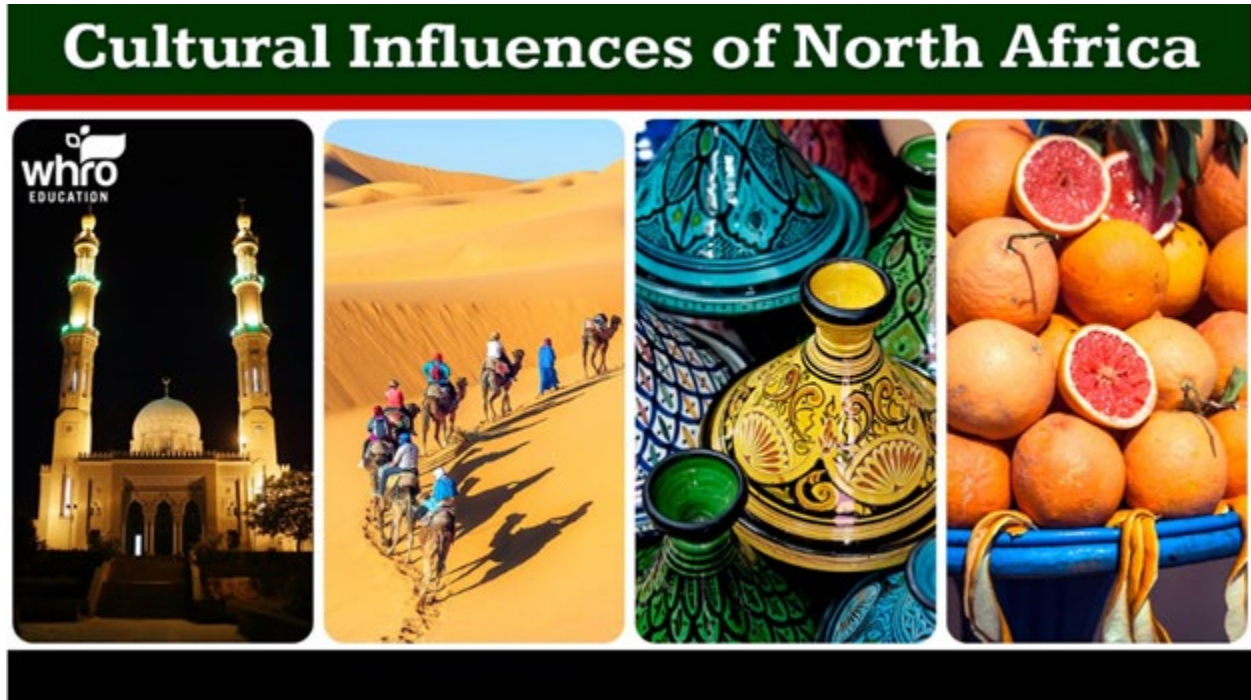


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Cultural Influences of North Africa



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Introduction

Cultural Influences of North Africa



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Pyramids of Giza



These are the Pyramids of Giza. They are located in Egypt, just outside the city of Cairo. These pyramids are believed to have been built more than 4,500 years ago, during the Old Kingdom of Ancient Egypt. There are three main pyramids located at this site. The largest and oldest pyramid is known as the Great Pyramid. It is believed to have been built as a tomb for the Pharaoh Khufu. Because of this, it is also known as the Pyramid of Khufu. The second largest pyramid is the Pyramid of Khafre. The smallest of the main pyramids is the Pyramid of Menkaure. The Great Sphinx is also located near the Giza Pyramid complex.

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Bazaars and Souks (Suqs)



A bazaar is a type of marketplace traditionally found in North Africa and Southwest Asia. These markets are also known as souks (suqs). They are found in the heart of cities, and serve as important centers for commerce and culture. Shopping at a bazaar is a regular part of daily life for local residents. These markets can also be popular attractions for tourists.

Jemaa el-Fna is a large souk located in the main city square of Marrakesh, Morocco. It contains different vendors selling a variety of goods like food, crafts, and traditional medicines. In the evening, Jemaa el-Fna transforms into a carnival-like street theater that features storytellers, musicians, dancers, snake charmers, and other street performers.

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Nomadic Lifestyles



Before the twentieth century, many people in North Africa lived a nomadic lifestyle. As cities grew and became more modernized, much of the population migrated to urban areas. Outside these cities, rural populations maintain a traditional way of life. They live similarly to how they did hundreds of years ago. For instance, the Tuareg people are seminomadic pastoralists from the Sahara. They travel in caravans across the desert, stopping at oases for water and rest. The Tuareg raise livestock and sell items in markets.

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Pyramids of Nubia



The pyramids of Ancient Egypt are arguably the most famous in the world, let alone North Africa. However, there are more than 200 ancient pyramids in the deserts of Sudan. These pyramids are known as the Nubian Pyramids. Nubia is a region along the Nile River in modern-day Sudan. It was once a part of the ancient Kingdom of Kush. The Nubian pyramids were built as tombs for the kings, queens, and wealthy citizens of Kush. The oldest of the pyramids date back to around 300 B.C. (B.C.E.). These structures are smaller than the Egyptian pyramids and have steeper sides.