

Term 2

ITS A COVID 19 PENDAMIC PERIOD. KINDLY STAY HOME AND READ YOUR BOOKS.

TOPIC: MIGRATION AND SETTLEMENT INTO EAST AFRICA SINCE 1000 A.D

LESSON 1: BANTU MIGRATIONS INTO EAST AFRICA

Learning Outcomes

By the end of this lesson, you should be able to:

- i) give the background for Bantu Migration.
- ii) identify reasons why they moved into East Africa.
- iii) explain the results /effects of Bantu migration.

You will need:

textbooks, pens, note book, internet and the Atlas.

Instructions

1. Use a handbook for Senior 1 history.
2. Make a reference to other related books.
3. If possible, consult your guardian at home.
4. Try and visit Google/internet search.

STEP 1: INTRODUCTION

After studying this topic, you should be able to understand the origins of your own families as a result of migration and settlement of people in East Africa. In the previous chapter, you studied the origin of man and theories about the origin of man. You noted that man did not stay in one place but he moved from one place to another because of the environment.

After studying this chapter, you should be able to able to understand how we came to be who we are in our present settlements. Human migration is the movement of people from one place to another because of various reasons ranging from political, social to economic. Between 1000AD to 1880AD East Africa, became a destination of various external groupings that have come to define the composition of our ethnic groupings today. The most prominent of these were the Bantu and the Luo. They arrived in East Africa almost at the same time and had related reasons for migration.

BANTU MIGRATION

The Bantu are the speakers of related languages with a common word “ntu” meaning a person. The original homeland of the Bantu is said to have been West-and Central Africa from where they travelled to the Eastern and Southern regions of the continent. The Bantu were Agriculturalists and are said to have brought new technologies and skills such as cultivating high-yield crops and iron-working which produced more efficient tools and

weapons. The Bantu are the dominant ethnic group in East Africa with several languages spoken derived from the Proto-Bantu language. In East Africa, they include; Baganda, Basoga, Bakiga, Kikuyu, Tonga etc.



Map 3.1 Course of Bantu Migrations

Activity 3.1: Bantu Migrations

1. What are some of the reasons that cause people to move from place to place?
2. What do you think were the reasons as to why Bantu moved from their origin to settle in East Africa.

Step II

THE REASONS FOR BANTU MIGRATION

The migration of the Bantu took place between 1000 and 1500 AD. The migration from their homeland Cameroon (Niger-Benue Confluence) came to different parts of East Africa. Reasons for their migration are many and not clear. Some include the following;

Population pressure: It is assumed that there was population increase in the cradle land of Bantu (Congo and the Niger basins). This overcrowding forced them to move and look for more land for settlement and Agriculture.

Pastures and Water: Bantu kept some animals. The search for greener pastures for their livestock and water prompted them to migrate into East Africa.



Figure 3.1: Bantu cows

Internal conflicts: These mainly came about as a result of population explosion. Land for farming became scarce leading to the migration of Bantu to find land for settlement and have peace in East and South Africa.

External pressure: Hostile neighbouring tribes such as the Pygmies might have provoked the Bantu movement and in turn causing their migration into East Africa. The pygmies of West Africa frequently attacked and harassed Bantu ancestors which forced them to migrate.

Natural disasters: The discomfort of life to the Bantu might have been as a result of unpredicted famine, long drought periods and diseases and as a consequent outcome, migration became an alternative.

Adventure: The spirit of adventure and curiosity to explore into unknown lands of the south might have prompted the Bantu people to develop a migratory instinct.

Diseases: Epidemic diseases such as sleeping sickness, *Bilharzia*, and smallpox might have been a leading cause of the migration of the Bantu people. Safety was the only alternative when cattle diseases such as *Nagana* caused health effects in their cattle and their general health status, they had to migrate.

Drought: Effects of prolonged drought posed difficulties not only to the animals but also the inhabitants. Crop production too became a challenge and therefore the Bantu had to move for new and better farming land.

It can, therefore, be concluded that no single factor was a primary cause in the migration pattern of the Bantu people to different parts of East Africa. A combination of factors contributed to their movement.

Course of the Bantu Migration

The Bantu Migration happened in Africa starting from southern West Africa and slowly spreading southwards to finally reach South Africa. The Bantu people from their origins in southern West Africa slowly moved through the Central, Eastern, and Southern parts Of Africa starting in the mid-2nd millennium BCE and finally ending before 1500 CE. The Bantu brought new technologies and skills with them such as cultivating high-yield crops and iron-working which produced more efficient tools and weapons. Eventually, the Bantu controlled, with the exception of South Africa and the Namibian desert, the entire African continent South of a line crossing from Southern Nigeria to Kenya. About 500 languages spoken today in that massive area are a result of the Proto-Bantu language.

Activity 3.2: Related migrations in East Africa

1. Outline the problems faced by the Bantu during their Migration period.
2. What are the reasons as to why the Bantu left Zululand in 1820? Discuss and share with your family?

RESULTS OF BANTU MIGRATION

1. They introduced iron work in East Africa. This helped in production of iron tools for agriculture and security like spears and arrows that protected them as they settled in East Africa.



Figure 3.3: Iron smelting work

2. They caused population increase / explosion in East Africa. This was as a result of inter-marriage with societies they found in East Africa.
3. They introduced the growing of food crops like; Yams, Cassava, beans, sweet potatoes among others. This was as a result of discovery of iron tools especially the hoes.
4. New methods of agriculture were introduced in East Africa for example, Shifting cultivation, Zero grazing, Mulching and irrigation. These were common especially among the Chagga people.



Figure 3.4: Traditional Irrigation

5. Bantu introduced mixed farming as they kept some animals especially the short horned cattles.
6. The new languages were introduced. among them, Luganda,Lusoga,Runyankole all of them using the word “Ntu” in their dialects.
7. The Bantu absorbed the cultures of some non-Bantu people they found settled in those areas. For example, among the Bagisu,they learnt circumcision,the age set system,pastoral culture .among others.
8. They introduced new type of building styles.They built round grass thatched huts.Before this,people they found settled were living in caves.



Figure 3.5: Bantu hut

9. They fought many wars with the local people in East Africa. This left a lot of property destroyed and lives as a result of the massive death of people in East Africa for example,the Nguni fought with the Yaos in Tanganyika.

10. New fighting tactics and weapons were introduced in East Africa. They used the short stabbing spear (Essegai) and the cow-horn formation which was successful and new to East Africans.
11. They introduced barter system of trade in East Africa. They bartered items like mats, pots, food, hoes and spears among themselves and the nearby communities.



Figure 3.6 : Barter trade

12. They introduced centralized form of administration. This later came to be common in East Africa. eg It worked in Buganda, Ankole and Bunyoro.

Activity 3.3: Results of Bantu Migrations

1. Describe the course of Bantu migration.
2. Give reasons why the Bantu were successful in East Africa.
3. Take time to find out about the Luo Migrations and discuss their effects on East Africa
4. Explain the effects of Ngoni migrations into East Africa.

Summary

Bantu migration and settlement is responsible for the current social, political and economic cultures of the East African people. Many reasons were responsible for their migration and they have many results they left in East Africa.

Follow up Activities

1. Compare the reasons for Bantu migration and any other current migration group within East Africa.
2. Explain the problems faced by the Bantu during their migration period.

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