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# Vocabulary Activity

### Kingdoms and States of Medieval Africa

##### Content Vocabulary

**Directions:** Answer each of the following questions. Include in your answer the vocabulary word(s) in parentheses.

**1.** What is a lineage group? Explain why lineage groups are considered the “building blocks” of African society. **(lineage groups)**

**2.** Explain the difference between a matrilineal society and a patrilineal society. **(matrilineal, patrilineal)**

**Directions:** Write the letter of the phrase or sentence that best answers each question.

\_\_\_\_ **3.** Which is the most accurate description of a plateau? **(plateau)**

**a.** a large mountain

**b.** a flat, grassy field

**c.** a high, flat landform

**d.** a low-lying wooded area

\_\_\_\_ **4.** Which is the most accurate description of a savanna? **(savanna)**

**a.** a green valley with farmlands and a river

**b.** a broad grassland with small trees and shrubs

**c.** a dry desert with patchy growth

**d.** a wet, swampy area with plants and trees

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# Vocabulary Activity *Cont.*

### Kingdoms and States of Medieval Africa

\_\_\_\_ **5.** Which is true of diviners in medieval African societies? **(diviner)**

**a.** Diviners were chosen in elections.

**b.** Diviners were a special class of people who could communicate with the gods through rituals.

**c.** Diviners were employed by kings to protect the interests of the king but not the king’s people.

**d.** Diviners made it clear that they did not work with supernatural forces and that their power had nothing to do with the gods.

\_\_\_\_ **6.** Which best describes griots in medieval African societies? **(griot)**

**a.** Griots were storytellers who acted as oral historians and genealogists, keeping African history alive.

**b.** Griots were dancers who performed for religious purposes, communicating with the spirits through their dancing.

**c.** Griots were musicians who developed strong, rhythmic beats that influenced Western music.

**d.** Griots were artisans who expressed their religious conviction by carving masks and statues that embodied spiritual powers.

\_\_\_\_ **7.** Which best describes subsistence farming? **(subsistence farming)**

**a.** the practice of growing a surplus of crops to trade or sell at a profit

**b.** the practice of rotating crops to prevent soil erosion and depletion of soil nutrients

**c.** the practice of growing just enough crops for personal use and not for sale

**d.** the practice of growing only one or two crops and relying on food gathering for the rest of the food supply

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# Vocabulary Activity *Cont.*

### Kingdoms and States of Medieval Africa

\_\_\_\_ **8.** Which is true of stateless societies in medieval Africa? **(stateless societies)**

**a.** It was a group of villages without organized leadership or order.

**b.** It was a group of villages dependent upon a king

**c.** It was a group of independent villages ruled by a group of elected clans.

**d.** It was a group of independent villages organized by clans and ruled by a local chieftain or clan head.

##### Academic Vocabulary

**Directions:** For each word in the left column, write the letter of the correct definition in the right column. **(so-called, founding, factor, administrative, security)**

|  |  |
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| \_\_\_\_ **9.** so-called | **a.** originating; beginning |
| \_\_\_ **10.** founding | **b.** a contributing part |
| \_\_\_ **11.** factor | **c.** freedom from danger or invasion; safety |
| \_\_\_ **12.** administrative | **d.** commonly named; popularly termed |
| \_\_\_ **13.** security | **e.** relating to the execution of public affairs, as distinguished from policy making |

Choose one of the two foldable options below. Include color and visuals. No lined paper.

