

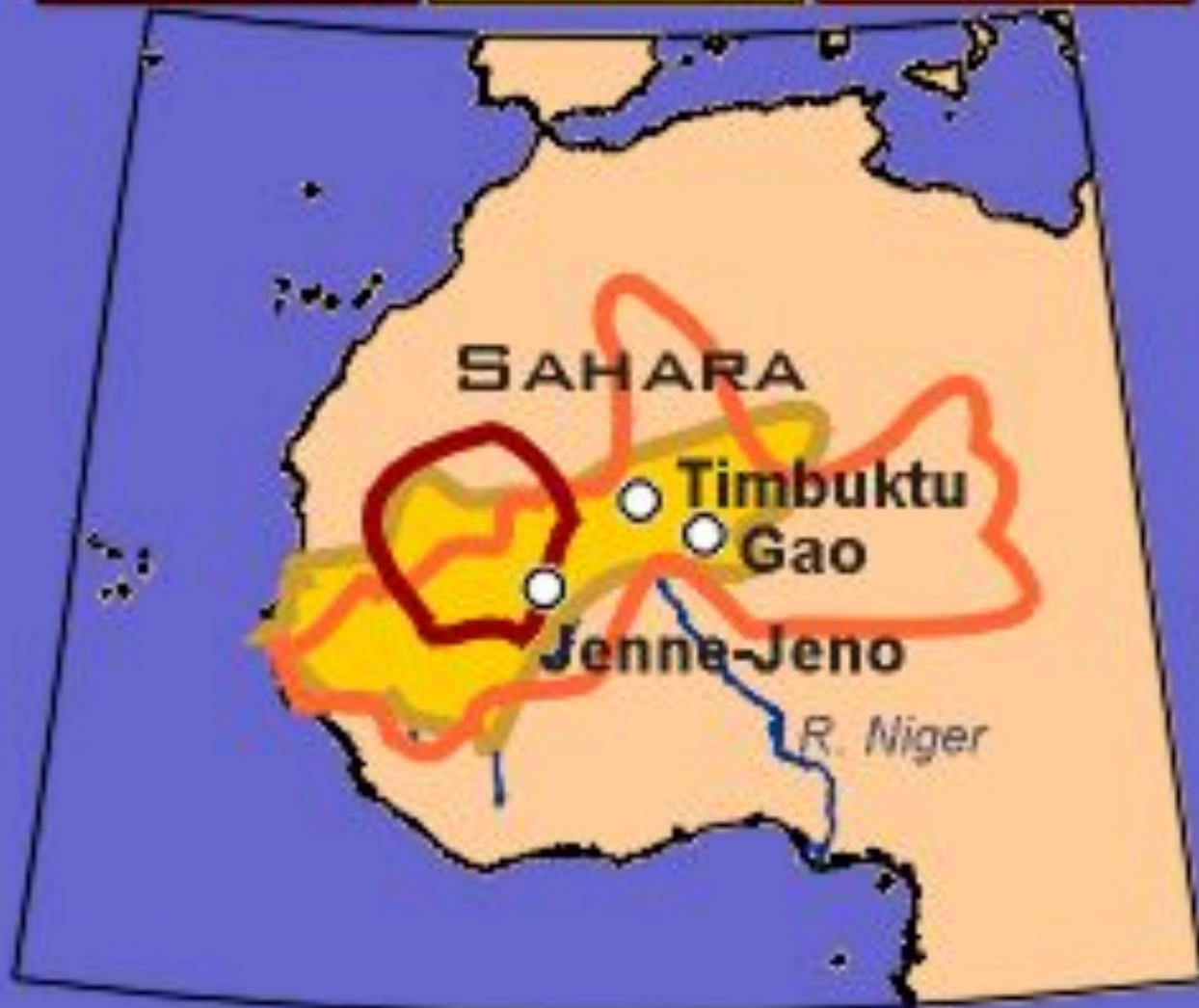


West African Kingdoms

Ghana
11th Century

Mali
14th Century

Songhai
15th Century



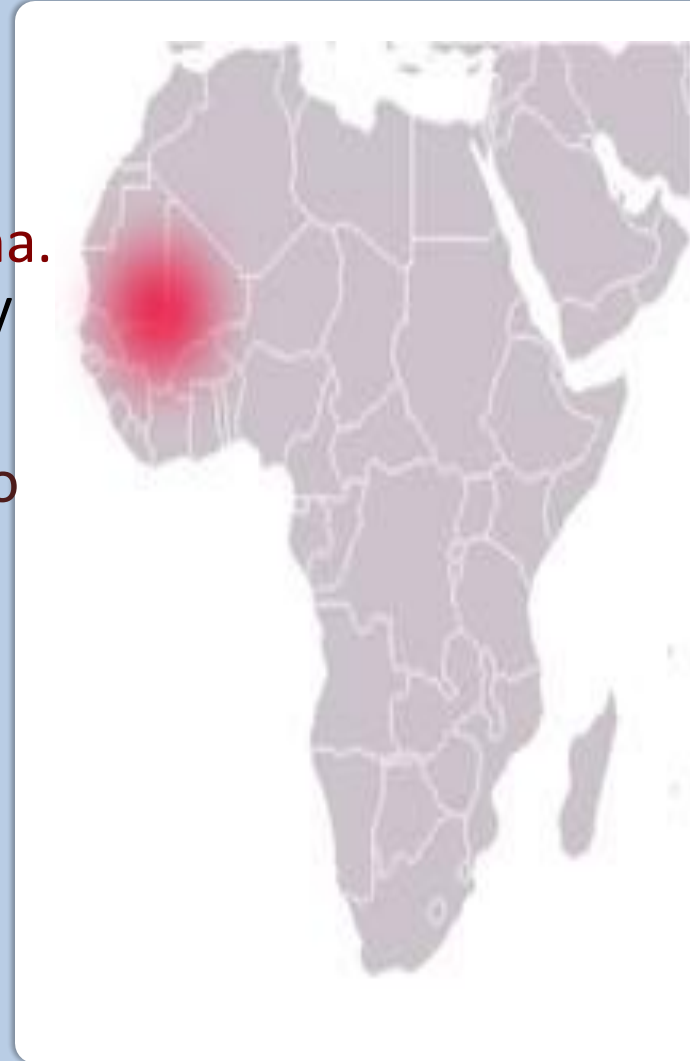
A History of Rich Trading Empires

3 African Trading Empires (Ghana, Mali, Songhai)

- These empires thrived as trading routes across the Sahara
- What are the two important products traded during this time?
 - Salt and Gold

Ghana

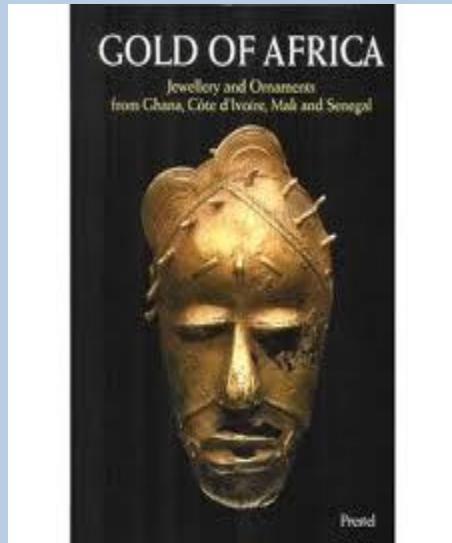
- Ghana developed in West Africa between the Niger (NI-jhur) and the Gambia Rivers.
- Many of the trade routes crossed this area farmed by the Sonike people.
- They called their leader *ghana*, war chief.
- Traders began to refer to this area as Ghana.
- The rivers helped Ghana grow rich b/c they were used to transport goods & develop trade.
- Taxing the traders that passed through also built wealth for Ghana.
- Ghana became an empire around 300 C.E., but declined in power by the early 12th century (1100s).



This describes the court of one king of Ghana.



"The King . . .(wears). . . necklaces round his neck and bracelets on his forearms and he puts on a high cap decorated with gold and wrapped in a turban of fine cotton. He (meets people) in a domed pavilion around which stand ten horses covered with gold-embroidered materials...and on his right, are the sons of the (lesser) kings of his country, wearing splendid garments and their hair plaited with gold.



At the door of the pavilion are dogs of excellent pedigree. Round their necks they wear collars of gold and silver, studded with a number of balls of the same metals."

Ghana

Ghana grew more rich & powerful when the camel began to be used as a source of transport b/c it made trade faster & caravans could carry large quantities of goods



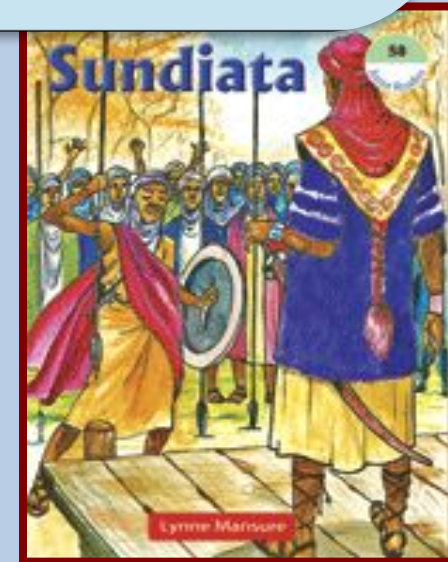
After 700 AD, Islam began to spread over northern Africa. Muslim warriors came into Ghana & fought w/ non-Islamic people there. This weakened the great civilization of Ghana and led to its decline.

Mali

➤ By 1235, the kingdom of Mali had emerged.

➤ Mali's first great leader, Sundiata, conquered Ghana.

➤ He promoted agriculture & reestablished the gold & salt trade.





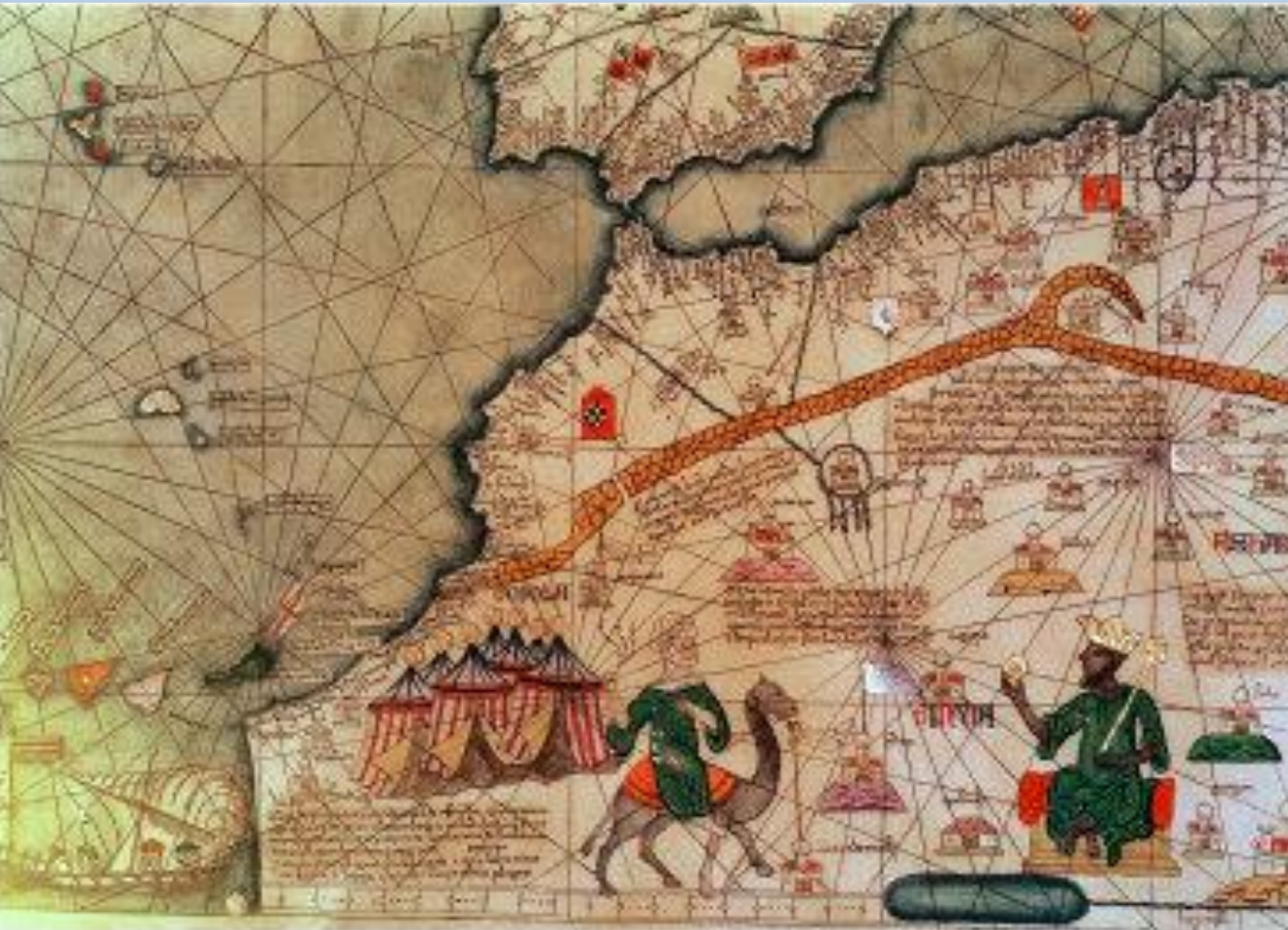
- One of the greatest kings of Mali was Mansa Musa (1312-1337). He was Muslim.
- In 1324 Mansa Musa made a pilgrimage (hajj) to Mecca w/ 60,000 servants & followers and 80 camels carrying more than 4,000 pounds of gold to be distributed among the poor. Of the 12,000 servants 500 carried a staff of pure gold. This showed his power and wealth to the other people he visited



- Income from taxes supported the gov't and growth of the military. Taxes also helped to build great mosques and palaces
- Timbuktu became an important center for learning

Mali declines

- When Mansa Musa died there were no kings as powerful as he was to follow
- Mali weakened
- Around 1400 Mali declined b/c of lack of leadership & the discovery of new gold fields farther east.
- The kingdom of Songhai replaced Mali



This map was created in 1375. The same trade routes were used by the merchants of the Songhai kingdom.

What kinds of pictures do you see on the map and why do you think the mapmaker put them there?

Songhai Empire



Songhai

-Around 1400, the empire of Songhai replaced Mali under the leadership of Sunni Ali

-Songhai was the largest of the 3 African kingdoms

-It controlled the trans-Saharan trade routes & sources of gold and salt

-In late 1500s, a Moroccan army invaded Songhai, & was able to destroy the empire w/ their advanced weapons (guns & cannons)



Discovery
EDUCATION