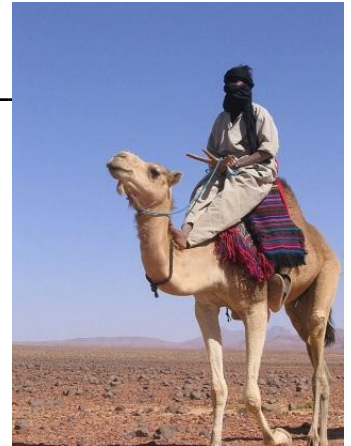


WEST AFRICAN HISTORY

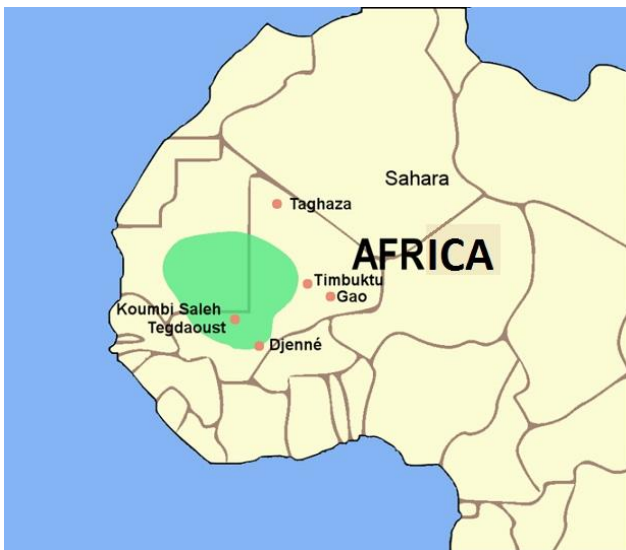
Islam began to spread across _____
Africa. As Arabs gained control, they converted Africans,
especially the upper classes, to their religion.



The _____ Desert
spreads 3,200 miles across the northern third of Africa.

With the introduction of the _____
in the 7th century trade began to increase between North Africa and
West Africa.

The empire of Ghana thrived from 400 to 1238. It had _____
mines and _____ mines. It resisted
converting to Islam, but fell to Islamic crusades by the Berbers.



Demand for _____
from the north increased trade.

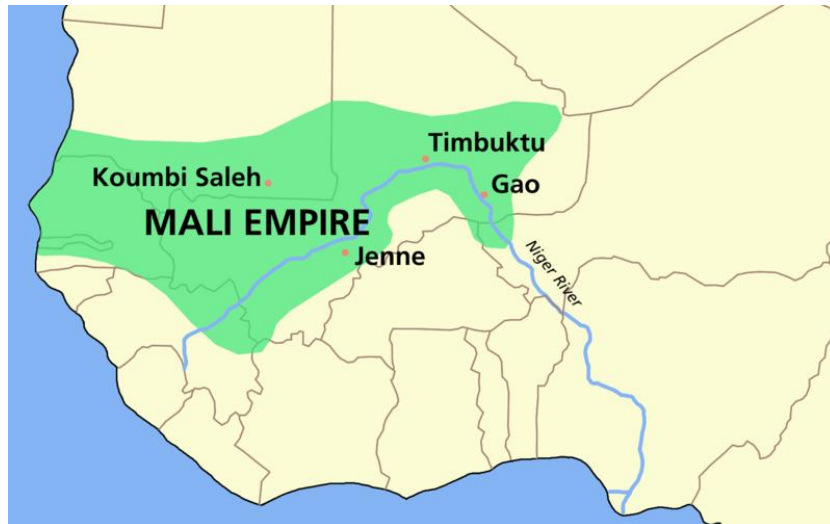
Arab traders brought goods and the
_____ religion.

Attacks on Ghana by the Mandingo people
of West Africa ended their empire.

The Mandingo people created a new empire called _____.

MALI EMPIRE

Sundiata was a prince who spent much of his childhood in _____.
Sundiata won back his throne in 1230. He expanded the kingdom's land and strengthened the country. He ruled for 25 years until 1255.



It is said that Mansa Musa's predecessor (perhaps his brother) sent a fleet of _____ ships across the Atlantic Ocean to find out what was on the other side. The King of Mali never returned. This was 180 years before Christopher _____!!

Mansa Musa was said to have been Sundiata's grandson. He took the throne in 1312. He was a devout Muslim. He was able to unite many cultures, villages and tribes. The size of the empire doubled.

Mali prospered due to the trade of _____,
_____ and _____.

GOLD: The tribal people of Mali who controlled gold sources were very _____ about their locations. If any king of Mali tried to dictate terms to them, they would stop or slow production.

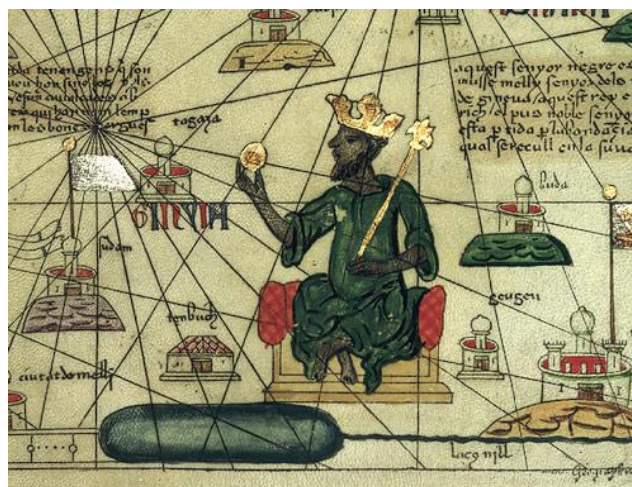
SALT: During Mansa Musa's time major salt mines were in a district called Taghanza. Many _____ worked in the mines. Their houses and even their mosque was made of _____.

SCHOLARSHIP: Scholarship was also important in Mali. The city of _____ had some of the world's first universities. It was a renowned center of learning, with three universities and at least 150 schools with free tuition to promising students.

PILGRIMAGE: One of the _____ Pillars of Islam has each Muslim make a pilgrimage to _____. Mansa Musa chose to make this pilgrimage in 1324. He traveled with hundreds of servants dressed in fine clothes and carrying staffs made of _____.

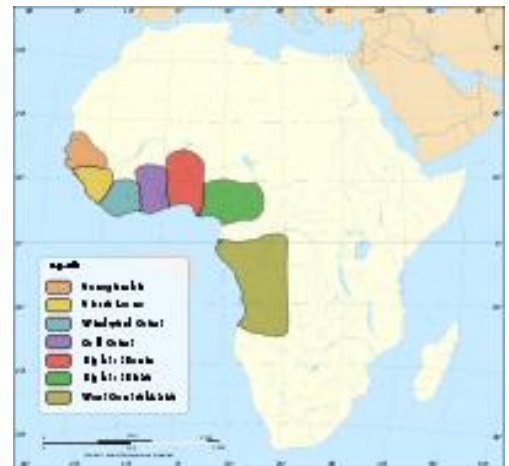
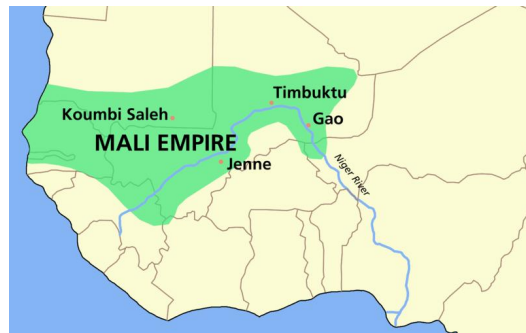
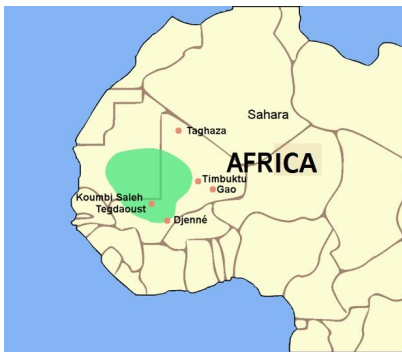
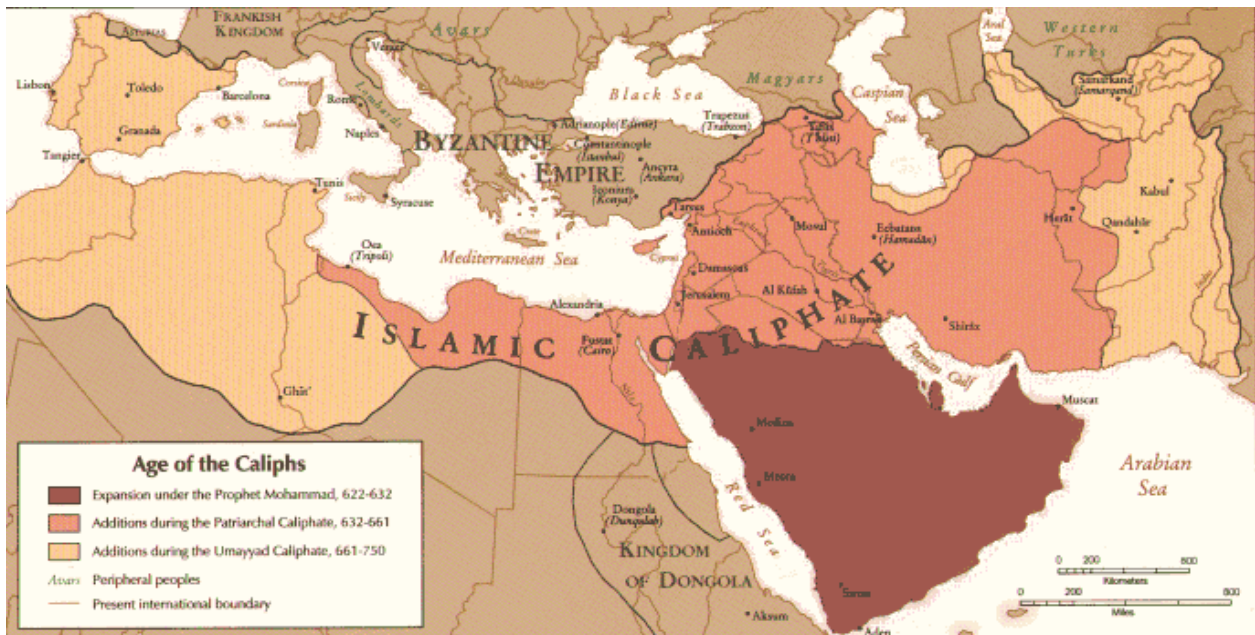
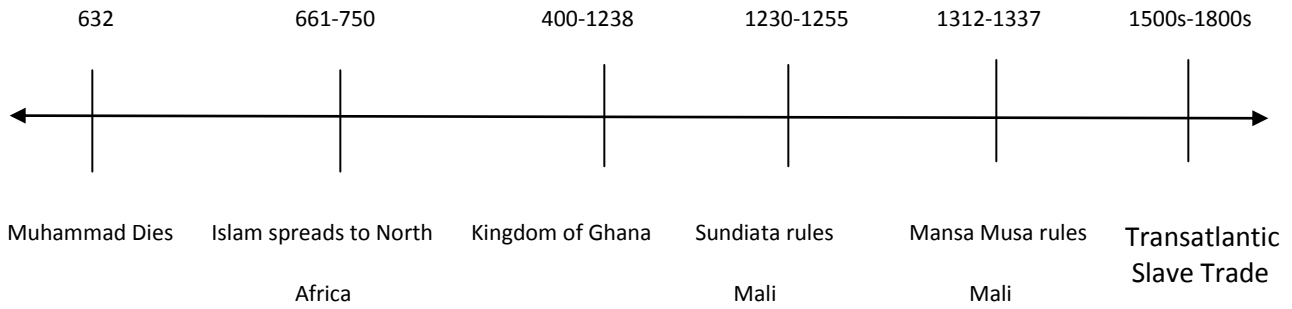
Along the way, Mansa Musa gave gold to _____ people. It is said he also paid to have a _____ built wherever he stopped on Friday.

He gave away so much gold that the price of gold dropped!

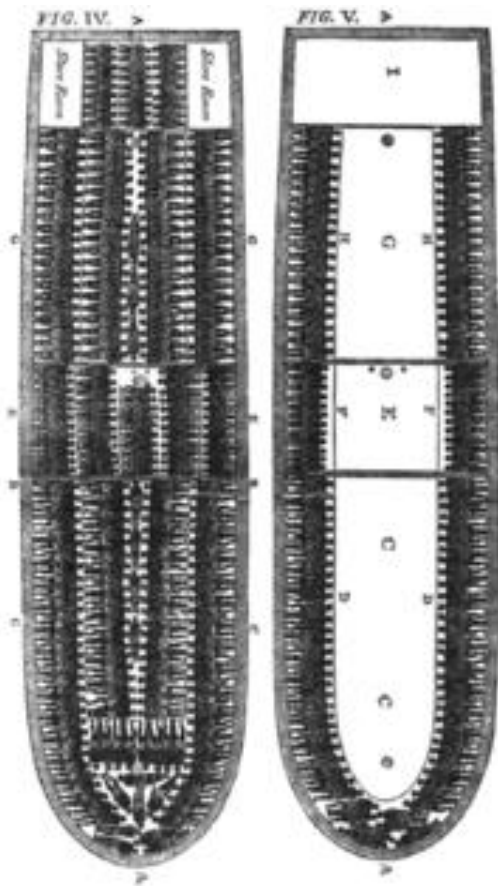


Above: This is from the 1375 Catalan Atlas of the Known World. It shows Mansa Musa holding a gold nugget and wearing a European-style crown.

TIMELINE OF WEST AFRICAN HISTORY



TRANSATLANTIC SLAVE TRADE 1500S-1800S



Slaves were sold by Africans to _____ slave traders.

They were transported to _____ and _____ America.

There were often _____ to _____ slaves on one ship.

ANSWERS

Islam began to spread across North Africa as Arabs gained control and converted Africans, especially the upper classes to their religion.

The Sahara Desert spreads 3,200 miles across the northern third of Africa.

With the introduction of the camel in the 7th century trade began to increase between North Africa and West Africa.

The empire of Ghana thrived from 400 to 1238. It had gold mines and salt mines. It resisted converting to Islam, but fell to Islamic crusades by the Berbers.

Demand for gold from the north increased trade.

Arab traders brought goods and the Muslim religion.

Attacks on Ghana by the Mandingo people of West Africa ended their empire.

The Mandingo people created a new empire called Mali.

MALI

Sundiata was a prince who spent much of his childhood in exile.

Sundiata won back his throne in 1230. He expanded the kingdom's land and strengthened the country. He ruled for 25 years until 1255.

It is said that Mansa Musa's predecessor (perhaps his brother) sent a fleet of 2,000 ships across the Atlantic Ocean to find out what was on the other side. The King of Mali never returned. This was 180 years before Christopher Columbus !!

Mansa Musa was said to have been Sundiata's grandson. He took the throne in 1312. He was a devout Muslim. He was able to unite many cultures, villages and tribes. The size of the empire doubled.

Mali prospered due to the trade of gold, salt and slaves.

GOLD: The tribal people of Mali who controlled gold sources were very secretive about their locations. If any king of Mali tried to dictate terms to them, they would stop or slow production.

SALT: During Mansa Musa's time major salt mines were in a district called Taghanza. Many slaves worked in the mines. Their houses and even their mosque was made of salt.

SCHOLARSHIP: Scholarship was also important in Mali. The city of Timbuktu had some of the world's first universities. It was a renowned center of learning, with three universities and at least 150 schools with free tuition to promising students.

PILGRIMAGE: One of the Five Pillars of Islam has each Muslim make a pilgrimage to Mecca. Mansa Musa chose to make this pilgrimage in 1324. He traveled with hundreds of servants dressed in fine clothes and carrying staffs made of gold.

Along the way, Mansa Musa gave gold to poor people. It is said he also paid to have a mosque built wherever he stopped on Friday.

He gave away so much gold that the price of gold dropped!

Slaves were sold by Africans to European slave traders.

They were transported to South and North America.

There were often 350 to 600 slaves on one ship.



For those of you who might come across these worksheets out there on the internet, this is by no means a comprehensive history of West Africa. My kids are quite young (7 and 9) and we are going over some highlights of West African history.

After reading a number of history books and story books, I created these pages to highlight some of the key points we learned.

Feel free to use this in your homeschool or classroom, but bear in mind there are other resources that will be much more thorough and accurate than what I created here as notebook pages for my kids!

Happy Learning!

Kind regards,

Liesl

over at The Homeschool Den

<http://www.parents.com/blogs/homeschool-den/>

BOOKS WE USED:

Sundiata, Lion King of Mali by David Wisniewski

Mansa Musa by Khephra Burns (a long picture book, some fact, some fiction)

Ten Kings and the Worlds They Ruled by Milton Meltzer (this was a great resource. We read the chapter aloud together.)

Story of the World, vol. 2 Chapter 29 by Susan Wise Bauer

Journey into Africa by Ann Jansen (a curriculum written by a Christian author. It covers geography, history and contemporary African culture. It also includes stories about contemporary missionaries. Very thorough and written on the elementary level. Lots of pictures and illustrations.)