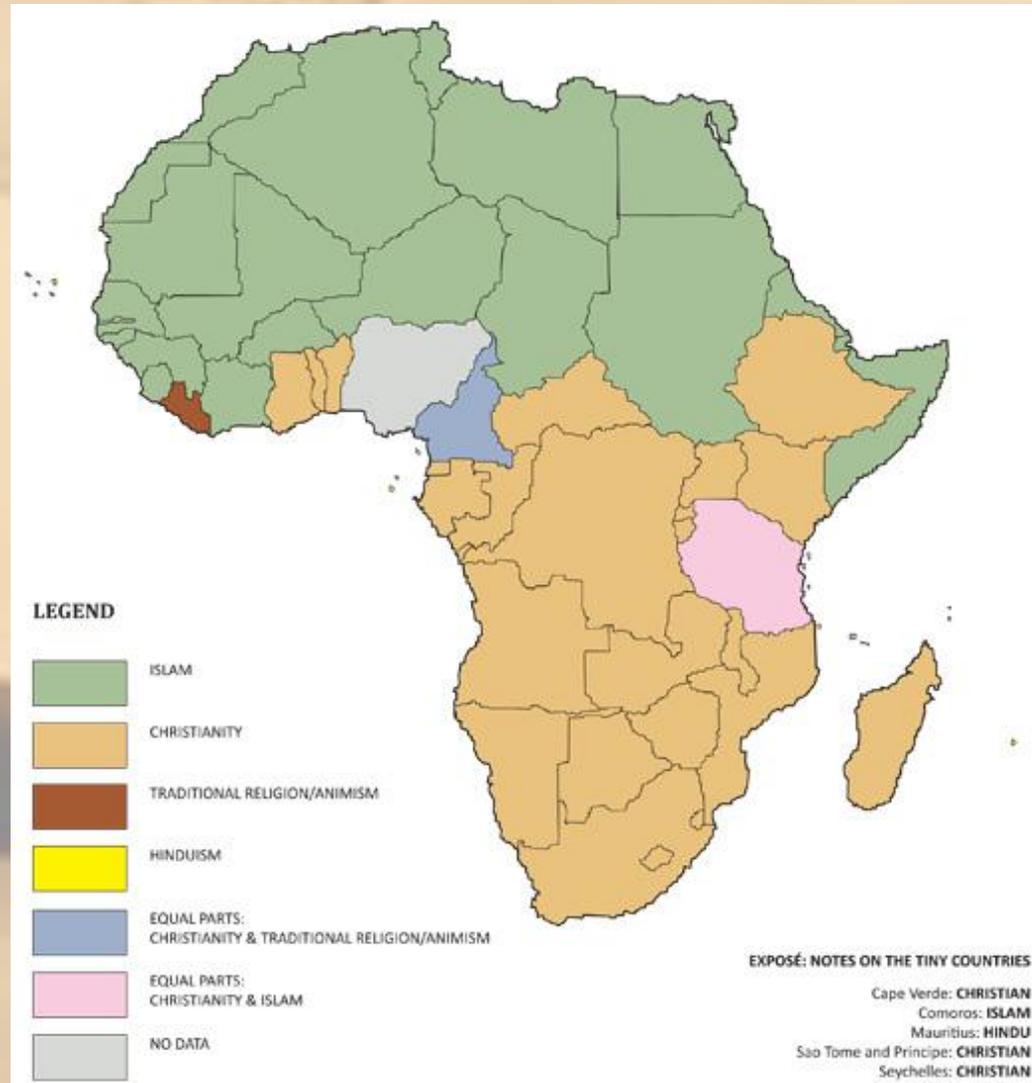
An aerial photograph of a vast desert landscape, likely the Sahara. The scene is dominated by rolling sand dunes in shades of light beige and tan. A dark, winding path or road cuts through the dunes, starting from the bottom left and curving towards the center. The lighting is soft, creating gentle shadows that emphasize the contours of the dunes. The overall atmosphere is serene and expansive.

Arabs, Ashanti, Bantu, & Swahili

AFRICA'S ETHNIC GROUPS

AFRICAN ETHNIC GROUPS AND THEIR RELIGIONS, CUSTOMS, AND TRADITIONS

- ✘ Africa is made up of 54 different countries and many ethnic groups.
- ✘ A group's customs and traditions often come from religion, from where the group lives, or from the demands of daily life.
- ✘ For example, nomadic Bedouin tribe must have customs that can be practiced while traveling.
- ✘ Most Africans today are either Muslim or Christian, but traditional religions and customs still play a role in African culture.



An aerial photograph of a vast desert landscape. The scene is dominated by rolling sand dunes in shades of light beige and tan. A prominent, dark shadow is cast across the lower-left portion of the frame, likely from a structure or the camera itself. In the upper-middle section, there are several small, dark, irregular patches of scrubby vegetation or rocks scattered across the sand. The overall lighting is bright and even, suggesting a clear day. Two thin, horizontal orange lines are visible: one near the top edge and another near the bottom edge of the image.

ARABS

ARAB

- ✘ Arabs mostly live in North Africa and the Middle East.
- ✘ Some Jews, Kurds, Berbers, Copts, and Druze speak Arabic, but are not usually considered Arab.
- ✘ The term “Arab” includes Arabic-speaking Christians in Syria, Lebanon, Israel, and Jordan.
- ✘ Overall, Arabs are divided into two groups: nomadic Bedouins and settled Arabs.



ARABS

- ✘ Mostly found in Southwest Asia and NORTHERN Africa
- ✘ Speak Arabic
- ✘ Usually practice Islam

THE SOUQ IN AN ARAB CITY IS THE MARKET AREA OR SHOP DISTRICT. THE MAIN SOUQ IN CAIRO IS THE KHAN EL-KHALILI IN THE OLD CITY. THE WINDING STREETS ARE HOME TO A MULTITUDE OF SHOPS SELLING EVERYTHING FROM FINE CLOTHING TO SPICES TO ANTIQUES. THE KHAN EL-KHALILI SOUQ IS NEARLY SEVEN HUNDRED YEARS OLD. (CAIRO, EGYPT, OCTOBER 2006)



ASHANTI



ASHANTI

- ✘ Large ethnic group found off the west coast of Africa in Ghana
- ✘ Speak mostly Twi as their main language
- ✘ Live with extended family members
- ✘ The Ashanti religion is a mixture of spiritual and supernatural powers. They believe that plants, animals, and trees have souls.
- ✘ “GOLDEN STOOL”
- ✘ They have many tribal ceremonies

- ✘ The **Ashanti** people live in central Ghana.
- ✘ The family, especially the mother's family, is most important to the Ashanti.
- ✘ The Ashanti believe that their kingdom was founded in 1701 with the help of a holy man who produced a **Golden Stool** from the heavens and gave it to the first Ashanti king.
- ✘ The Ashanti people believe the strength of their nation depends on this safety of this stool.
- ✘ It represents the unity of the Ashanti and the power of their chiefs.



- ✘ The traditional Ashanti religion is centered on a belief in a supreme god, or **Nayme**.
- ✘ His many children, the **Abosom**, represent all the natural powers and forces in the world.
- ✘ The traditional Ashanti believe that all living things have souls.
- ✘ They also believe that witches, demon spirits, and fairies have powers in the lives of men.
- ✘ Ancestors are given great respect, and there are a number of family rituals associated with birth, puberty, marriage, and death.



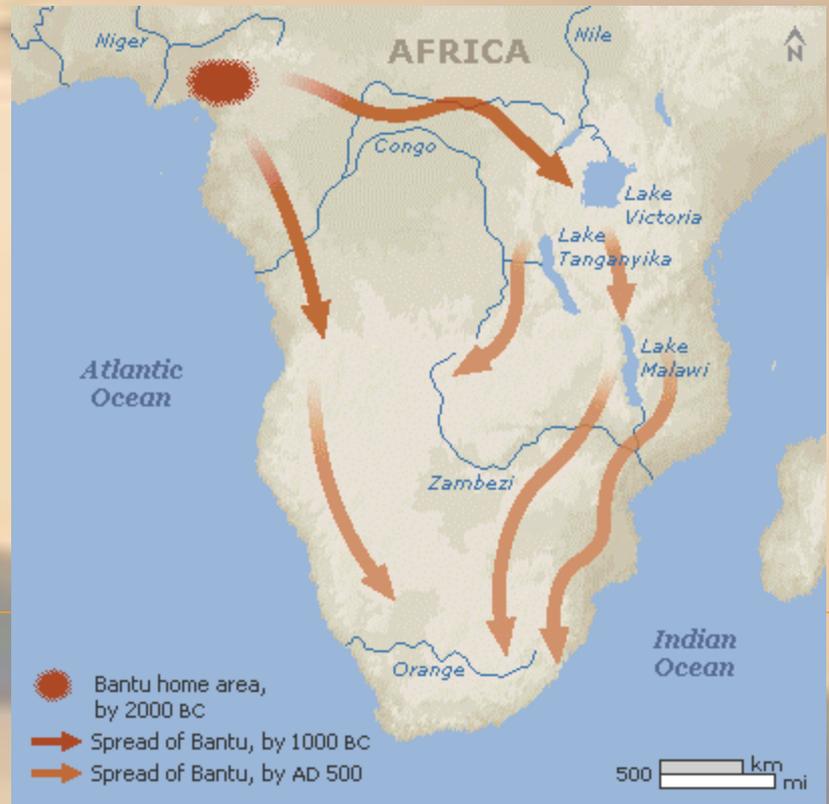


In many parts of rural Africa, the chore of collecting water is time consuming and labor intensive. These women and children walk about 2 miles (3.2 km) each way in the morning and the evening to transport water for cooking, cleaning, and drinking. (Ghana, 1999)

THOUSANDS OF PEOPLE COME TO GHANA'S CITIES FROM RURAL AREAS, HOPING FOR EMPLOYMENT. THEY OFTEN FIND THEMSELVES LIVING IN SLUMS SIMILAR TO THESE. USING SCRAP METAL, DISCARDED LUMBER, SALVAGED TARPS AND TIRES, AND MUD BRICKS, THIS SMALL COMMUNITY HAS CREATED A PLACE TO LIVE. THE MEN AND BOYS CATCH FISH AND SEARCH THE BEACH FOR ANY VALUABLE ITEMS. THE WOMEN SELL SOAP, SWEETS, AND OTHER GOODS. (CAPE COAST, GHANA, 1999)



BANTU

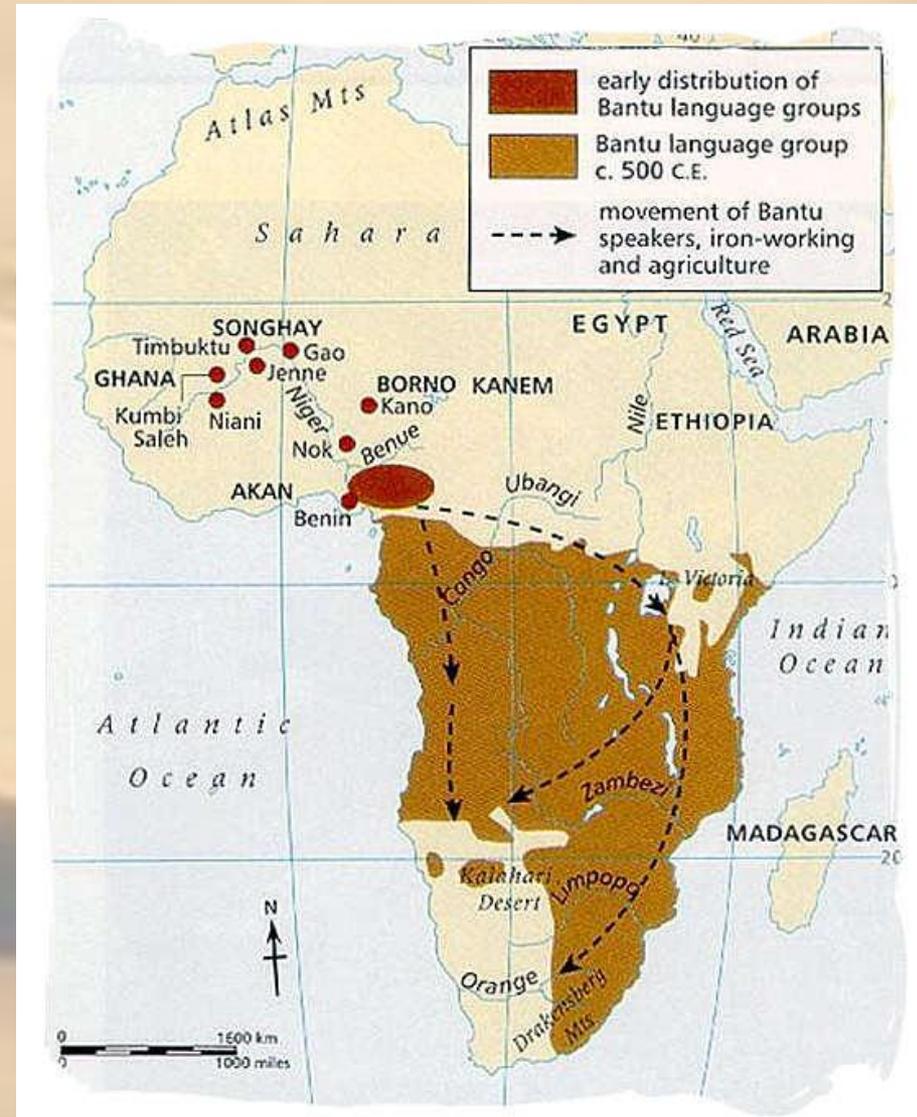


BANTU

- ✘ Mostly found in Central & Southern Africa
- ✘ They speak Bantu as their main language
 - + Bantu is usually known more as a language than an ethnic group
- ✘ Bantu makes up over 400 different ethnic groups combined

BANTU

- ✘ The Bantu originally came from southeastern Nigeria that spread east and south near Zambia.
- ✘ Around 1000 CE, the Bantu reached present-day Zimbabwe and South Africa.
- ✘ From their earliest days, the Bantu were known as farmers and animal herders, and they learned iron-making crafts as well.



- ✘ As they spread south and east across the continent, following rivers and streams, they met many new people and learned new skills, even as they shared their own.
- ✘ Bantu-speaking people settled as far south as the southern tip of Africa.
- ✘ They intermarried with the people they met accepting new traditions and blending them with Bantu culture.
- ✘ The Bantu migration was one of the largest movements of people in Africa's history.
- ✘ Today over 60 million people in central and southern Africa speak Bantu-based languages and share some part of Bantu culture.

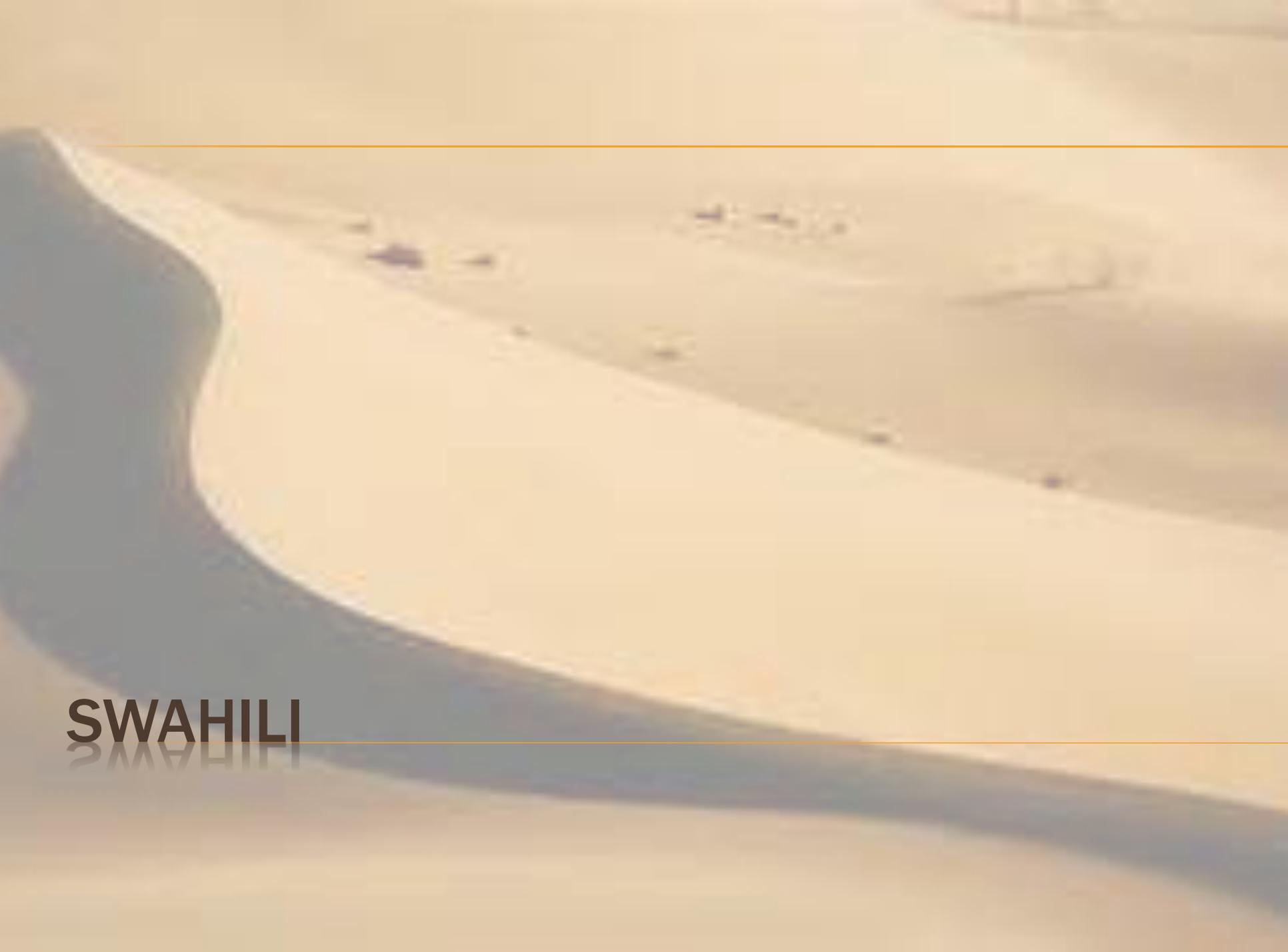


Bantu Religion

- ✘ Many Bantu who settled in areas where there was a strong Arab presence are Muslim.
- ✘ Others, living in parts of Africa influenced by missionary efforts are Christian.
- ✘ Still others follow traditional animist religions. Animists believe that spirits are found in natural objects and surroundings.
 - + They may feel a spiritual presence in rocks, trees, a waterfall or particularly beautiful place in the forest.

A TEACHER INSTRUCTS STUDENTS AT A HIGH SCHOOL IN SOWETO, SOUTH AFRICA'S BIGGEST TOWNSHIP. TEACHERS ARE POORLY PAID, SO SCHOOLS STRUGGLE TO ATTRACT THEM. AFRICANS RECEIVE INSTRUCTION IN THEIR NATIVE LANGUAGE UNTIL THE SEVENTH GRADE, AND THEN THEY USUALLY ARE TAUGHT IN ENGLISH AFTER THAT. AFRIKAANS IS ALSO OFFERED AS A LANGUAGE OF INSTRUCTION. IN URBAN AREAS, AN INCREASING NUMBER OF PRIMARY SCHOOLS TEACH IN ENGLISH. (SOWETO, SOUTH AFRICA, 16 JANUARY 2008)



An aerial photograph of a sandy beach. A long, dark shadow is cast across the sand from the left side of the frame. In the background, the ocean is visible with several small, dark shapes that appear to be people or objects in the water. The overall color palette is warm and golden, typical of a sunset or sunrise.

SWAHILI

SWAHILI

- ✘ Mostly found in East Africa (especially in Kenya)
- ✘ The language they speak is Swahili
 - This is a mixture of Arabic & Traditional African Languages
- ✘ Most Swahili people are strict Muslims

SWAHILI

- ✘ The Swahili people live on the East African coast from southern Somalia to northern Mozambique.
- ✘ **Swahili** is a mixture of Bantu and Arab culture
- ✘ Men wear amulets around their necks that contain verses from the Koran, which they believe will protect them.
- ✘ Only teachers of Islam and prophets are permitted to become spritual healers.



- ✘ The Swahili community developed along the coast of East Africa when Arab and Persian traders looking for profitable markets began to settle there and intermarry with the local Bantu-speaking population.
- ✘ While the Swahili language is considered a Bantu language, there are many Arabic words and phrases included as well.
- ✘ The word Swahili comes from the Arabic word “Swahili,” which means “one who lives on the coast.”
- ✘ Most Swahili today are city dwellers rather than traditional farmers and herdsman.
- ✘ Many are engaged in fishing and trade, as their ancestors were.



- ✘ Because contact with Arab traders was such a big part of their history, most of the Swahili today are Muslims.
- ✘ Islam has been one of the factors that helped create a common identity for such a diverse group of people.
- ✘ Many among the Swahili also follow local beliefs that have been part of the culture of eastern Africa since before Muslim traders arrived over a thousand years ago.
- ✘ Many Swahili also see a close link between their religious beliefs and the practice of medicine and healing.
- ✘ Herbal medicines are often given along with prescribed prayers and rituals that are all thought to be part of the cure.

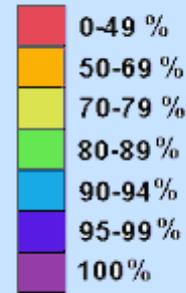


WOMEN OF THE SAMBURU ETHNIC GROUP PROVIDE A DEMONSTRATION OF TRADITIONAL MUSIC AND DANCE FOR TOURISTS IN NORTHERN KENYA. THE DANCE INCLUDES STOMPING THE GROUND WITH THE FEET AND WITH WOODEN STICKS. SAMBURU TRADITIONAL CLOTHING INCLUDES LARGE COLORFUL SARONGS AND BEADED NECKLACES NORMALLY WORN FOR SPECIAL CEREMONIES OR PERFORMANCES FOR TOURISTS (KENYA 2004)



AFRICAN LITERACY

- ✘ The literacy rate in Africa is 50%.
- ✘ This means that half the population of African cannot read or write.
- ✘ Literacy is good for individuals as well as their communities.
- ✘ More developed countries tend to have a higher literacy rate.
- ✘ Sudan and Egypt both have a literacy rate of only 51%.
- ✘ South Africa, the most developed country in Africa, has a literacy rate of 83%.



**IN THEIR ONE-ROOM SCHOOL, STUDENTS TAKE PART IN A LESSON.
IN RECENT YEARS, SCHOOLS IN GENERAL (AND ESPECIALLY
RURAL SCHOOLS) HAVE SUFFERED FROM CONSIDERABLE
UNDERFUNDING.
(KENYA, AUGUST 2001)**

