West Africa: The Empires of Ghana, Mali, and Songhai**

- People in early West Africa lived as an extended family in one household
  - Extended Family: Parents, Children, and close relatives
- For a long time, West African people lived as hunter-gatherers
- Eventually people began to develop new technologies and advanced cultures
- This led to a surplus, which led to trade
  - Two popular resources that were traded were gold and salt
- An early group of people in West Africa were the Soninke
  - They banded together for protection around the year 750CE – the beginning of Ghana
- Ghana learned how to work iron, making them very strong
- Ghana traded with people to both the North and South
- Ghana traders used the Silent Barter method of trading
  - Silent Barter: A process in which people exchange goods without contacting each other directly
- Ghana used its iron and resources from trading to become a powerful empire
- 800CE – Ghana controls the trade routes in West Africa
  - All trade passed through Ghana
  - The Ghana army kept the routes safe
  - Every trader that passed through had to pay a tax
- The people of Ghana also had to pay taxes, and so did people Ghana conquered
- Common people were only allowed to own gold dust
- Royalty owned ALL of the gold nuggets
  - This made sure the king was richer than everyone else
- Ghana used its powerful army to conquer other small groups
  - The Ghana king Tunka Manin brought Ghana to its height in 1060CE
    - Tunka Manin was said to have been one of the richest people in the entire world
- Tunka Manin was actually the nephew of the previous king
- Kingship in Ghana went from Uncle-to-Nephew, not Father-to-Son
- Eventually the Empire of Ghana will begin to decline for three main reasons
  - Invasion: North African Muslims called Almoravids
    - Almoravids invaded in 1076CE and weakened the Empire
    - Almoravids took away many trade routes from Ghana
  - Overgrazing: Almoravids brought in a lot of cattle
    - This cattle ate all of the grass, which left nothing for Ghana
    - Ghana lost a lot of resources because of the loss of grass
  - Internal Rebellion: People of Ghana rebelled
- 1200CE – Ghana Empire collapses
As Ghana was declining, a new power was rising: Mali

One of the first leaders of Mali was Sundiata
  – Sundiata conquered many groups, including the remains of Ghana in the 1230s CE

Sundiata gained control of all trade routes in West Africa
  – This made his empire very powerful

Sundiata focused on making agriculture in his empire better
  – He introduced cotton to West Africa

Sundiata gave himself a new title: Mansa

Mali’s most famous ruler was a Muslim named Mansa Musa

Mansa Musa brought Mali to its greatest power in the 1320’s
  – Mansa Musa spread Islam throughout his empire
  – He had many mosques and schools built in Mali

Mansa Musa made Timbuktu an important trade city

Mansa Musa is very famous for making a pilgrimage to Mecca during his reign
  – This introduced Mali and its riches to the rest of the world

Mansa Musa’s son Maghan took power after Musa died
  – Maghan was a weak ruler

Invaders destroyed much of Timbuktu and weakened the empire

More groups invaded and Mali weakened even more

By 1500 CE the empire of Mali was gone

During the later years of the Empire of Mali, the Empire of Songhai was growing

It grew powerful with trade, like Ghana and Mali
  – The capital city of Songhai was Gao

Mansa Musa had conquered Songhai in the early 1300s

By 1400, Songhai had rebelled against Mali and gained its independence and began its empire

Songhai leaders were Muslims, so they traded with other Muslim groups in Africa
  – Trade made Songhai rich and powerful

One of the most powerful rulers of Songhai was Sunni Ali in 1464
  – Sunni Ali organized the empire and united everyone

Sunni Ali conquered much of the remains of Mali

Sunni Ali died in 1492 and his son Sunni Baru took over
  – Sunni Baru was not Muslim
  – The people rebelled against Sunni Baru

The leader of the rebellion was Muhammad Ture
  – Muhammad will change his name to Askia after the rebellion succeeds

Askia quickly became the leader of Songhai in 1493
  – Askia made Timbuktu a great center of learning

Askia set up provinces throughout his empire to help run things easier

Askia set up an army to help protect his empire

Morocco was a nation to the north of Songhai

The Moroccan army invaded Songhai in 1591
  – The Moroccans had superior weapons
    – Including the arquebus, an early form of gun

The Moroccans destroyed Gao and Timbuktu

The fall of Songhai marks the end of empires in West Africa
West Africa: The Empires of Ghana, Mali, and Songhai*

• People in early _________ ___________ lived as an extended family in one household
  – ___________________________ Parents, Children, and close relatives
  – Two popular resources that were traded were _________ and _________

• An early group of people in West Africa were the ___________
  – They banded together for protection around the year 750CE – the beginning of ___________

• Ghana learned how to work _________ making them very strong

• Ghana traders used the ________________ method of trading
  – ________________ A process in which people exchange goods without contacting each other
directly

• Ghana used its iron and ________________ from trading to become a powerful empire

• _________ – Ghana controls the trade routes in West Africa
  – Every trader that passed through had to pay a ________

• The people of Ghana also had to pay taxes, and so did people Ghana ________________

• Common people were only allowed to own gold ________________

• Royalty owned ALL of the gold ________________

• Ghana used its powerful army to ________________ other small groups
  – The Ghana king ________________ brought Ghana to its height in 1060CE

• Kingship in Ghana went from ____________________________, not Father-to-Son

• Eventually the Empire of _____________ will begin to decline for _________ main reasons
  – ________________: North African Muslims called Almoravids
    • ________________ invaded in 1076CE and weakened the Empire
  – ________________ : Almoravids brought in a lot of cattle
  – Internal ________________ : People of Ghana rebelled

• _____________ – Ghana Empire collapses
• As Ghana was declining, a new power was rising: ___________
• One of the first leaders of Mali was ___________
  – __________ conquered many groups, including the remains of Ghana in the ___________
• Sundiata gained control of all __________ routes in West Africa
• Sundiata focused on making __________ in his empire better
• Mali’s most famous ruler was a Muslim named _______________
• Mansa Musa brought __________ to its greatest power in the 1320’s
• Mansa Musa made ______________ an important trade city
• Mansa Musa is very famous for making a pilgrimage to __________ during his reign
• Mansa Musa’s son ______________ took power after Musa died
• Invaders destroyed much of ______________ and weakened the empire
• More groups invaded and __________ weakened even more
• By ______________ the empire of Mali was gone
• During the later years of the Empire of Mali, the Empire of ____________ was growing
• It grew powerful with ____________, like Ghana and Mali
• ______________ had conquered Songhai in the early 1300s
• By 1400, __________ had rebelled against Mali and gained its independence and began its empire
• One of the most powerful rulers of Songhai was ______________ in 1464
• Sunni Ali conquered much of the remains of ___________
• Sunni Ali died in __________ and his son Sunni Baru took over
  – Sunni Baru was not __________
  – The people ______________ against Sunni Baru
• ______________ quickly became the leader of Songhai in 1493
  – Askia made ______________ a great center of learning
• ______________ was a nation to the north of Songhai
• The Moroccan army invaded Songhai in __________
• The Moroccans destroyed Gao and ______________
• The fall of ______________ marks the end of empires in ______________
West Africa: The Empires of Ghana, Mali, and Songhai

- People in early _______ ________ lived as an extended family in one ____________
  - Extended Family:
  - Two popular _______________ — that were traded were ________ and ________

- An early _____________ of people in West Africa were the _____________
  - They banded together for __________ around the year 750 CE — the beginning of ________

- _________ learned how to work ________ making them very strong

- Ghana traders used the ______________ method of trading
  - Silent Barter:

- Ghana used its iron and ___________ from trading to become a powerful _____________

- _________ — Ghana controls the trade routes in ________________
  - Every ____________ that passed through had to pay a ________

- The people of Ghana also had to pay ____________, and so did people Ghana ________________

- ____________ people were only allowed to own gold ____________

- ____________ owned ALL of the gold ______________

- ____________ — used its powerful army to _______________ other small groups
  - The Ghana king _____________________ brought Ghana to its height in ________________

- Kingship in Ghana went from ____________________________, not Father-to-Son

- Eventually the Empire of _________ will begin to decline for ________ main reasons
  - ____________ : North African Muslims called ________________
    - ____________ invaded in ________________ and weakened the Empire
  - ____________ : Almoravids brought in a lot of ________________
  - ________________ ________________: People of Ghana rebelled

- _________ — Ghana Empire ________________
• As ____________ was declining, a new power was rising: ____________
• One of the first leaders of ____________ was ____________
  – ____________ conquered many groups, including the remains of Ghana in the ____________
• _______________ gained control of all _________ routes in West Africa
• _______________ focused on making _______________ in his empire better
• _______________ most famous ruler was a Muslim named _______________
• Mansa Musa brought _________ to its greatest power in the ______________
• _______________ made _______________ an important trade city
• Mansa Musa is very famous for making a _________________ to ______________ during his reign
• Mansa Musa’s son _______________ took power after Musa ______________
• _______________ destroyed much of _______________ and weakened the empire
• More groups invaded and _______________ weakened even more
• By _______________ the empire of _______________ was gone
• During the later years of the Empire of _______________, the Empire of _______________ was growing
  • It grew powerful with _______________, like Ghana and Mali
• _______________ had conquered _______________ in the early 1300s
• By 1400, ____________ had rebelled against _____ and gained its independence and began its empire
• One of the most powerful rulers of Songhai was _______________ in 1464
• _______________ conquered much of the remains of _______________
• Sunni Ali died in ____________ and his son _______________ took over
  – Sunni Baru was not _______________
  – The people _______________ against Sunni Baru
• _______________ quickly became the leader of _______________ in 1493
  – Askia made _______________ a great center of _______________
• _______________ was a nation to the north of _______________
• The _______________ army invaded Songhai in _______________
• The Moroccans destroyed _______________ and _______________
• The fall of _______________ marks the end of empires in _______________