Answer Key for Resources for Ancient Africa, Asia, and the Americas

Below are suggested answers to the **What Do You Think** questions at the end of each lesson in Resources for Ancient Africa, Asia, and the Americas. Because these questions are critical thinking questions, students’ answers may vary, but should reflect the content of each lesson.

**Page 7**
1. To determine the role of women in ancient Egypt and Nubia, scholars have examined a statue of Queen Tiy at her husband’s tomb, which shows her with the symbols of a queen, and also with a cobra, the symbol of a king. The ruins at Naqa, where Queen Amanitore is shown equal in size and importance to the king, and as a warrior with a sword, also tells about women’s roles.
2. Egyptian women, like American women today, could own property, testify in court cases, and make wills.

**Page 9**
1. Ethiopia is located on the coast, across the Red Sea from the Arabian Peninsula. This location means that Ethiopians were likely to be traders, and to come into contact with a variety of cultures and religions from other parts of the world.
2. Moving to a mountainous region away from the coast isolated Ethiopian Jews and cut them off from other Jewish people. They did not hear about changes that occurred in Jewish religious practices, but instead, continued their traditional way of life.

**Page 12**
1. Coins helped make Aksum a major trading center because they allowed merchants to sell goods for coins and use the coins to buy other items, rather than barter for everything. A written language also helped Aksum become a trading center, because merchants could record information about goods traded and trading partners.
2. Students may say that dependence on one thing, such as trade, could be dangerous because if some event, such as a war or natural disaster, disrupts trading, the entire economy is in jeopardy. Students who disagree may say that trade can provide a variety of goods, so it is less dangerous to depend on trade than on a single crop or industry.

**Page 14**
1. The amount of rainfall would determine how much food (both plants and animals) an area could produce. So only small groups would be able to survive in dry desert areas, while larger groups could live where there was more rainfall.
2. Students may say that the most important difference between the San and the Khoikhoi is that the Khoikhoi domesticated animals. This created other differences, such as different diets, different physical characteristics, and the ability to live in larger groups.
Page 17
1. The story of Nzinga sitting on the back of a guard tells that she was a proud leader who considered herself the equal of the Portuguese governor and wanted them to negotiate as equals. She was also clever and quick-thinking.
2. The Age of Exploration affected Angola by bringing new foods, which helped the population grow, but also by bringing the Atlantic slave trade, which devastated the people of the area. Eventually, the Portuguese conquered and ruled Angola.

Page 19
1. The Edo sculptures and plaques show scenes in the life of the Edo people, which tell people today how the Edo lived. The existence of so many decorative objects also shows that the people were prosperous enough to have the time and resources to create them.
2. Oba Ewuare probably built the wall and moat to protect his palace from invaders trying to attack him or conquer Benin.

Page 22
1. In the Ashanti government, individual states didn’t have to give up their identity to become part of the kingdom, like the individual states in the United States. Local leaders governed their own people but were also loyal to the Ashanti leader, as American mayors and governors are loyal the U.S. President. In addition, the individual states paid taxes and supplied warriors, just as the people from the individual United States pay federal taxes and join the national armed services.
2. Students may answer that travel helps people to see how others live and gives them new ideas about ways to do things. It can also make people more open-minded, by seeing that there is more than one way to do something.

Page 25
1. Fu Hao was buried with many valuable goods, such as bronze, jade, opal, crystal, ivory, and bone artifacts; pottery; and almost 7,000 cowries; which shows that she had high status.
2. Empress Lü probably made several of her relatives generals because she trusted them more than she trusted members of her husband’s family. She may have thought they would help her to hold onto power after her husband’s death.

Page 28
1. The Vietnamese may have resented Chinese rule because the Chinese tried to replace many Vietnamese cultural institutions, such as the political system, religion, arts, and language, with Chinese institutions.
2. Cambodia was influenced by India though trade and through contact with Hindu and Buddhist missionaries from India. This influence was probably gradual and somewhat by choice. In contrast, China’s influence on Vietnam was forced on the Vietnamese people through Chinese rule.
Page 31
1. The most surprising thing about the Caral site was that it was about 1,000 years older than any other city known in the Americas.
2. Students might conclude that there was a wide distribution of wealth and that wealthy, poor, and middle income people were all a part of Mayan society.

Page 32.
1. Hammocks were useful for ships because as the sides of the ship swayed back and forth, the person sleeping in the hammock would stay in basically the same position and would not fall out of bed.