

West African Kingdoms Overview

Introduction

The kingdoms of _____ (c. 800–1100), _____ (c. 1200–1450), and _____ (c. 1450–1600) became powerful in **West Africa**. They controlled important _____ routes that connected them to **North Africa, Europe, and the Middle East**. These kingdoms grew wealthy by trading valuable resources like _____ and _____.

Wealth and Trade

- **Gold-Salt Trade:**
 - _____ was mined in West Africa and traded for _____, which came from the **Sahara Desert**.
 - Salt was valuable because it was used to **preserve** _____ and improve _____.
 - These _____ were traded along the **Trans-Saharan Trade Routes**, connecting West Africa to the rest of the _____.
- **Camels:** _____ were essential for trade across the _____ **Desert** because they could travel long distances without needing much _____.
- _____: A center for **trade and learning**, where merchants, scholars, and goods gathered.
- _____: A trading city that was important for commerce and cultural exchange.

Geography and Climate Zones

- **Climate Zones:**
 - _____, like the Sahara, limited _____ but encouraged _____.
 - _____, or grassy plains, were good for _____ and _____.
 - _____ in some areas provided wood, food, and unique resources like kola nuts.

Shared Features of West African Kingdoms

1. **Art and Culture:**
 - These kingdoms created beautiful **artwork**, including gold _____, bronze _____, and clay _____.
2. **Religion and Traditions:**
 - Many people practiced _____ African religions which were _____.
 - Islam spread to **West Africa** through _____. Many rulers converted, bringing Islamic _____ and _____ to their courts. Islamic beliefs mixed with African traditions, creating a unique West African culture.

3. Griots:

- _____ were storytellers who preserved history through _____.
They told stories about _____, _____, and _____ life.

Ghana (c. 800–1100)

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

Mali (c. 1200–1450)

Mansa Musa:

- Mali's most famous ruler, known for his _____ (pilgrimage) to Mecca. His journey showed the world Mali's wealth and forged _____.
- He built _____ and supported education, making _____ a center for religion and learning.
- Mansa Musa's generosity with gold caused its _____ to drop temporarily in regions he visited.

Agriculture and Trade: Mali used _____ to improve farming, which supported its growing _____ and _____ network.

Songhai (c. 1450–1600)

Askia Muhammad:

- A Songhai leader who _____ the empire and improved its _____.
- He supported _____ and kept _____ as a cultural hub.

Military Strength: Songhai had a strong _____ but eventually fell to the _____, who used _____ weapons like cannons.

East Africa and Islam

- Islam spread slowly through _____ Africa—arrived in the 700s C.E. but did not gain many followers until the 1100s and 1200s.
- A new _____ arose in East Africa known as **Swahili**. It was based on a _____ of African and Muslim cultures. _____ 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.

Category	<u>Aksum (100-940 C.E.)</u>	<u>Zimbabwe (1220-1450 C.E.)</u>
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Location	Located in modern day _____,	S.E. Africa, modern day _____
Religion / Culture	_____ became the official religion.	“Great Zimbabwe” means “Great Stone _____.” They were architects.
Economy	Export: Ivory, Incense, Enslaved People, Gold. Import: Cloth, Metal, Olive Oil.	Export: minerals, ivory, coconut oil, enslaved people. Import: Silk, glass beads, carpets, pottery.