

West Africa

# People and Ideas Migrate

## **The Sahara Dries Out**

- Africa- Paleolithic people- hunt and gather
- 5500 BC- Neolithic farmers- Nile Valley- animals- also in Sahara which used to be grassland
- 2500 BC- climate change- \_\_\_\_\_ of Sahara- migration of inhabitants

# Trade in the Sahara

## Trading Gold for Salt

- \_\_\_\_\_ dominated- btw AD 500 and 1600 8 tons of gold from Africa per year
- West Africans traded for commodity (\_\_\_\_\_- salt- \_\_\_\_\_)
- salt abundance in Sahara- Taghaza salt block houses
- savanna- salt scarce- 1 lb of gold = 1 lb of salt
- monarchs began to control emerging cities= kingdoms

# Ghana: The Land of Gold

- AD 800- \_\_\_\_\_ rulers unite- kingdom of \_\_\_\_\_ (not same as present country)
- between Niger and Senegal Rivers- present day Mali
- controlled trade- \_\_\_\_\_

# Ghana: The Land of Gold

## **Cities of Splendor**

- Ghana capital: \_\_\_\_\_ - 2 separate town 6 miles apart
- first town- dominated by royal palace and court- king thought of as godlike
- second town- Muslim merchants lived in extravagant stone houses- rich from trade

# Ghana: The Land of Gold

## **Influence of Islam**

- Muslim traders= spread of \_\_\_\_\_
- Muslims in government- influenced king- military, economy, language
- most Soninke people still followed traditional faith
- eventually Ghana taken over by kingdom of \_\_\_\_\_

# The Kingdom of Mali

- kingdom of \_\_\_\_\_ - upper Niger- defeated- king and all but one sons executed
- one son- \_\_\_\_\_ - thought to be too sick and weak to rule
- by 1235- Sundiata crushed his enemies, controlled trade routes, founded kingdom of Mali

# The Kingdom of Mali

## Mansa Musa Rules Mali

- \_\_\_\_\_ - kings of Mali (“where the king dwells”)
- expanded to control gold mines and salt- saw \_\_\_\_\_ - become major trade city
- \_\_\_\_\_ - 1312- greatest Mali king
- expanded to Atlantic- ensured peace throughout empire
- converted to Islam- based justice on Quran- still promoted tolerance



# The Kingdom of Mali

- The Hajj of Mansa Musa
- 1324- made the Hajj with \_\_\_\_\_ new allies with Muslim countries
- brought back scholars and architects- built Islamic university in Timbuktu
- Made impact on people he passed due to \_\_\_\_\_

# The Empire of Songhai

## Extending the Empire

- after Mansa Musa, people fought over succession- some broke away
- 1460s- wealthy trading city- Gao- capital of West African  
\_\_\_\_\_ kingdom
- bend of Niger- largest kingdom in West Africa to this point
- soldier-king Sonni Ali- traditional religion
- after his death, emperor Askia Muhammad- Muslim dynasty-  
expanded empire, bureaucracy

# The Empire of Songhai

- Askia Muhammad made Hajj- strong ties with other Muslim nations
- \_\_\_\_\_ became center of Muslim learning- schools and mosques

# The Empire of Songhai

## **Armies Invade From the North**

- after Askia died, Songhai still prospered but succession disputes began
- 1549- Askia David- peace until death 1582- then civil war over succession
- sultan of Morocco- Ahmad al-Mansur sent armies to seize gold and salt mines of Songhai- conquered by 1591
- Moroccan control eventually weakened but Songhai never returned

# Smaller Societies of West Africa

## **Ile-Ife: A Center of Culture and Trade**

- 1000AD- major center for culture and trade
- Leaders called \_\_\_\_\_
- People called it “the place where the world was created”- we really know little about them
  - Modern town built on earlier city
  - In rainforest- dampness and vegetation of overrun ruins
  - Some of only artifacts- \_\_\_\_\_

# Smaller Societies of West Africa

## **The Forest Kingdom of Benin**

- rose in rain forests of Guinea coasts and southern Nigeria- farming- also mined \_\_\_\_\_
- traded pepper and ivory (\_\_\_\_\_ later) to neighbors
- Benin government organized in 1300s- led by \_\_\_\_\_ - ruled all aspects of life
- some power spread to queen and hereditary chiefs
- 3 mile wall around capital- \_\_\_\_\_-temple of brass monuments
- Ruled until late 1600s