PBS: Africa’s Greatest Civilizations
(episode. 2: Religions)

Directions: Answer the questions below while watching the documentary on African history.

1. How long had Africans and Europeans been engaging in a trade relationship with one another along the east coast?

2. What is the *Periplus of the Erythraean Sea*? What purpose did it serve for historians?

3. Describe the ancient African kingdom of Axum. What specific purpose did the kingdom serve for people inside and out of Africa?

4. What is so special about the memorial stelli found in ancient Axum?

5. What is Frankincense? What was its purpose?

6. What is so unique about the relationship between ancient kingdoms of Dammah and Saba?

7. Describe how Christianity arrive on the continent of ancient Africa? How does the explanation provided in this film contradict what is traditionally believed by people today?

8. How does Egypt ironically become the home of monastic worship for Christians?

9. What is important about King Enzana and his Christian conversion around the 4th Century CE?

10. What evidence do we have of King Enzana’s conversion? What is unique about these pieces of evidence? What two things can be discovered by studying these artifacts?
11. How did the spread of Christianity differ for the kingdom of Kush from that of Nubia?

12. Explain one of the first cross-religious events between Muhammad, his family (Early Islam followers) and Christianity?

13. What were the events of the Muslim (Arab) Conquest in Africa around 642CE? What was established following these conquest?

14. How does Islamic rule differ from former Christian contro in Africa?

15. Who was Tariq Ibn Ziyad? What was unique about his background before coming into his military purpose? Describe the people in which Tariq belonged.

16. How did Tariq’s conquest across Africa to the Rock of Gibraltar create a unifying tie between two continents with one goal?

17. What are the churches of Lalibella? Where are they located? Why was it built? How long did it take to build?

18. What is the Arc of the Covenant? Where is this supposedly housed?

19. How was evidence of the Arc of the Covenant used to legitimize a new ruling dynasty in Ethiopia? How long did this legitimization last in power for Ethiopia?

20. How was Christianity an important unifying factor for Ethiopia? How has this worked to the advantage of the Ethiopian people?