

Chapter 15.2 – West African Civilizations

1. Setting the Stage

- a. 3 powerful West African empires arose in the _____, the _____ just south of the Sahara
- b. They grew strong by controlling trade in this region

2. Empire of Ghana

- a. By 200, trade across the Sahara had existed but it was infrequent and irregular due to the harsh desert conditions
 - i. 3rd c. Berbers started using _____ which could travel longer and farther without water
 1. this helped nomads create _____ across the desert and _____ increased
- b. the new trade routes crossed the region farmed by the Soninke people
 - i. The Soninke used the word _____ for their _____ and Muslim traders started to use it for the _____
 - ii. _____ – by the 700's the kingdom and its rulers were growing rich by _____ that traders carried through their territory

c. Gold-Salt Trade

- i. _____ came from the forest region south of the savanna between the Niger and Senegal rivers and sent _____
- ii. _____ came _____ from the desert and was brought down by Arab and Berber traders
- iii. _____ met in trading cities where they exchanged goods under the eye of the _____

d. Land of Gold

- i. By 800, Ghana had become an empire and its king controlled trade and a large army
- ii. The king stored gold nuggets in his palace and he was the _____ allowed to have them so he could keep a _____ and kept it from _____
- iii. Ghana's ruler acted as a _____ leader, _____ judge and _____
 1. He headed a large _____ and could call up a huge army

e. Islamic Influences

- i. Islam spread south of the Sahara through _____ as _____ and teachers settled in the states south of the Sahara and introduce their faith
- ii. Ghana's _____ eventually converted to _____ and by the 11th c. _____ were helping the king run the kingdom
- iii. While the rulers accepted Islam most of the people kept their animistic traditions and practices
 1. _____ – the belief that spirits living in animals, plants, and natural forces play an important role in daily life
- iv. Islam's growth encouraged the _____ because to read the Qur'an they had to learn _____

- v. 1076 – the Muslim Almoravids of North Africa completed their conquest of Ghana
 - 1. The almoravids left soon after but the _____ was badly disrupted that Ghana never _____

What introduction first allowed successful trade routes through the Sahara Desert?

3. Empire of Mali

- a. _____ – 1235 the kingdom had emerged – founded by Mande-speaking people who lived south of Ghana
 - i. Mali gained its _____ through _____ which was found further east – this caused the most important _____ to shift _____ which made the people of Mali wealthy

b. Sundiata Conquers an Empire

- i. _____ – Mali’s first great leader – he became Mali’s _____, or emperor
- ii. He put able administrators in charge of Mali’s finances, defense and foreign affairs, promoted agriculture and reestablished the _____
- iii. People began to call Sundiata’s Empire Mali meaning “_____”

c. Mansa Musa Expands Mali

- i. After Sundiata’s death, Mali’s next rulers became _____ who built mosques, attended public prayers, and supported the preaching of Muslim holy men
 - 1. _____ – a Muslim holy man who was a great military leader who exercised _____ over the _____
 - i. His large army kept order and protected Mali from attacks and his empire expanded to twice the size of the empire of Ghana
 - ii. He divided his empire into _____ and appointed _____ to help him govern his far-reaching empire
 - 2. He made his hajj to Mecca from 1324 to 1325 and on his return he ordered the building of new mosques at the trading cities of Timbuktu and Gao
 - i. _____ became an important city that attracted Muslim judges, doctors, religious leaders and scholars to its outstanding mosques and universities

d. Travels of Ibn Battuta

- i. _____ – a historian and traveler who had traveled for 27 years visiting most of the Islamic countries
 - 1. He praised the people for their study of the Qur’an and the safety of the kingdom
- ii. Ibn Battuta left Mali in 1353 and within 50 years the empire began to weaken
 - 1. Mansa Musa’s successors lacked the ability _____ and the _____ had shifted further _____ as new goldfields were developed there

What governing institutions did Mansa Musa introduce to his empire?

4. Empire of Songhai

- a. As the Mali empire declined in the 1400s, people who were under their control started to break away
- b. _____ – people to the _____ of Mali built up an army and extended their territory along the Niger river – they set up their capital at Gao
 - i. They gained control of the important _____
- c. **Sunni Ali, a Conquering Hero**
 - i. _____ – built a vast empire by _____ – rule started in 1564 and lasted for 30 years
 1. He expanded his empire through his military skills and aggressive leadership
 2. His first major success came when he captured Timbuktu
- d. **Askia Muhammad Governs Well**
 - i. After Sunni Ali's death, his son succeeded him as ruler and almost at once he faced a major revolt by _____ because he did not practice their _____
 - ii. _____ – a devout Muslim who drove Ali's son away and replaced him
 1. Set up an _____ and chose able officers
 2. To strengthen the _____ he appointed officers to serve as _____ of treasury, army, navy and agriculture
 - iii. Despite its wealth and learning, the Songhai empire lacked _____
 1. Gunpowder was invented in the 9th c. and the first gun around the 1304
 2. In 1591, a _____ fighting force with _____ crossed the Sahara and defeated the Songhai warriors who were armed with just swords and spears
 - i. The Songhai Empire ended a 1,000-year period of kingdoms and empires ruled the central region of West Africa

What would motivate the Moroccans to overtake the Songhai?

5. Other Peoples of West Africa

a. Hausa City-States Compete

- i. _____ – a group of people who were named after the language they spoke
 1. The city-state first emerged between years 1000 and 1200 in the area east of Mali and Songhai
 2. In city-state such as Kano, Katsina, and Zazzau, rulers built _____ for their capitals and governed the _____ outside the city walls
 - i. Each ruler depended on the _____ of their farmers and the _____ because they were located on _____ linking West African states to the Mediterranean
 - ii. Kano and Katsina became major _____ and profited greatly
 3. All Hausa city-states had a similar government

- i. _____ held great power but _____ and other officials acted to _____
- 4. Rulers had private armies and attacked other city-states but none every controlled more than one for long enough to form a _____

b. Yoruba Kings and Artists

- i. _____ – a group of farming people who spoke the same language
 - 1. Over time some of the smaller communities joined together under a strong leader which led to the formation of several Yoruba kingdoms
 - 2. Yoruba kings were _____ and served as the most important _____ and _____ leaders in their kingdom
 - i. All kings traced their descent from the _____, where he founded the first Yoruba kingdom
 - ii. All Yoruba chiefs regarded the king of Ife as their highest _____
 - 3. Most rural farms in the surrounding areas produced a _____, which was sent to the cities
 - i. This enabled city dwellers to become _____ and _____
 - ii. The Ife were gifted artists who carved wood and ivory and produced terracotta sculptures and cast them in metal

6. Kingdom of Benin

- a. _____ - a kingdom that lay near the delta of the Niger River – its people made their homes in the _____
 - i. The first kings of Benin dates back to 1200s and based his right to rule on claims of descent from the _____
- b. _____ – 1400s, he was a Benin _____ (ruler) who turned them into a major West African state
 - i. He strengthened Benin city by _____ around it
 - ii. He had artists creating brass heads of the royal family and copper figures, brass plaques on the walls and columns of the royal palace of the oba _____, historical _____ and the _____ of the oba and his nobles
- c. In the 1480's the Portuguese started trading with Benin merchants for pepper, leopard skins, ivory, and enslaved people
 - i. This began several centuries of European interference with Africa and enslavement of their people