

# Great Zimbabwe

<b>Grade 6, Term 1</b>	<b>Social Science: History</b>	<b>Lesson Topic:</b> Great Zimbabwe
<b>Lesson 5 of 8</b>	<b>CAPS reference:</b> page 42	<b>Total time:</b> 1 hour

Aims	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Engage higher order thinking through questions                             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Build on prior knowledge</li> </ul> </li> <li>Develop an understanding of heritage through migration</li> </ul>	
Resources	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Worksheet</li> <li>Local newspaper</li> </ul>	
Introductory activity	
Why do people move? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Discuss what factors cause people to move</li> </ul>	
Questions	10 minutes
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Ask how many learners have ever moved house                             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Ask why they moved</li> </ul> </li> <li>Ask what items the learners took with them when they moved</li> <li>Ask what the learners did to make their space in their new home more comfortable</li> </ul>	
Activity	40 minutes
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Read through the worksheet and discuss the content</li> <li>Have learners complete the worksheet</li> </ul>	
Consolidation	10 minutes
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Mark the worksheet</li> <li>Discuss how the walls of Great Zimbabwe were made</li> </ul>	
Outcomes	Terms: (see worksheet)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Develop ability to summarise data from context</li> <li>Learners are able to interlink all the lessons thus far</li> <li>Learners develop an understanding of human migration</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Hand-cut</li> <li>Mortar-less</li> <li>intricate</li> </ul>
Means of Assessment	
Either to be marked in class or by educator. <b>Total Marks for entire worksheet: 22 Marks</b>	

Image sources: <http://smallanimals.web.unc.edu/sample-page/africa-other/>  
<http://thesovereignstate.org/great-zimbabwe-design-and-patterns/>  
<http://tishfarrell.com/2014/03/03/abandoned-great-zimbabwe/>

# Great Zimbabwe

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

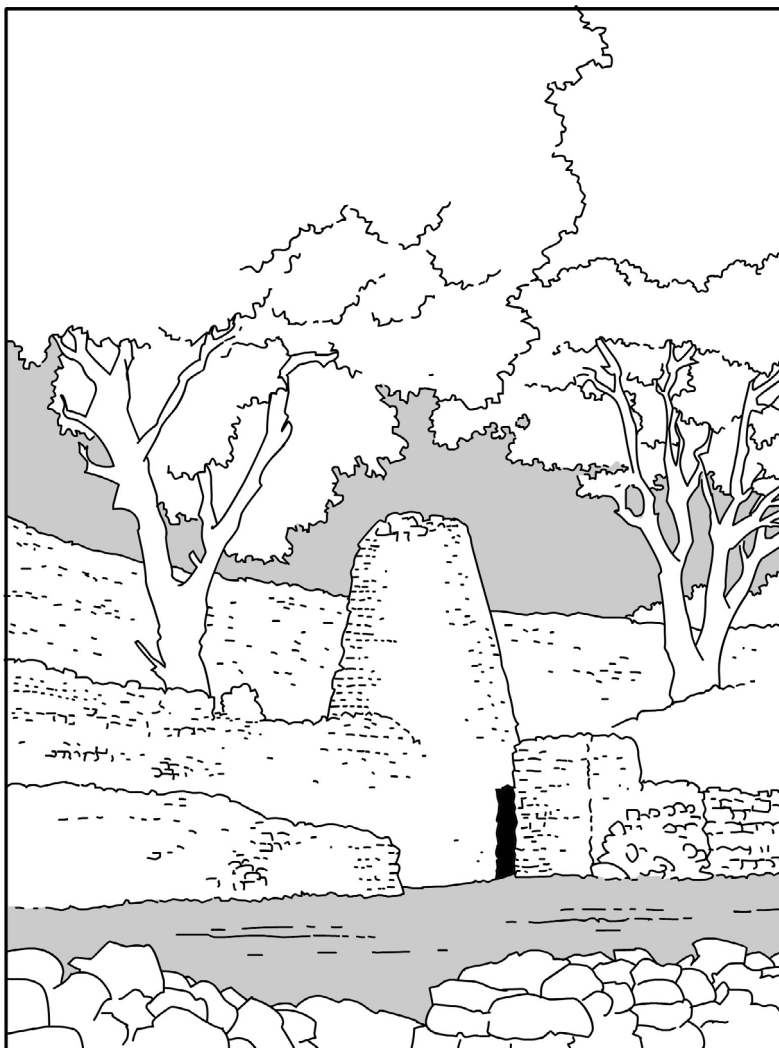
## Great Zimbabwe

After the fall of Mapungubwe, the people moved north to establish Great Zimbabwe, which is now known as Zimbabwe. It is believed that the people who once inhabited Mapungubwe were ancestors of the modern Shona people. Artefacts discovered at Great Zimbabwe indicate they were made in a similar way to the ones discovered at the Mapungubwe archaeological site, using soapstone. It is believed that since soapstone birds were found at the site of Great Zimbabwe, it signified that the people believed that birds carried messages from the ancestors.



There was also a hierarchy similar to Mapungubwe in Great Zimbabwe which revealed the king and his subjects lived according to their standing in the community. Great Zimbabwe was also abandoned, like Mapungubwe,

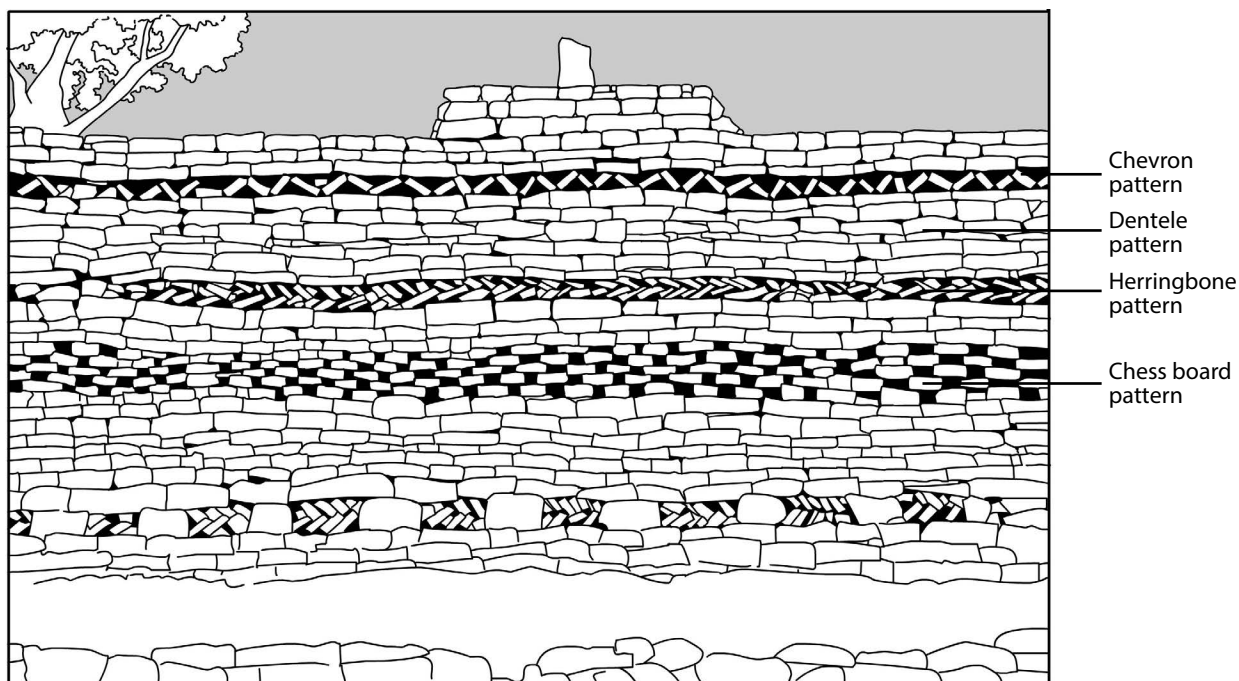
seemingly without cause after being in existence from approximately 1200AD to 1500AD.



The stone walls surrounding the king's homestead are still standing today and have now been declared a world heritage site.

The name, Zimbabwe derives from 'dizimba-dza-mabwe', translated from a Shona dialect as 'dizimba' meaning 'houses', and 'mabwe' meaning 'stones', literally meaning 'houses of stones'.

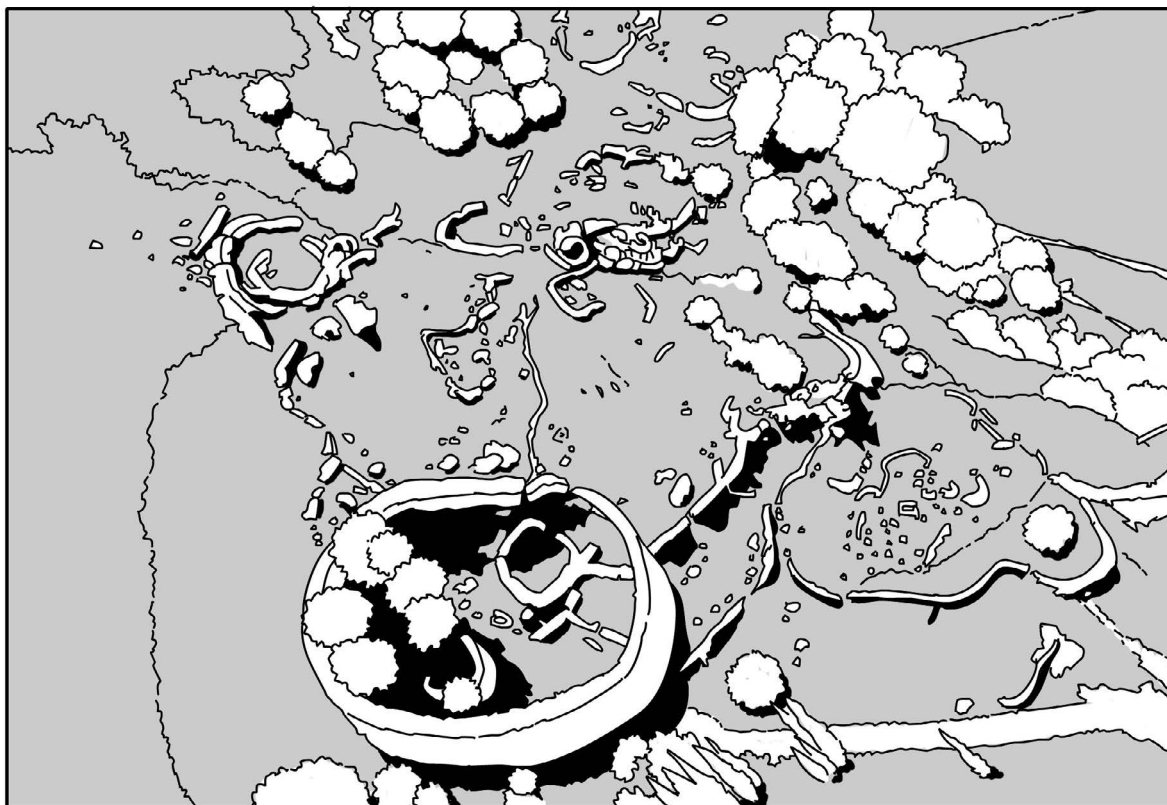
There are many smaller houses of stone surrounding Great Zimbabwe, but the largest is the Great Zimbabwe.



The walls of Great Zimbabwe were mortar less and made using intricate patterns and hand-carved granite bricks. They formed a high, outer wall that served to protect the kingdom's most important people.

Some sections of the wall stand 11 metres high and 250 metres long.

**In the picture below, we can see how the walls were arranged to protect the highest members of the community. We can also see how the land was divided by the stone walls.**



**Answer the questions below: (20 marks)**

1. How long was the reign of the Kingdom of Great Zimbabwe? (2)

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2. How were Mapungubwe and Great Zimbabwe similar? (2)

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3. List SIX facts about the walls of Great Zimbabwe. (6)

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4. Why do you think the people of Great Zimbabwe included intricate patterns in the walls? (2)

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5. What does the word 'mortar less' indicate? (1)

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6. In the space below, draw the different patterns found in the walls of Great Zimbabwe: (4)

Chevron Pattern

Chessboard Pattern

Herringbone Pattern

Dentelle Pattern

7. What did the people of Great Zimbabwe believe about birds, and how did they pay homage to them? (2)

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8. Where does the name Zimbabwe originate from, and why is the name appropriate? (3)

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# Answer sheet

**Answer the questions below:** (20 marks)

1. How long was the reign of the Kingdom of Great Zimbabwe? (2)

**1500 - 1200 = 300 years OR 3 centuries.**

2. How were Mapungubwe and Great Zimbabwe similar? (2)

**Similar artefacts were discovered at Great Zimbabwe that were made using the same techniques of the artefacts found in Mapungubwe.  
The structure of the community was also hierarchical.**

3. List SIX facts about the walls of Great Zimbabwe. (6)

**They were made of granite bricks.**

**They were carved by hand.**

**They had patterns in them.**

**They were 11m high in certain parts.**

**They were 250m long in parts.**

**They are a world heritage site**

**They are mortar less**

**They served to protect the highest members of society.**

4. Why do you think the people of Great Zimbabwe included intricate patterns in the walls? (2)

**They wanted to beautify the high walls.**

5. What does the word 'mortar less' indicate? (1)

**No cement or grouting was used to bond the bricks together**

6. In the space below, draw the different patterns found in the walls of Great Zimbabwe: (4)

Chevron Pattern



Chessboard Pattern



Herringbone Pattern



Dentelle Pattern



# Answer sheet

7. What did the people of Great Zimbabwe believe about birds, and how did they pay homage to them? (2)

**They believed that the birds carried messages from the ancestors. They carved bird statues out of soapstone.**

8. Where does the name Zimbabwe originate from, and why is the name appropriate? (3)

**Zimbabwe comes from 'dizimba' meaning 'houses', and 'mabwe' meaning 'stones'. This is an appropriate name because the cities were made of stones.**

Total (22)