

Resource 1: Africa's Big Picture of the Past

Option 1: Card sorting task

The First Humans Scientists think that that our ancestors appeared in Africa over 1.6 million years ago. Modern humans appeared there about 170.000 years ago. Seeds and animal bones tell us that they got food from plants and hunting. Later, people went from Africa to other parts of the world.	People moved away from the desert The Sahara Desert came about when the climate became warmer. People moved to rivers such as the Nile in the East, the coast in the north or grasslands and forests in West Africa.
The Ancient Egyptians Ancient Egypt grew up by the River Nile from about 3000 BC. The lands and water meant that people could stay on one place and farm. The Egyptians became very powerful.	Later kingdoms Kingdoms grew in many parts of Africa such as Ghana and Mali after 300 AD and Zimbabwe after 1100 AD.
African traders Merchants and sellers were important. In north Africa many traders went on camels across the desert from West	European Voyages of Encounter From the 15th century sailors left Europe to find a sea route to Asia. They wanted to buy things such as

to North Africa carrying riches such as gold .	gold, ivory and pepper from people in Africa.
The Slave Trade Slavery had existed for hundreds of years but grew in the 17th and 18th century. Europeans bought large numbers of slaves to sell in the West Indies and Americas where they were forced to work on Plantations which grew sugar, tobacco, coffee or cotton.	Challenging slavery In the late 18th and early 19th centuries people like William Wilberforce and Olaudah Equiano fought to end the Slave Trade. In 1807 the British government banned the trade and from 1834 said that it was against the law to own slaves.
The Scramble for Africa Britain and other European countries invaded Africa from the 1870s in what has been called, 'The Scramble for Africa'	Africa today Most of Africa was ruled by European countries for less than a hundred years but they made many changes. Many African countries were created by Europeans.

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Option 2: Research task

This makes use of the following textbook which I strongly recommend:

Bowden, R and Wilson, R. (2009) *Africa Focus: Ancient Africa*. London: Heinemann.

Groups can be given the tasks of research each of the different times in Africa's past. Giving them small cards and ask them to make a spider diagram or no more than two sentences showing the key information which they have found out.

1. Our ancestors p.4	8. Modern Humans p.6
2. The Leakey Family p.7	9. Hunter gatherers p.8
3. Ancient Egypt p.10	10. Ancient Civilisations p.10

4. Great Kingdoms p.16-17	11. Benin p.26
5. Merchants and sellers p.30	12. European Voyages of Discovery p.32
6. Europeans and the Slave Trade p.36	13. Olaudah Equiano and William Wilberforce p.37
7. End of Slavery p.38	14. Europeans and the Scramble for Africa p.40