

Unit 4: The Sudan

Islamic movements into Nubia resulted in the emergence of the modern country of Sudan, a name derived from the Arabic bilād as-sūdān, “land of the Blacks.” As Arabs moved westward, “Sudan” referred to a large swath of territory extending nearly to the western and southern Atlantic coasts, crossing boundaries of several modern countries and populated with diverse ethnic groups. Today the area is heavily Muslim, though many communities integrate Islam with indigenous spiritual traditions.

Unit 4 Time Advisory

This unit should take you approximately 15 hours to complete.

Subunit 4.1: 3.5 hours

Subunit 4.2: 3 hours

Subunit 4.3: 8.5 hours

Unit 4 Learning Outcomes

Upon successful completion of this unit, you will be able to:

- analyze the visual elements of Africa’s earliest surviving sculpture;
- demonstrate an understanding of the diversity of cultures in central and northern Nigeria and borders;
- demonstrate an understanding of the major traditional art forms of Mali’s larger indigenous groups; and
- identify and describe the major architectural techniques through the Sudan region.