

Lands of Gold and Salt



Gold was a surplus in West Africa, so it was traded for the commodity of salt.

Salt



12mi. of walls

ISOFT

Kano was the most prosperous city-state of Hausa, a small West African society. Hausa's city-states were walled for protection

*Ghana was between the Niger and Senegal Rivers.

Trade was important to West African societies, and it was dominated by two products: gold and salt. As trade grew, cities arose south of the Sahara Desert. The first major kingdom in West Africa was Ghana, but the land was later ruled by the kingdoms of Mali and Songhai. In the period from 500 to 1500, several smaller kingdoms prospered in addition to these large kingdoms.

Key Terms:

surplus - an excess amount
commodity - a valuable product

Ghana - early West African trading kingdom located in present-day Mauritania and Mali

Sundiata - a sickly boy regarded as too weak to be a threat

Mali - medieval West African trading empire located in present-day Mali

Mansa Musa - greatest ruler of Mali

Songhai - medieval West African kingdom located in present-day Mali, Niger, and Nigeria

founded Mali



The Moroccans used gunpowder weapons to conquer Songhai for its gold and salt mines.

However, they were not able to rule it.

Questions:

- How did trade develop between West Africa and North Africa?
Farming villages produced surpluses, which they traded.
- Why was Kumbi Saleh able to become wealthy?
Merchants who were lured by the wealth of Ghana ("the land of gold") made its capital, Kumbi Saleh, a center of trade.
- Who took control of Ghana, and which kingdom rose to power next?
The Almoravids, Muslims from the north, took control, allowing for the rise of Mali.
- How did Islam influence Mali and Mansa Musa?
He converted to Islam, but promoted religious tolerance. Many Muslims came to Mali.
- What religion did the rulers of Songhai practice?
The soldier-king Sonna Ali followed traditional beliefs, but emperor Askia Muhammed set up a Muslim dynasty.

reverted covering the smaller city-states, but I was able to cover
at least Hausa in an image.

Reading 11.2; The Kingdoms of West Africa/**THE EMPIRE OF SALT**

Summarization:

5 points

Trade of gold and salt helps to develop African kingdoms as kings collect tolls on goods moving in and out of their territories. Slowly, Arabic traders travelling through spread Islam via the major trade routes to much of north Africa. Under Mansa Musa's religion-tolerant rule, the kingdom of Mali asserts itself as a powerful empire during 25 years of west/northward expansion. After the Mali, the Songhai are the largest civilization until they are defeated by the Moroccans.

4 points (missing small city-states)

Terms:

Surplus- an excess of a product

Commodity- a valued product

Ghana- present day Mauritania and Mali

Sundiata- Conqueror of Ghana, Mali ruler.

Mali- medieval west African trading empire

Mansa Musa- Mali ruler 1312-1337 ad

Songhai- medieval west African civilization in Mali, Nigeria and Niger

5 points



Walled cities provide greater protection for merchants.

Questions:

What were considered valuable to African merchants?

Salt and Gold

What gave empires more power?

Control over profitable trade routes

How did kingdoms generate revenue?

They tolled goods shipped through their lands

How did walled cities improve trade?

Walls prevented invasion and allowed for more secure trade posts.

5 points

The sahara desert created a surplus of salt



Camels were the primary source of transport across the Sahara, often travelling in large groups called **CARAVANS**

Merchants had to cross the Sahara desert on camel caravans



Gold was prevalent south of the sahel

Images: 5 points

The dawn of trade and society in the West :- (Section 2)

Key Terms — = important

- **Surplus**: An amount that is more than needed.
- **commodity**: valuable product.
- **Ghana**: Early West African trading kingdom.
- **Sundiata**: won control of gold routes and founder of Mali emperor.
- **Mali**: Medieval West African trading center.
- **Mansa Musa**: Greatest ruler of Mali.
- **Songhai**: Medieval West African kingdom.

summary

As **West Africa** began to develop, it prospered in trade and kingdoms began. The most valuable trade made was gold and salt at this time. In addition, the kingdoms of **Ghana** became known for gold. As time continued, Islam started spreading and Islamic rulers such as Mansa Musa, Askia Dawud, Muhammed, and Ahmad al-Mansur took reign of **Songhai** and **Mali**. As large kingdoms flourished, many small kingdoms also grew such as **Benin** and **Hausa**.

Questions

- 1) What were the 3 main kingdoms?
Answer: **Ghana, Songhai, Mali.**
- 2) What items dominated the Sahara trade?
Answer: **Gold & Salt**
- 3) Ghana is the land of _____.
Answer: **Gold**
- 4) Name an Islamic ruler.
Answer: **Ahmad al-Mansur**
- 5) How long were the walls by the Hausa?
Answer: **3 miles**

Images



Trade Routes

The map shows the routes people in Africa used for trading.