

Terms, People, and Places

- Savanna:
- Rain forests:
- Desertification:
- Tribalism:
- Trans-Saharan Trade Network:
- Ghana:
- Mali:
- Mansa Musa
- Timbuktu:
- Axum:
- Griot:

Lesson Objectives:

- How did the geography of Africa encourage the development of diverse civilizations?
- What factors contributed to the rise and fall of powerful kingdoms in Africa?
- What links did Africa have with global trade routes?
- How did traditional art and literary forms reflect the beliefs of African peoples?

Summary

“Early Civilizations of Africa”

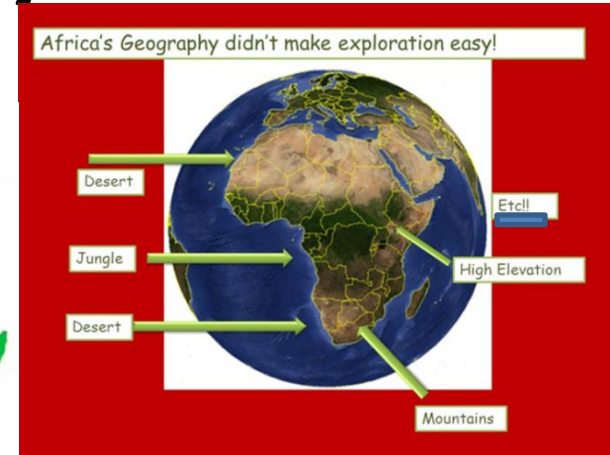
Africa's varied climates & terrains contributed to the development of diverse societies on that continent. From about 800-1600, several civilizations rose and fell in Africa. West Africans built the powerful kingdoms of Mali & Songhai as they gained control over internal trade routes. In East Africa, the Kingdom of Axum became a center of international trade. Africa played an important role in the global trading network. Trade with the people of Europe, the Middle East & India encouraged an exchange of ideas between Africa & other lands. During this time, Islam became established in various parts of Africa. Still, traditional patterns of village, family, & religious life remained important through most of Africa.

Aim #21: How did African civilizations develop before European arrival?



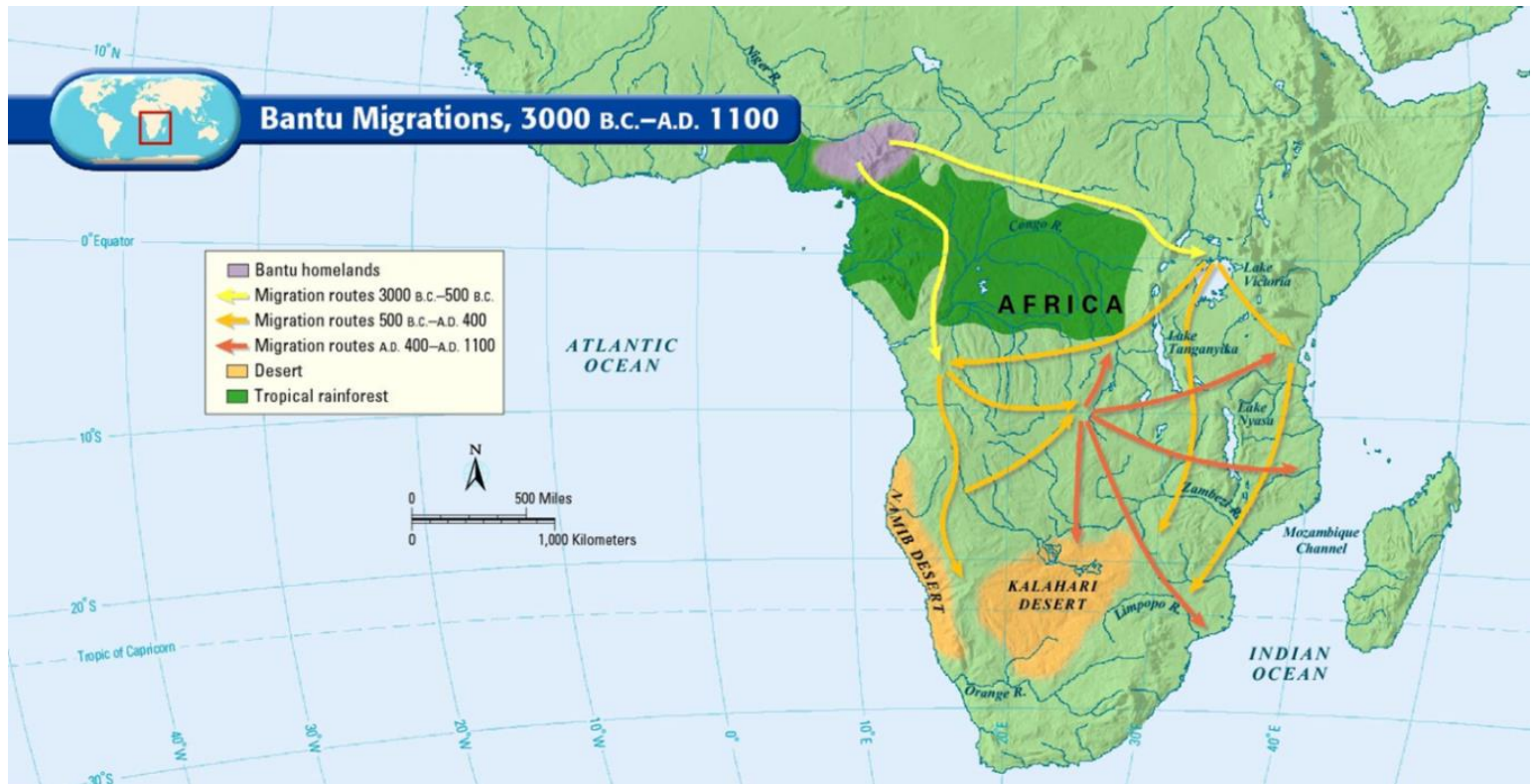
Varied Geography

- Diverse climates & terrains
 - diverse cultures - tribalism
- Barriers
 - Desert (Sahara in N.)
 - ❖ desertification
 - Rainforests
 - Interior plateaus
- Savanna
 - fertile soil
- River (waterfalls)
- Natural Resources:
 - trade



Bantu Migrations (500BCE-1500CE)

- Effects: spread
 - Bantu language
 - iron





Checkpoint

How did the geography of Africa encourage the development of diverse civilizations?

Rise of African Kingdoms

- **Trans-Saharan Network**

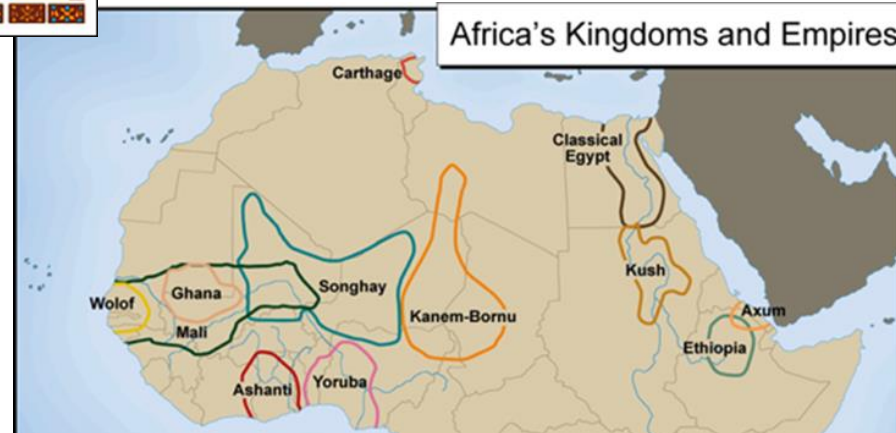
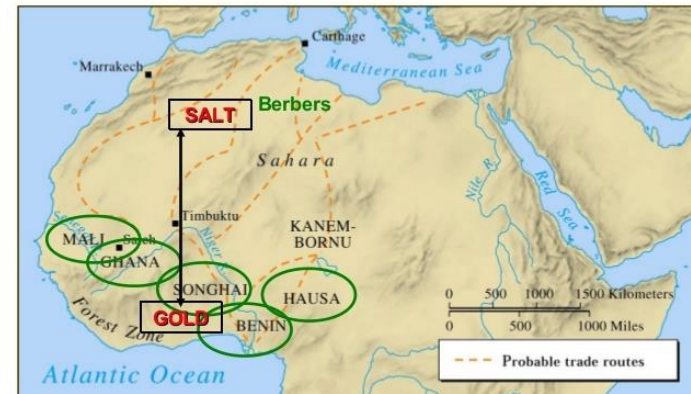
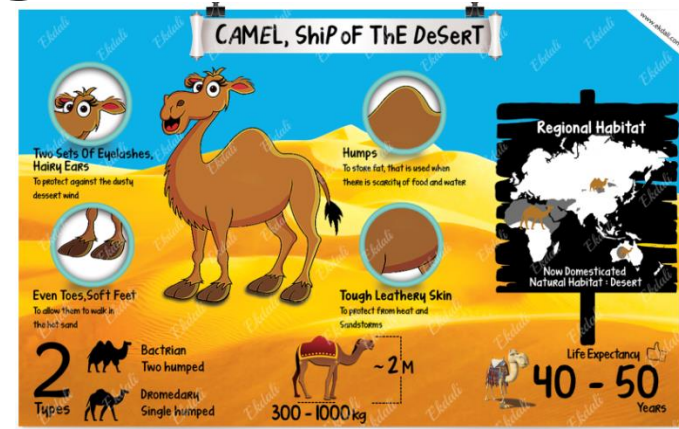
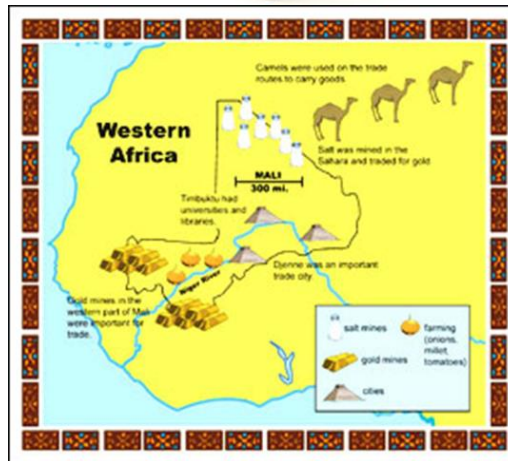
- **Salt & Gold Trade**

- **Slave trade**

- **camels**

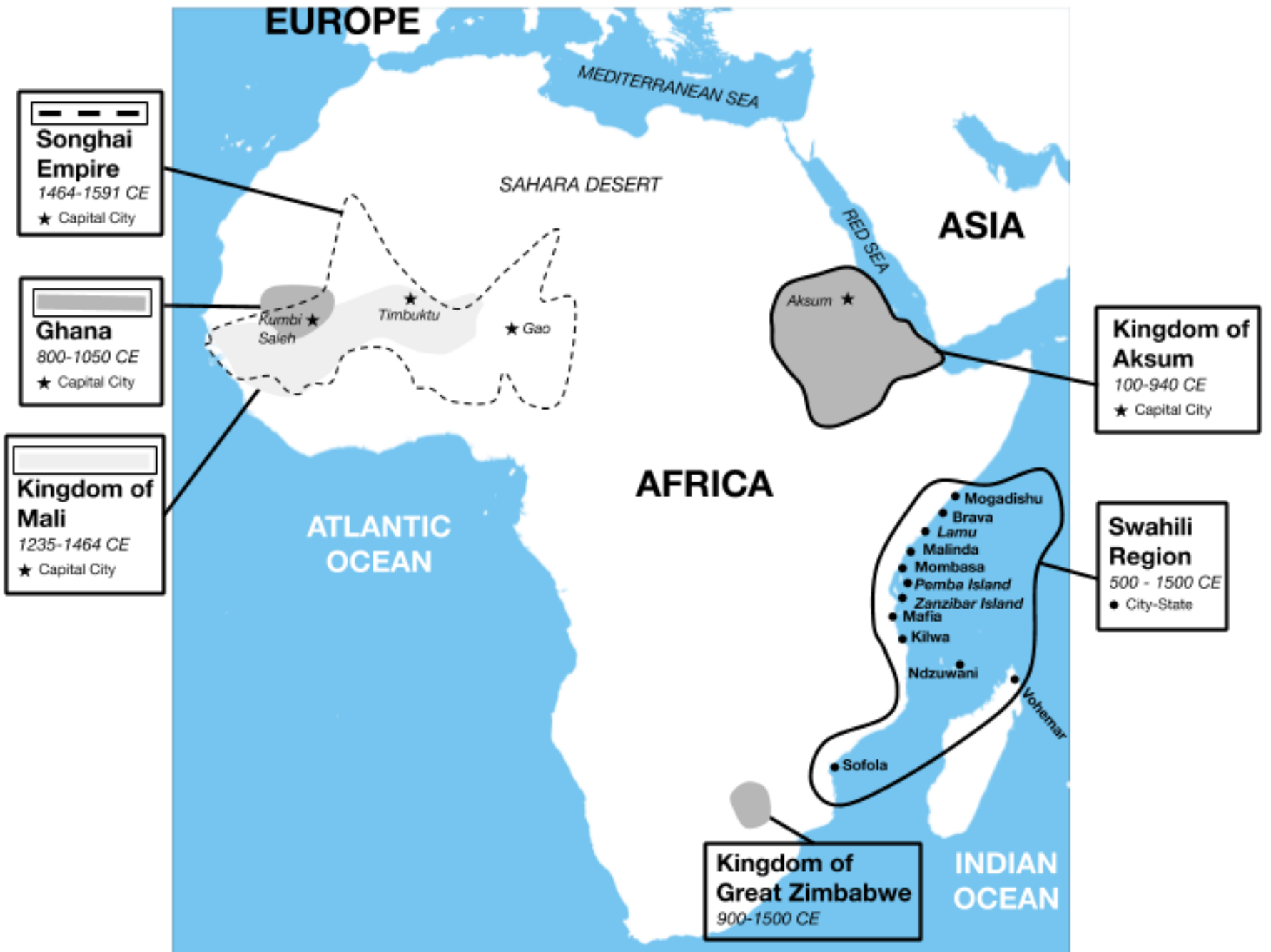
- **Strong kingdoms controlled network**

- **Islam: uniting force**



Trans-Saharan Trade





Ghana (750-1200)

- influenced by Muslims
 - Arabic writing



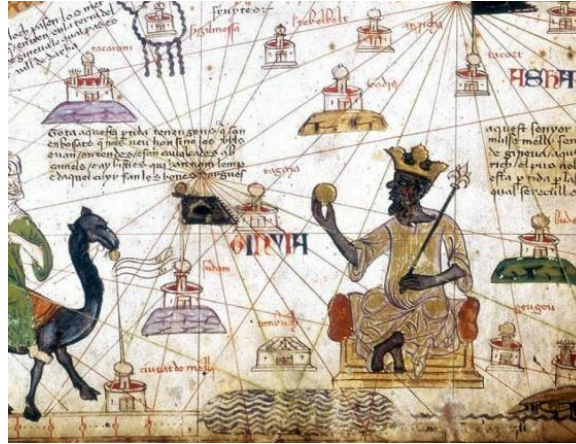
Mali (1250-1450)

- **Mansa Musa**

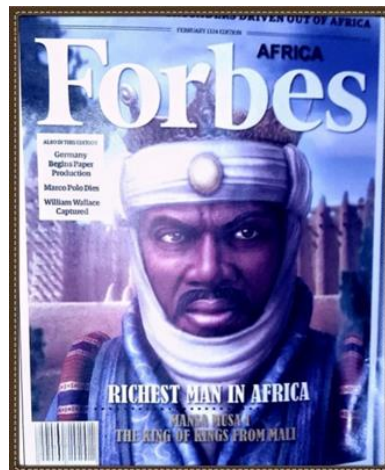
(R. 1312-1337)

➤ Spread Islam across W. Africa

➤ **Timbuktu**



1. Mansa Musa, \$400b.
2. Mr. Saadia ????
3. John D. Rockefeller, \$340b.
4. Andrew Carnegie, \$310b.
5. Nikolai Alexandrovich Romanov, \$300b.





EUROPE

MEDITERRANEAN SEA

SAHARA DESERT

AFRICA

ATLANTIC OCEAN


Songhai Empire
1464-1591 CE
★ Capital City


Ghana
800-1050 CE
★ Capital City


Kingdom of Mali
1235-1464 CE
★ Capital City

Kumbi Saleh ★

Timbuktu ★

Gao ★



West African Empires, 1000–1500

Empire of Ghana, A.D. 1000



Empire of Mali, A.D. 1400



Empire of Songhai, A.D. 1500



GEOGRAPHY SKILLBUILDER: Interpreting Maps

- 1. Region** Compare the regions occupied by the Ghana, Mali, and Songhai empires in terms of size and location.
- 2. Human-Environment Interaction** How did the environment both contribute resources to and cause problems for traders?

How did Islam influence the growth of trade networks and power relations in Africa?

The Mali Empire, which originated in the eighth century, gradually became the most powerful kingdom in the Sahel (the area south of the Sahara Desert), and the leader of the trans-Saharan gold and slave trade. Islam was first introduced to the Sahel region in the eleventh century and quickly spread throughout the region. Though traditional African religious remained popular among the populace, many of the leaders of the Mali Empire and subsequent states followed and supported Islam [...]. The cities of Timbuktu and Djenné were the economic centers of the Mali Empire and attracted traders, scholars, and artisans from across the Islamic world.

Under which empire did Islam spread through West Africa?

Islam in Africa: Crash Course World History Watch 6:53-  <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jvnU0v6hcUo>

6:56 How were the East African Swahili city-states different from an empire?

7:08 These city-states formed a network of _____ ports.

7:11 The East African Swahili city-states were autonomous and did not have to report to a central power. However, they were three things that linked the city-states that made them a common culture:

1) 2) 3)

7:51 Why did historians believe that the Swahili city-states were founded by Arabs or Persians?

8:10 Trade had been going on on the Swahili coast since the 1st century CE. Why did trading rapidly increase in the 8th century CE?

8:15 Arabs were looking to trade goods on the _____ trade complex otherwise known as the “Silk Road of the Sea”

8:20 Other than goods, what did Arab traders bring with them to the Swahili Coast. What effect did this have on religious and cultural life in the city-states?

8:43 What was exported from the Swahili city-states? What was imported to the Swahili city-states?

9:30 Why does John Green think it is important to study Africa using multiple sources?

How did the growth of Islam in Africa affect the practice of traditional religions in Africa?

Document 1

Context: Before Islam and Christianity was introduced to West Africa, most Africans had a variety of complex traditional beliefs. Some Africans were **polytheistic** while others believed in **animism**. Animism was the belief that spirits and forces reside in animals, objects, and dreams. Others believed that the forces of nature like rains or wind had divine spirits and attempted to influence these rituals and ceremonies. Additionally, some African people believed that there was one supreme and unseen creator god with lesser gods beneath the creator god. Again, the beliefs were varied and complex. Many of these beliefs were challenged when Islam was introduced by West African kings in the 11th century.

Islam in Africa: Crash Course World History Watch 3:40 - 5:00

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jvnU0v6hcUo>

3:40 North Africa traded _____ to West Africa in exchange for _____ .

4:00 What introduced Islam to West Africa?

4:10 Why did many West African kings convert to Islam?

4:30 Many people still practiced traditional beliefs in Africa. How did African kings rule over largely non-Muslim people?

If you were living in West Africa during the 11th century, would you have abandoned your traditional religious beliefs for Islam? Why or why not?

If you were a West African Islamic leader in the 11th century, how might you convince your people to convert to Islam?

Axum (1000-1400)

- Along Red Sea
- thriving trade network
 - link to India, & Mediterranean



African Trading Empires, 1000 BCE – 1600 CE

African Trading Empires, 1000 B.C.–A.D. 1600

Empire	Kush (Nubia) Meroë	Axum Adulis	Ghana Saleh	Mali Timbuktu	Songhai Gao
Location	East Africa south of Egypt	East Africa (Ethiopia)	West Africa	West Africa	West Africa
Time Period	1000 B.C.–A.D. 150	A.D. 100–1400	A.D. 400–1200	A.D. 1250–1450	A.D. 1000–1600
Goods Traded	Iron products, ivory, gold, ebony, slaves	Ivory, frankincense, myrrh, slaves	Iron products, animal products, gold	Gold, salt	Gold, salt
Key Facts	Kush lost power to Axum.	Axum was founded by Arab traders; the king converted to Christianity in A.D. 324.	Ghana traded for salt from the Saharan salt mines.	Mansa Musa doubled the size of the kingdom and created a Muslim center of learning.	Songhai gained control of trade in West Africa with the conquest of Timbuktu and Jenne.

How do we know what we know about early African kingdoms and city-states?

Directions: Read the documents and respond to the questions.

Document 1:

Until the late colonial period, it was widely believed among Western historians that Africa, south of the Sahara, had no “civilization” and thus no history. Others insisted that even if there were events of a historical nature, such a history was unknown and unknowable, since African societies, for the most part, were non-literate and as such left no records that historians could study.

[...]

Using an array of sources, these scholars were successful in showing that Africa not only had a history but that its history and the writing of it date back to ancient Antiquity. Ancient and classical writers wrote about Africa, even though their writings were unsystematic. They were followed by Islamic and Arabic writers, who left first- or second-hand accounts of African states and societies that have continued to prove valuable for scholars of African history. The next phase of African historiography was dominated by European traders, travelers, as well as missionaries and other adventurers [...]

Why did some historians believe that Africa had no history?

What three sources have contemporary scholars and historians used to learn about the history of Africa?

Document 2a



The image to your left depicts *griots*. From this image, what can you infer about what role *griots* may have played in West African society?

Document 2b

Context: Early and medieval African societies preserved their histories through written and oral literature. In West Africa, griots, a highly honored professional storyteller recited ancient stories that would be passed on from generation to generation. The griot is often viewed as a leader in their society because they preserve the history. One of the more well-known griot stories is the Epic of Sundiata. It tells the story of the hero Sundiata Keita (died 1255), the founder of the Mali Empire.

The West African epic of [Sundiata], the Mande king, has been transmitted orally by professional bards called *griots* (or *jali* in the Mande languages) since at least the fourteenth century. [Sundiata] Keita was a historical king of the Mande Empire during the thirteenth century, but there are few written accounts of his life. Nearly all of what is known about him comes from variations of this famous oral tale, which over the centuries spread from Mali and Guinea to regions of Senegal, Gambia, and Burkina Faso.

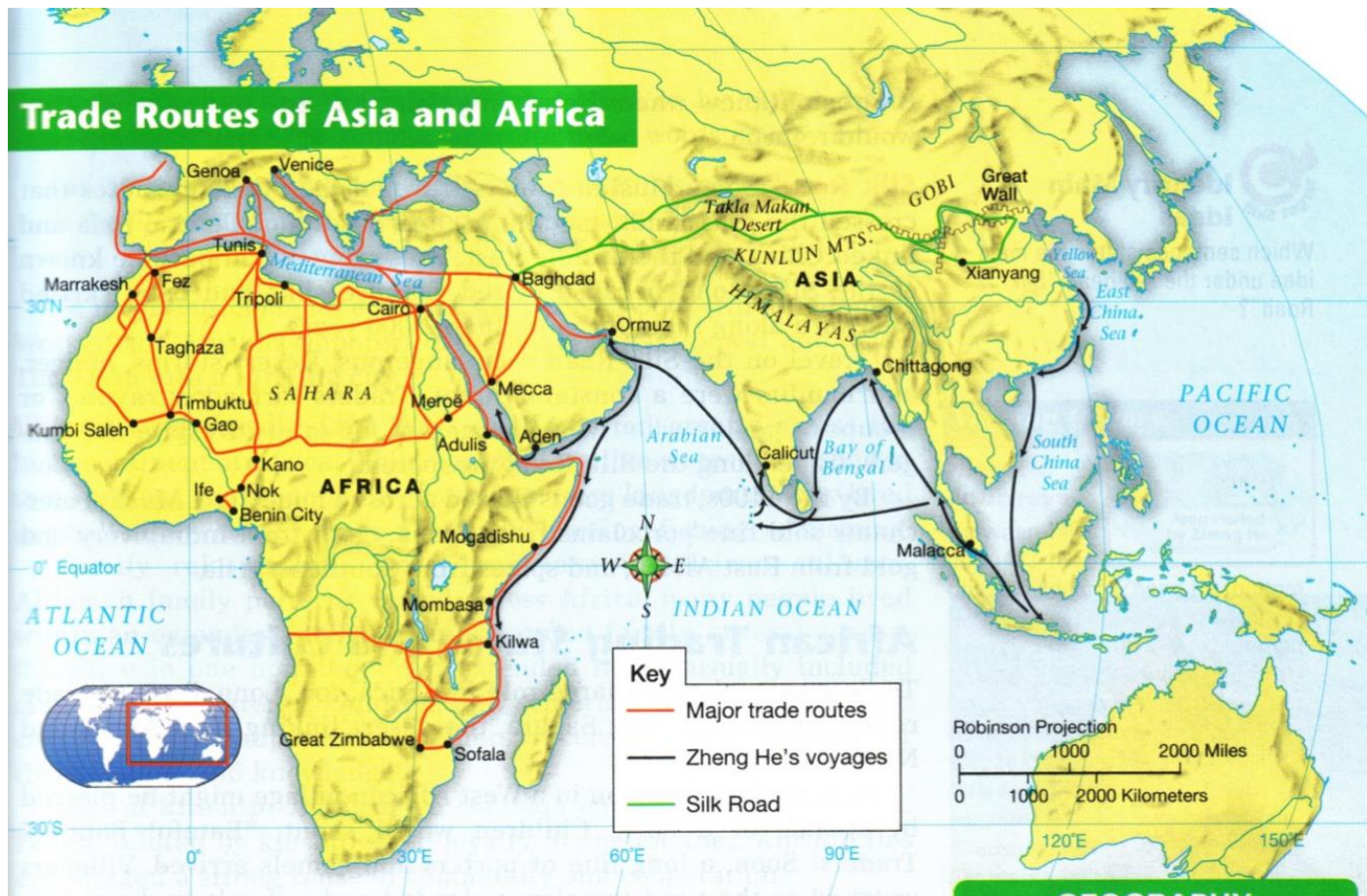
The tale tells of a boy born to King Makhang and one of his wives, a deformed woman named Sogolon who is believed to have magical powers. [Sundiata] grows up bent and crippled like his mother, but he also apparently

According to this excerpt, what is a griot?

What can we learn about Sundiata from the *Epic of Sundiata*?

Africa's Role in Global Trade

- Red & Mediterranean Seas linked Africa to ME & Europe
- Indian O. linked E. Africa to India & Asia
- Led to cultural diffusion





Checkpoint

What factors contributed to the rise and fall of powerful kingdoms in Africa?

Society

- **Animism**
- Village gov't
- Family Patterns:
 - **clans**
 - We over "I"
- Education
 - communal roles
 - clan history & beliefs



Contributions

- Literature

- preserved culture

- Arabic common =
👉 historians

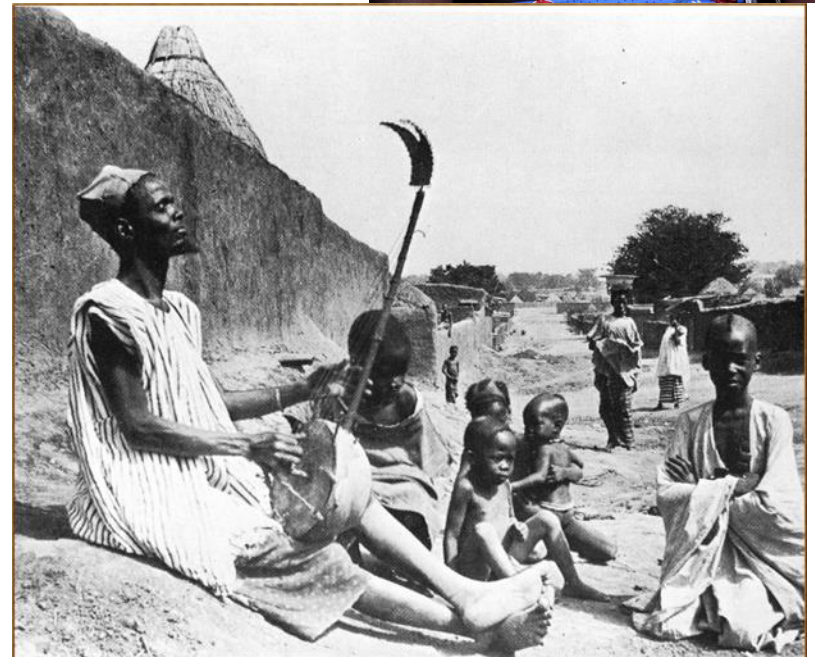
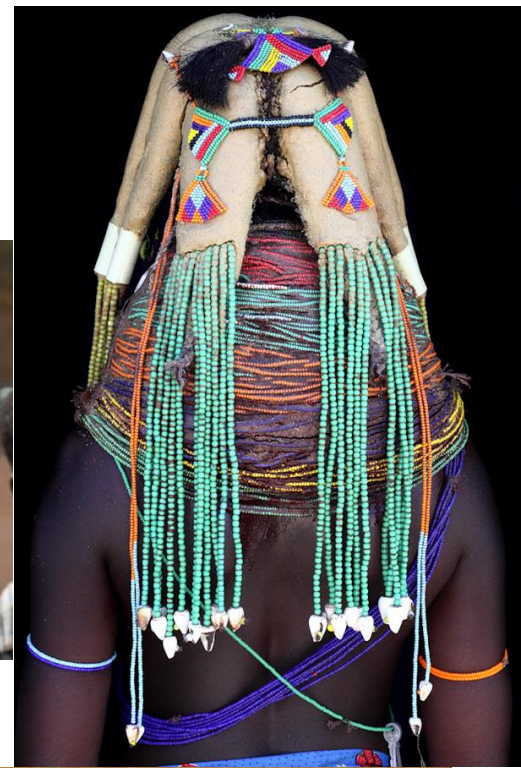
- **griots**

- Arts

- decorative

- identify clans

- statues & masks –
religion





Checkpoint

How did traditional art and literary forms reflect the beliefs of African peoples?