Ancient Africa

Ghana

**The Big Idea**

The rulers of Ghana built an empire by controlling the salt and gold trade.

**Main Ideas**

* Ghana controlled trade and became wealthy.
* Through its control of trade, Ghana built an empire.
* Attacking invaders, overgrazing, and the loss of trade caused Ghana’s decline.
* Sometime after 300 the first farmers in Ghana, the\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_. The Soninke began to band together for \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, forming the beginnings of Ghana.
* They grew in strength, learning to work with \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_. They used iron farm tools to \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, allowing the population to increase. They also made superior \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.
* Ghana lay between the vast \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ and deep forests, a good position to trade in the region’s most valuable resources, \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.

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| Gold  \*  \* | Salt  \*  \* |

**Trading Gold and Salt**

* The exchange of gold and salt sometimes followed a **\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_** process in which people exchange goods without \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.
  + Helped ensure \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ did business peacefully
  + Kept exact\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_
* As trade increased, Ghana’s rulers gained \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.
  + Their \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ grew as well.
  + Began to take control of \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_
  + \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ of Ghana became wealthy.
* Additional sources of wealth and trade included\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.
* As trade increased, Ghana’s capital, \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ became West Africa’s largest city and a great trading center.

By 800 Ghana was firmly in control of West Africa’s \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.

Traders were protected by Ghana’s \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.

Ghana’s rulers made money by forcing traders to \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_. The people of Ghana also had to \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.

Ghana’s mines produced huge amounts of \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, which was officially \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.

The rulers banned \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.

**Expansion of the Empire**

* Ghana’s kings used their \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ to build a powerful army and conquer many of their neighbors. Many conquered \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, bringing more wealth.
* Travel and communication were difficult in their large empire, so\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.

**Attacking invaders, overgrazing,   
and the loss of trade caused Ghana’s decline.**

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| --- | --- | --- |
| Invasion  \*  \*  \* | Overgrazing  \*  \*  \* | Internal Rebellion  \*  \*  \* |

**The Big Idea**

Between 1000 and 1500 the empires of Mali and Songhai  
developed in West Africa.

**Main Ideas**

* The empire of Mali reached its height under the ruler Mansa Musa, but the empire fell to invaders in the 1400s.
* The Songhai built a new Islamic empire in West Africa, conquering many of the lands that were once part of Mali.
* \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ lay along the upper **Niger River**.
* In the 1200s a harsh ruler conquered Mali. Sundiata was a boy at the time, but as an adult, he built up an army, \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, and \_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, including Ghana.
* Sundiata took over the \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ trades, worked to improve agriculture, and introduced \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ as a crop.
* He took power away from \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_. This gave him both political and religious authority in society.

**MANSA MUSA**

* Mali’s most famous ruler was a Muslim named \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ who ruled from 1312 to 1337.
* Mali reached the height of its wealth, power, and fame in the 1300s, \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.
* During his reign Mali added many important trade cities to its empire, including **\_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**.
* In 1324 Mansa Musa made a \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, spreading Mali’s fame far and wide.
* He supported education, stressed the importance of learning to read Arabic, and hired \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_. A **mosque** is a \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.
* When Mansa Musa died, his son Maghan, a weak ruler, took the throne.
* Raiders invaded from the southeast and set fire to Timbuktu.
* In 1431 the Tuareg, nomads from the Sahara, seized Timbuktu.
* By 1500 only a small area of Mali remained.

Main Idea 2

From their capital at **\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**, the \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ participated in the same trade that had made Ghana and Mali rich.

Songhai had been part of the \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, but as the empire weakened in the 1400s, the people of Songhai rebelled.

Songhai leaders shared Islam with the \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, so the Berbers were willing to trade with the \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, who became ruler of the Songhai in 1464, worked to unify, strengthen, and enlarge his empire.

**Sunni Ali encouraged everyone to work together. To build religious harmony, he participated in \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.**

**Songhai Falls to Morocco**

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| **\***  **\***  **\*** | **\***  **\*** |

**West Africans have preserved their history through storytelling and   
the written accounts of visitors.**

Early West Africans did not have a native written language. They passed along information through oral histories. An **\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_** is a spoken record of past events.

The task of remembering and telling their history was entrusted to the **griots**, \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.

In addition to stories, the griots recited **proverbs**, \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.

Visitors also wrote about the region. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ was the most famous Muslim visitor to write about West Africa. From \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ he traveled through the region and wrote about his journey.

Important People

Mansa Musa\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Sundiata\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Soninke\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Koumbi Saleh\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Berbers\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Almoravids\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Timbuktu\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Gao\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Sunni Ali\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Kente\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Griots\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_