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Rulers Fact Sheet

Ghana	
How did controlling gold and salt trade make Ghana's kings powerful and respected leaders?	How did Ghana's rulers struggle to balance trade relationships benefitting the kingdom while keeping authority over their people?
Mali	
How did Sundiata Keita and Mansa Musa use trade to expand and strengthen the Mali Empire?	How did the increase of trade present new problems that the kings had to deal with?
Songhai	
How did Sunni Ali and Askia Muhammad use trade to expand and strengthen the Songhai Empire?	How did trade-related conflicts create problems for Songhai's rulers?

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Religion Fact Sheet

Ghana	
How did trade introduce Islam to Ghana, and how did the kingdom benefit from this religious exchange?	How did Ghana's rulers struggle to balance their traditional beliefs with the growing influence of Islam?
Mali	
How did Islam help Mali's rulers strengthen trade and political ties with the Islamic world?	How did the blending of Islam with traditional beliefs create tensions in Mali?
Songhai	
Did Islam create more benefits or challenges for the rulers and people of Songhai?	How did conflicts between rulers and religious groups create challenges for Songhai?

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Artisans/Merchant Fact Sheet

Ghana	
In what ways does OPEN trade benefit local artisans? How would the introduction of more trade routes produce more opportunities?	In what ways does OPEN trade threaten local artisans? Why would the ruler of Ghana limit/block Muslim traders interaction in the city. (Staying of night)
Mali	
How did trade expansion under Sundiata Keita and Mansa Musa create new opportunities for merchants and artisans in Mali?	How did the government's control of trade and taxation create challenges for merchants and artisans in Mali?
Songhai	
What opportunities did trade create for the Songhai merchants and artisans?	What challenges did the extensive trading create for Songhai?

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Farmer Fact Sheet

Ghana	
How did trade help Ghanaian farmers improve agriculture and gain a higher status in society?	What kind of trade pressures would the farmers have faced?
Mali	
How did Mansa Wali's farming reforms and increased trade improve life for farmers in Mali?	How did economic demands from trade create difficulties for farmers in Mali?
Songhai	
How did new irrigation methods and trade expansion help farmers in Songhai grow more food and cash crops?	How did the shift toward cash crops and overproduction hurt some farmers in Songhai?

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Enslaved Fact Sheet

Ghana	
Why did Ghana need more labor in the salt mines? What kind of labor did they use?	What were the conditions for enslaved people who were forced to cross the Sahara Desert?
Mali	
What positions could enslaved people fill in the Mali Empire? Why were they trusted to fill these positions?	What new groups were included as enslaved people in the Mali Empire?
Songhai	
What rules did the Songhai use to protect enslaved people?	How did the Songhai's view of enslaved people change after the Portuguese made contact?