

ilar to those from ancient Egypt are played throughout the West African Sahel and savanna region. The remarkable similarity in construction of these lutes as well as the geographic location in which they are still played suggests diffusion (rather than independent invention), although the source and path of diffusion are not clear (see FIGURE 1.5).

Bowed lutes, also called fiddles, are played throughout the West African Sahel and savanna, especially among the Hausa (Nigeria), Dagbamba (Ghana), and Fulbe (Senegal, Mali) people.⁴⁸

HARPS

West African harps have a unique type of construction that is not found anywhere else in the world. The strings are attached to a string holder at the end of a long neck that passes through a large calabash (gourd) resonator. The strings pass over a bridge (which is the unique aspect of the harp's construction) and are attached at the other end by various types of loops. FIGURE 1.6 shows a drawing published in 1825 of a West African harp (probably a kora).

LYRES, ZITHERS

Lyres and zithers are primarily found in East Africa. Zithers, particularly the variety using a long, shallow, canoe-like trough, are primarily used in the Great Lakes region in Burundi, Rwanda, Uganda, and northwestern Tanzania.⁴⁹ They are known by various related names, including inanga, enanga, and nanga. Lyres have been documented in ancient Mesopotamia, Greece, and Egypt, and are limited in distribution in Africa to the eastern region, including Uganda, Kenya, Ethiopia, Eritrea, and Sudan.⁵⁰ The **ndongo** (endongo) is part of the **Baganda** royal court in Uganda.

Aerophones: Winds

Aerophones are instruments in which the air itself is the primary vibrator, as in a flute, clarinet, or trumpet. In contrast to string instruments, drums, and xylophones, there are far fewer wind instruments in Africa. Some of the more interesting examples include a Fula (or Peul) tambin (flute) from Guinea, in which the player can sing along with their playing, the Hausa kakaki (long trumpet) and algaita (double reed, oboe) from Nigeria, and Banda-Linda animal horn orchestras from the Central African Republic, which use an interlocking technique

known as **hocketing**.⁵¹

Section 1 Summary

GEOGRAPHY

- ✧ Five major regions in Africa: North, West, East, Central, and Southern
- ✧ Major climate zones: Sahara, Sahel, woodland savanna, grassland savanna, forest, and temperate
- ✧ Four major rivers: Nile, Congo, Niger, and Zambezi

EARLY POPULATION

- ✧ Hunter-gathers, agriculture from about 10,000 to 12,000 years ago
- ✧ Iron-working from about 1500 BCE, spread throughout Africa by 300 CE; enabled carving of wooden drums, xylophones, and masks (used throughout West and Central Africa), all of which were associated with blacksmiths

LANGUAGE FAMILIES

- ✧ About two thousand languages spoken.
- ✧ Four major families with many subfamilies: Niger-Congo (the largest, covering West, Central, and South), Nilo-Saharan (parts of the Sahara and East), Afro-Asiatic (North), and Khoisan (southern desert); Austronesian languages spoken on the island of Madagascar

POLITICAL HISTORY

- ✧ Larger kingdoms and empires had more unified musical systems.
- ✧ Newly independent nations built national identities using music, and new styles were created.
- ✧ By the later first millennium CE, kingdoms, states, and empires emerged outside of the northeast.
- ✧ Ancient Ghana declined in the early thirteenth century.
- ✧ Ancient Mali (Mande) became the largest and wealthiest empire in Africa (thirteenth–fifteenth centuries), led by Sunjata.