Section 1

1. What is one way mentioned that today’s scholars can learn about the oldest form of social organization in the world?
2. To what might the Efe attribute their long success as a hunting-gathering society?
3. How are arguments settled in the Efe group, and what happens if they cannot be resolved?
4. How is lineage important to stateless societies?
5. How would a conflict between youngest cousins be resolved in a stateless society?
6. How do states governed by Islamic law differ from the United States?
7. How did the Almoravids and the Almohads differ?
8. What is one possible positive impact the Muslim conquest of north and west Africa had on people?

Section 2

1. What discovery first allowed successful trade routes though the Sahara desert?
2. How did limiting the supply of gold nuggets prevent their price from falling?
3. Why would the disruption of trade destroy Ghana’s power?
4. What was one difference between Sundiata and Mansa Musa?
5. What governing institution did Mansa Musa introduce to his empire?
6. Why are Ibn Battuta’s travels worth noting?
7. Why were Yoruba kings considered divine?
8. What evidence of the relationship between artists and rulers can be seen in life art?

Section 3

1. Why would merchants from southern regions send their goods north to Kilwa?
2. What role did technology play in the conquests by the Portuguese?
3. Why would the growth of commerce (trade) cause Islam to spread?
4. Why might the development of plantations affect the slave trade?
5. How extensive was the trade in enslaved persons from East Africa before 1700?
6. What regional advantages might Great Zimbabwe have had? (see map on page 423 for help)
7. What enabled Mutota’s takeover of the northern Shona people to remain successful?
8. Why do you think the Portuguese wanted to conquer the Mutapa empire?