

A thick black L-shaped frame is positioned on the left and right sides of the slide. The left part of the frame starts at the top left and goes down, while the right part starts at the top right and goes down. They meet at the bottom right corner.

AFRICAN KINGDOMS

Mansa Musa and the Spread of Islam

VOCABULARY

- 1. Dhow – a sailboat that uses wind-catching
- 2. Clan – a group of people descended from the same ancestor
- 3. Swahili – the unique culture of Africa's East Coast and the language spoken there

African Kingdoms

800 C.E. – 1600 C.E.

- The kingdoms of: **Ghana (c. 800–1100)**, **Mali (c. 1200–1450)**, **Songhai (c. 1450–1600)** became powerful in **West Africa**.

Contemporary Events

800 C.E. – Charlemagne crowned Holy Roman Emperor.

1000 C.E. – Song Dynasty in China, “Golden Age”, printing, gunpowder.

1200 C.E. – 4th Crusade sacks Constantinople, fracturing the Byzantine Empire.

1346-1353 C.E. – Black Death in Europe

1492 C.E. – Columbus lands in Hispaniola, in the Caribbean.

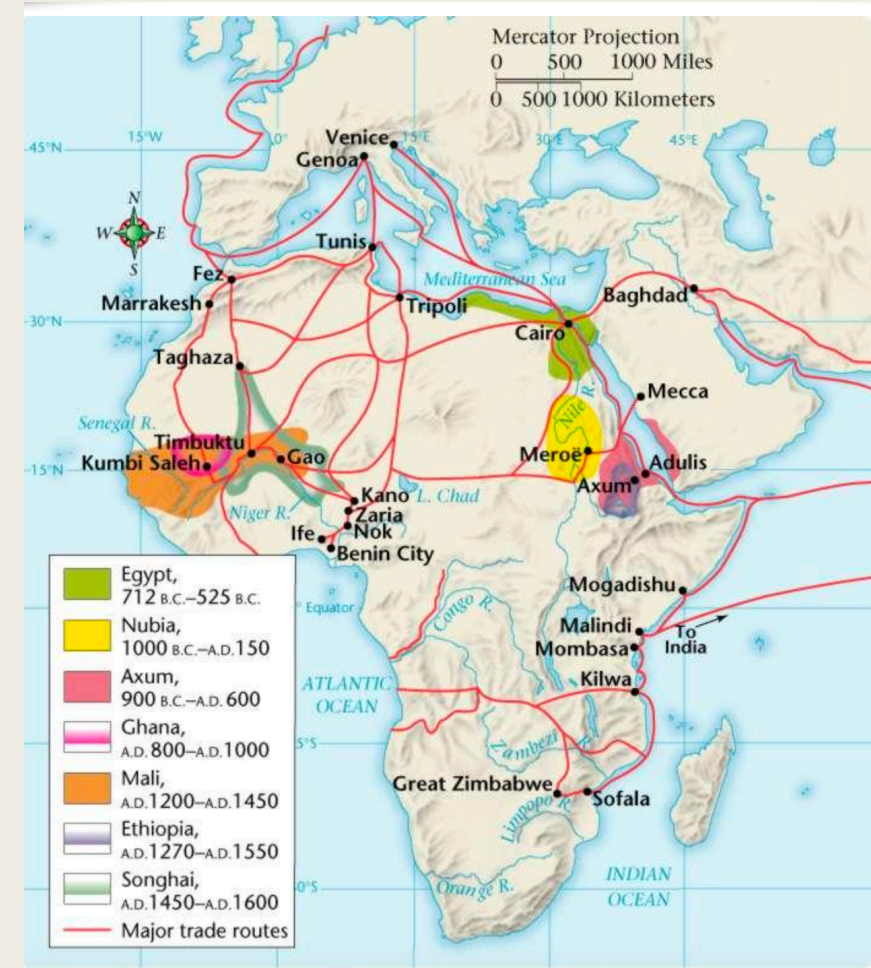
Ghana, Mali, & Songhai

- They controlled important **trade routes** that connected them to **North Africa, Europe**, and the **Middle East**. These kingdoms grew wealthy by trading valuable resources like **gold** and **salt**.

Wealth and Trade

■ Gold-Salt Trade:

- **Gold** was mined in West Africa and traded for **salt**, which came from the **Sahara Desert**.
- Salt was valuable because it was used to **preserve food** and improve health.
- These items were traded along the **Trans-Saharan Trade Routes**, connecting West Africa to the rest of the world.



Wealth and Trade

- **Camels:** Camels were essential for trade across the **Sahara Desert** because they could travel long distances without needing much water.
- **Key Trade Cities:**
 - ***Timbuktu:** A center for **trade and learning**, where merchants, scholars, and goods gathered.*
 - ***Jenne:** A trading city that was important for commerce and cultural exchange.*



Geography and Climate Zones

■ Climate Zones:

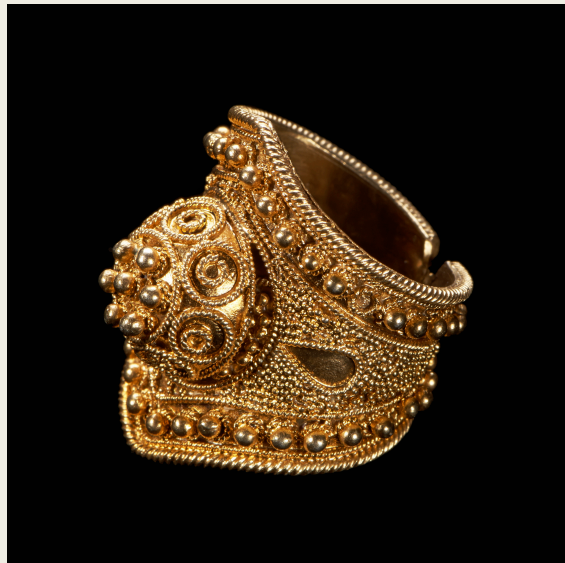
- **Deserts**, like the Sahara, limited farming but encouraged trade.
- **Savannas**, or grassy plains, were good for farming and herding.
- **Rainforests** in some areas provided wood, food, and unique resources like kola nuts.



Shared Features of West African Kingdoms

■ Art and Culture:

- *These kingdoms created beautiful **artwork**, including gold jewelry, bronze statues, and clay sculptures.*



Shared Features of West African Kingdoms

- **Religion and Traditions:**
 - *Many people practiced traditional African religions, which were polytheistic.*
 - *Islam spread to **West Africa** through **trade**. Many rulers converted, bringing Islamic laws and scholars to their courts. Islamic beliefs mixed with African traditions, creating a unique West African culture.*



Shared Features of West African Kingdoms

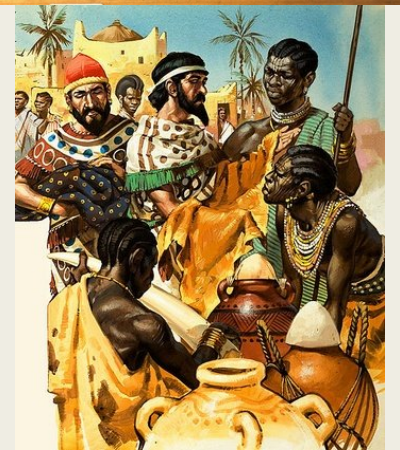
■ Griots:

- ***Griots** were storytellers who preserved history through oral traditions. They told stories about kings, battles, and daily life.*



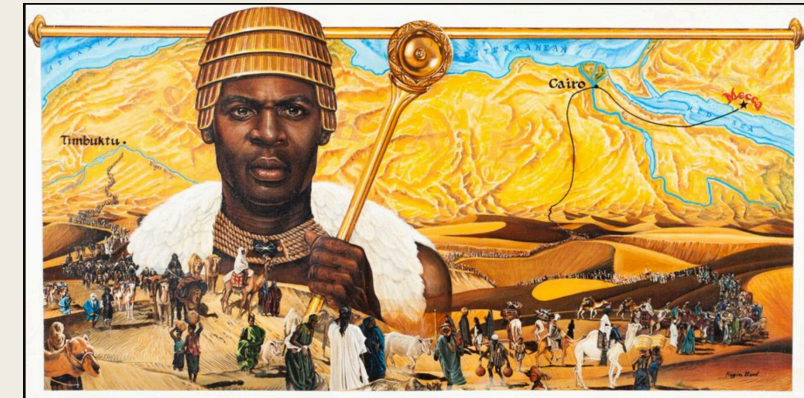
Ghana (c. 800-1100 C.E.)

- **Wealth from Trade:** Ghana **controlled** the **gold trade** and **taxed** merchants who passed through its lands.
- **Iron Tools:** Ghana used iron tools for farming and weapons to expand its power.
- **Decline:** Ghana weakened after invasions by the **Almoravids** and the loss of trade routes.



Mali (c. 1200 – 1450)

- **Mansa Musa:**
 - *Mali's most famous ruler, known for his **hajj** (pilgrimage) to Mecca. His journey showed the world Mali's wealth and forged **diplomatic alliances**.*
 - *He built **mosques** and supported education, making **Timbuktu** a center for religion and learning.*
 - *Mansa Musa's generosity with gold caused its value to drop temporarily in regions he visited.*
- **Agriculture and Trade:** Mali used **iron tools** to improve farming, which supported its growing population and trade network.



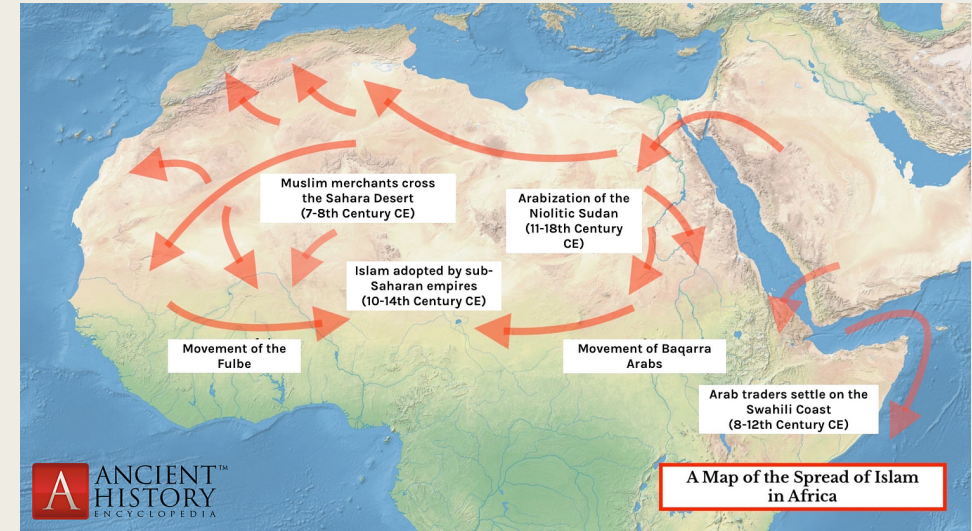
Songhai (c. 1450 – 1600)

- **Askia Muhammad:**
 - *A Songhai leader who expanded the empire and improved its government.*
 - *He supported education and kept **Timbuktu** as a cultural hub.*
- **Military Strength:** Songhai had a strong army but eventually fell to the **Moroccans**, who used **gunpowder weapons** like cannons.



Spread of Islam to Eastern Africa

- Islam spread slowly through East Africa—arrived in the A.D. 700s but did not gain many followers until the 1100s and 1200s.
- A new society arose known as Swahili. It was based on a blend of African and Muslim cultures.
- Swahili comes from an Arabic word meaning “people of the coast”.
- By 1331, Swahili came to mean both the culture of East Africa’s coast and the language spoken there.



Eastern African Kingdoms

In ancient times powerful kingdoms arose in East Africa

Axum

- Located on the Red Sea
- Important stop on the trade route linking Africa, the Mediterranean, and India.
- Christianity became the official religion
- Exported: ivory, incense, and enslaved people
- Imported: cloth, metal goods, and olive oil

Zimbabwe

- Arose in southeastern Africa
- Inland Territory rich in copper and gold mines
- "Great Zimbabwe" means great stone buildings.
- Exported: minerals, ivory, coconut oil, and enslaved people
- Imported: silk, glass beads, carpets, and pottery

How does culture diffusion happen?

- Cultural diffusion is the spreading of ideas to new regions.
 - *Examples: Christmas traditions, foods, religions*
- 1) People move from place to place
- 2) Trade
- 3) Warfare