

Unit 7: Eastern and Southern Africa

Swahili is an indigenous East African language and culture that has been influenced by several centuries of trade with and hegemonic infiltration by Indian and Arab Islamic culture, as seen in the region's architecture. Note that other indigenous groups with strong ethnic identities extending west from the coast remain in the region. However, this course's discussion of these groups is limited due to a lack of accessible examples. Note that South Africa was the last African country to maintain legal apartheid (overturned in 1994) and retain white European rule from the early colonial era. These influences took a toll on the livelihood of traditional arts crafted by the region's people. As a result, we will focus on this area's early art, with a few limited examples of more recent objects.

Unit 7 Time Advisory

This unit should take you approximately you 15 hours to complete.

Subunit 7.1: 7.5 hours

Subunit 7.2: 7.5 hours

Unit 7 Learning Outcomes

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

- analyze the syncretistic aesthetic of Swahili culture;
- discuss the culture of the Maasai;
- discuss the architectural remains at Great Zimbabwe; and
- articulate several traditions of beadwork in among various groups in Africa.