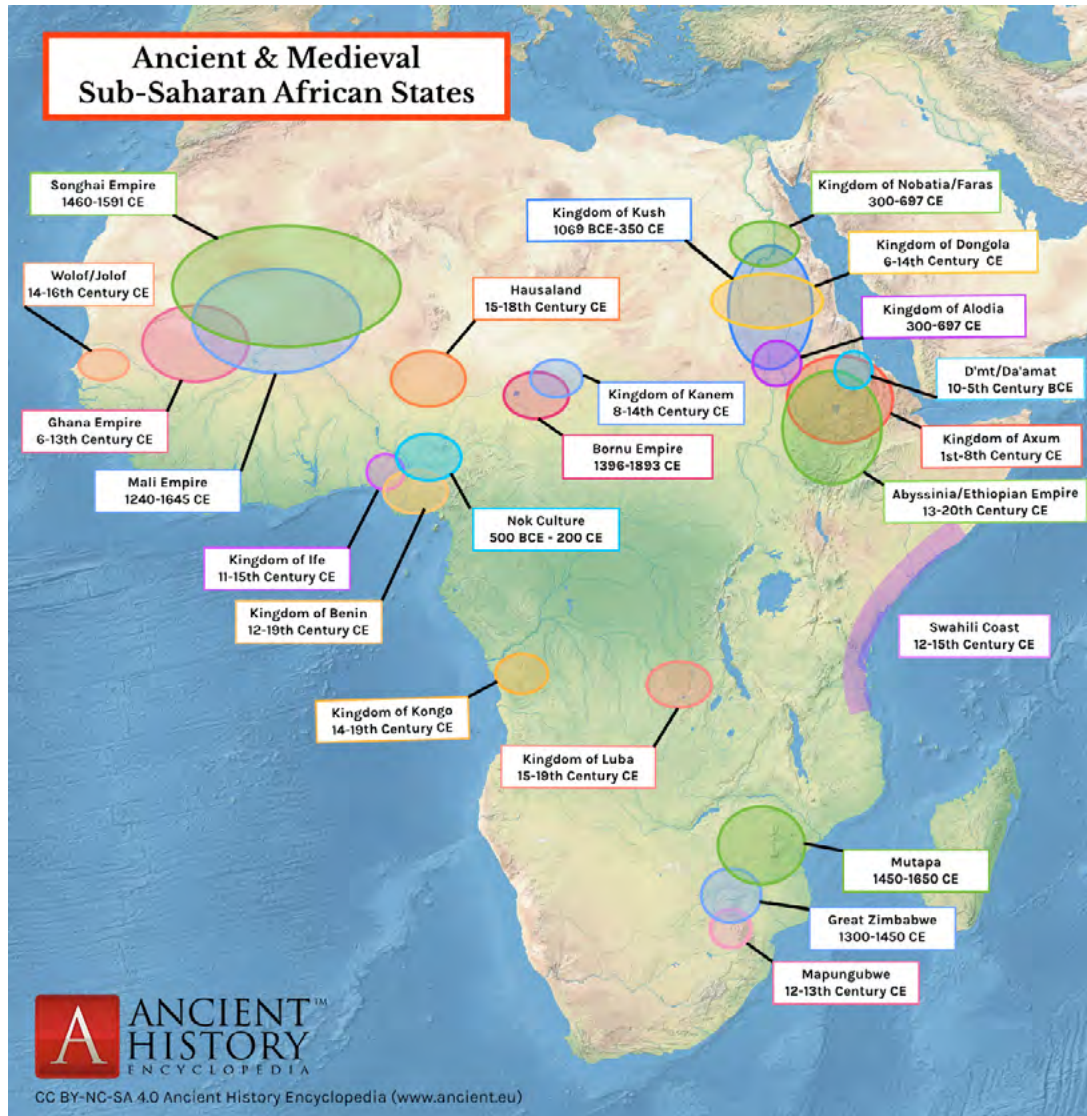


Where is Wakanda?



Using the information below and a modern map of Africa, mark the possible locations of fictional Wakanda on this map of early African civilizations. Which ancient kingdoms may have been an inspiration for Wakanda?



- A 2008 Marvel series locates Wakanda on the north side of Lake Turkana, near the border of Kenya and Ethiopia. Ethiopia, which remained independent during the period of African colonization, may have been an influence.
- The film's director was influenced by the country Lesotho, which also avoided the worst of colonialism.
- A *Black Panther* writer places Wakanda on the western shore of Lake Victoria, near the border of Uganda and Tanzania. The Tanzanian city of Bukoba could be a real-life parallel to the Wakandan capital, Birnin Zana.
- In 2016's *Captain America*, Wakandans speak in Xhosa, a common language in South Africa and Zimbabwe. Therefore, the nations of southern Africa may have been an influence.
- The Democratic Republic of the Congo was the site of struggle over uranium in the 1960s and is the source of coltan today, a valuable metal used in technology products. Since a plot line in *Black Panther* involves western greed and a desire for African resources, Congo's history may have influenced Wakanda's identity.

MAP SOURCE: Cartwright, Mark. *Map of Ancient & Medieval Sub-Saharan African States*. Ancient History Encyclopedia. April 12, 2019. Accessed January 12, 2021. <https://www.ancient.eu/image/10453/map-of-ancient--medieval-sub-saharan-african-state>.