Chapter 22 West and Central Africa Reading Guide Name\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Date\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Period\_\_\_\_

As you read through the chapter, put the correct answers next to the questions.

**Section 1 Natural Environments**

1. What language does the girl on page 498 speak? Is this the language of the entire country?
2. What does she eat?
3. Describe 2 of the landforms in West and Central Africa.
4. What are two of Africa’s major rivers?
5. What is the climate like here? Give specific names.
6. What animals are native to this area?
7. What kind of jobs do most people have in the Sahel? Why?
8. What are the most valuable resources in this area? Why?
9. West Africa is the world’s major source of what treat that many people crave? What are some other things that they grow here?

**Section 2 History and Culture**

1. What were three great kingdoms once found in this area?
2. What were three major products that were traded in this area?
3. What major city in Mali became a center of trade and education?
4. What were the Europeans looking for in Africa?

Colonial Era

1. Why did Europeans want political control over West and Central Africa?
2. Why did many of the new colonial cities locate along the coast? Who benefited from this?

Postcolonial Era

1. By what year were all the African countries in this region independent?
2. What effects did the colonial era have on West and Central Africa?

Culture – People, Languages, and Settlement

1. How many languages were spoke in this area?
2. What were the “lingua francas?” What does “lingua franca” mean?

Religion and Education

1. What are the three main religions in this area?
2. Is education considered important here? How can you tell?

Food, Traditions, and Customs

1. Most people in the region produce their own what?
2. What does “staple crop” mean? What are their staple crops?
3. Describe 2 of the customs or traditions from this area.

**Geography for Life – Nigeria’s Ethnic Diversity**

1. Why is Nigeria unstable even though its military government has been replaced by a democratically elected government?
2. Should Nigeria split into several countries? Defend your answer.

**Section 3 The Region Today**

Level of Development

1. What is a “dual economy?”
2. Describe the dual economy in West and Central Africa.

Agriculture

1. What kind of farming works well in tropical environments?
2. What is a market economy? How has this effected this area?

Economic Activities and Global Trade

1. Why is depending heavily on only a few main exports not good for a country?
2. What are the largest cities in West and Central Africa?

Issues and Challenges

1. What is the most important challenge for West and Central Africa?
2. What problems will the rapidly grown population cause?
3. What are the issues with politics?
4. Describe the health problems in this area.