to the desert conditions?
2. Rain Forest; about 10% of Africa
-gets up to 70” of rain per year,
temperature is between 70-90
degrees
-full of diverse, thick flora (plant life)
-often, the flora is so thick that
sunlight doesn’t reach the forest floor
-many uniquely adapted animals and
insects
-soil not good for non-native plant-life

3. Savannah (a.k.a. grasslands)
-about 25% of Africa
-has 2 seasons: wet and dry
-home to many rivers
-the most populated region
(humans and animals)
-lions, giraffes, zebras, cheetahs…
(Safari Zone)

→ Why is this region able to sustain the most life?
4. Semi-arid Zone
- Area between the deserts and Savannah
- Water is scarce, temps as high as 110 degrees
- Home to (few) small plants and animals
- Northern Semi-arid Zone is known as the Sahel

→ Is this region more similar to the Savannah or the desert?

B. Other geographical features
1. Mt. Kilimanjaro
   - Highest mountain in Africa (19,340 feet)
2. Lake Victoria
   - Largest lake in Africa
   - Millions of people live within 50 miles of the lake
3. Nile River
   - 4,000 miles long
   - Flows from South to North

4. Great Rift Valley
   - A valley—low, flat space between hills or mountains
   - G.R.V. is caused by a fault-line
   - 1,300 feet below sea level

C. Iron
1. Before Iron
   - People were hunters/gatherers
   - Villages had to move to meet their needs of finding food
   - Tools and weapons were made of bone and rocks
2. The Nok
- Earliest group of West Africans to master the use of Iron (500BC)
  - Iron ore was extracted from rocks then melted over fire, then shaped into tools and weapons

3. Iron brings change
- More efficient farming tools
- Better weapons
  - Increased food supply
- People settled near rivers
- Job specialization led to the production of more goods to trade

4. Early Trade
- The Niger river was a major trade route
- Trade brought wealth to those who controlled West African cities
- Great wealth → leaders raising powerful armies → expanding territory
  - How do the 4 vegetation zones influence trade?

→ Review
- What are the 4 geographic regions of Africa?
- Most people and animals live in which geographic zone?
  - Why is the Nile River unique?
    - The Northern semi-arid zone is called:
    - The Great Rift Valley is caused by what?
    - The rainforest gets about how many inches of rain per year?
- What are the 2 largest deserts in Africa?
- True or False: Africa is a country AND a continent
  - How did Iron contribute to trade?
  - What is job specialization?

Pearl Harbor Day
December 7, 1941

Dec. 7, 1941
- Pearl Harbor is the site of one of the most famous attacks on American soil
- This event was one of the main reasons why America joined World War II
- The Japanese attacked U.S. soldiers who were stationed at Pearl Harbor
- The attack occurred early on a Sunday morning while most men were still asleep
Dec. 7, 1941

- The day began like normal... Two men stationed at the radar screen noticed 7 planes coming in, notified their commanding officer, who in turn assured them they were American planes that were scheduled to land around 7am.
- At 6 am a fleet of Japanese planes had taken off from an aircraft carrier 230 miles away, with the intention of bombing Pearl Harbor.

Kamikaze Pilots

- Kamikaze means divine wind.
- The Pilots were on a suicide mission. In other words, they would never return from this mission. After using all of their ammunition they were instructed to crash their planes into enemy war craft to cause as much damage as possible.
- Pilots who signed up for missions such as these are called Kamikazes and they are highly honored and respected in their culture.

Dec. 7, 1941

Japan's Goal

- Destroy as many naval ships as possible.
- Harm the morale of The U.S.
- Instigate The U.S. to join the war.
- Demonstrate their military strength to the world and The U.S.

Dec. 7, 1941

- The attack lasted for approximately 2 hours-sources vary.
- KIA:
  - US Navy: 2,008
  - USMC: 109
  - US Army: 218
- Civilians: 68
The USS Arizona continues to leak oil into the ocean as a reminder of the significant loss America suffered on Dec. 7, 1941. This memorial site is open everyday in Oahu for visitors who wish to pay their respects.

Our job today... is to remember.