WHAP CH. 18 Essential Questions

1. In the epic story of Sundiata, the point is made that the lion king has turned his capital, Niani, into “the navel of the earth.” What does this statement mean? What were the foundations of Mali? What role did Sundiata and Mansa Musa play in its rise?
2. Examine the east African states. How were they different from their counterparts in western Africa? How and why did they evolve differently?
3. Compare and contrast the role of women in sub-Saharan Africa to their role in some of the other societies studied in the course. Did the growing influence of Islam affect the status of women?
4. Examine the influence of the Bantu migrations on African history. What concepts did the Bantu pass on to the rest of sub-Saharan Africa?
5. What role did the rise and development of slavery play in sub-Saharan Africa?
6. Why were bananas and camels so significant in early African history? How did they change the way people lived?
7. How did geographic and agricultural factors influence early sub-Saharan societies?
8. What was the function of the *griot* in sub-Saharan African culture? What implications could this have on what we consider African “history”?