The Rise of African Civilizations

Directions: Reading for Accuracy  Reading the section and completing the activity below will help you learn more about early African civilizations. Use your textbook to decide if a statement is true or false. Write T or F in the blank, and if a statement is false, rewrite it correctly on the line.

1. The Niger River was important because it served as a highway for merchants and travelers and helped unite the region.

2. Due to the migrations of the Bantu throughout Africa, the people of Africa share some common beliefs and traditions.

3. Horses revolutionized trade across the Sahara because their feet did not sink in the sand and they could travel for many days without water.

4. Traders exchanged salt and cloth from western Africa for gold and ivory from the Sahara and North Africa.

5. Ghana was located where several trade routes came together.

6. Sundiata Keita was a great warrior-king of Ghana who conquered Mali.

7. Sunni Ali used Songhai's location along the Niger River to help him take over the Berber salt mines.

8. Farming was impossible in rain forests, due to their wet climates.

9. Rain forest kingdoms traded copper, salt, and leather goods for food and crafts from the savannas.

10. Ethiopia's oldest written history, the Glory of Kings, allows the people of Ethiopia to trace their history back to the time of Queen Makeda.