

Medieval Africa Test

- Great civilizations in West Africa arose
 - in the Sahara desert.
 - along the Atlantic coast.
 - along the Niger River.
 - in the Atlas Mountains.
- Men and women in traditional West African society were loyal to their
 - work groups and parents.
 - extended families and age-sets.
 - religious and military leaders.
 - nobility and elders.
- Which two factors contributed *most* to the survival of early West African villages?
 - farming and geography
 - religion and culture
 - work and family
 - technology and natural resources
- What role did the elders play in the life of the village?
 - They cared for the children.
 - They ground grain.
 - They taught family traditions.
 - They tended crops.
- The traditional religious practice of West Africans was centered on the belief that
 - the spirits of ancestors stayed nearby.
 - there was only one god.
 - rituals were very important.
 - each person lived several lives.
- Which of the following *best* explains the different parts of West African village society?
 - The village chief organized all of the farming activities and the elders organized religious practices.
 - A village included basic family units, extended families led by village chiefs, and a council of elders.
 - West Africans depended on the natural world for survival in their villages.
 - Families had little power in the village and the village chiefs led the elders.
- Which two uses of iron were the *most* significant for West Africans?
 - for celebrating religious rites and using as weapons
 - for decorating works of art and clearing land
 - for farm tools and religious rites
 - for clearing the land and using as weapons
- People south of the Sahara traded their gold for
 - slaves.
 - copper.
 - food.
 - salt.
- Which of the following statements about trade routes in Africa is true?
 - Salt was carried south while gold was carried north.
 - Salt was carried north while gold was carried south.
 - Salt was carried east while gold was carried west.
 - Salt was carried west while gold was carried east.
- What two factors had the biggest impact on the growth of West Africa?
 - slavery and salt
 - iron tools and farming
 - climate and religion
 - technology and trade
- The trade of which two items contributed to the development of the Ghana empire?
 - copper and ivory
 - bananas and rice
 - salt and gold
 - camels and fabrics
- As trade in gold, salt, and other items increased,
 - trading places grew into towns and then cities.
 - caravans were attacked by Berbers.
 - the prices of those items increased as well.
 - people stopped farming.
- How did Ghana become such a powerful state?
 - Ghana owned more salt than other states.
 - Leaders in Ghana formed alliances with other groups of people.
 - It had the strongest army in all of Africa.
 - It gained control of the valuable trade routes.
- What was significant about the location of the Ghana Empire?
 - It had access to the Atlantic Ocean and therefore valuable shipping routes.
 - It was located between the gold mines in the south and valuable salt resources in the north.
 - The empire was isolated from other empires, keeping it safe from attacks.
 - Most of the empire was located in the mountains overlooking other empires.

15. Why was salt so valuable?
 - a. Salt was used as a fertilizer for crops.
 - b. Salt was used in many religious ceremonies.
 - c. People needed salt in their diets and they used it to preserve and season foods.
 - d. Salt was used as a medicine.
16. Silent barter is
 - a. a deadly snake native to West Africa.
 - b. the process by which the people of Ghana elected their leaders.
 - c. a process in which people trade and exchange goods without direct contact.
 - d. a West African musical instrument.
17. How did Ghana's kings govern such a large empire?
 - a. They delegated power to governors, who then answered only to the king.
 - b. They used the army to maintain order and police the people.
 - c. All citizens went to special schools to learn how to be good citizens.
 - d. They allowed people in other territories to choose their own leaders.

With so many traders passing through their lands, Ghana's rulers looked for ways to make money from them. One way they raised money was by forcing traders to pay taxes.

18. What can you infer about Ghana's rulers from the above passage?
 - a. They were smart businessmen who took advantage of opportunities.
 - b. They disliked foreign traders and merchants.
 - c. They tried to stop the trading in their empire.
 - d. They were crooks who illegally made money from poor people.
19. Which of the following *best* illustrates a similarity between the development of the Ghana and Mali empires?
 - a. Both empires took advantage of large gold mines within their empires to fund their armies.
 - b. Both empires lay along the upper Niger River, where fertile soil made food plentiful.
 - c. Both empires were helped by outsiders.
 - d. Both empires were formed as democracies.
20. All of the following happened during the reign of Sundiata except
 - a. Mali won its independence.
 - b. beans, rice, onions, and cotton were introduced to the empire.
 - c. Timbuktu became the center of the empire.
 - d. Mali took over the gold and salt trade in western Africa.
21. Who was Mali's greatest and most famous ruler?



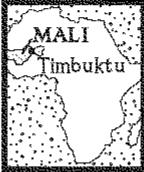


a. Maghan	c. Sunni Ali
b. Askia the Great	d. Mansa Musa
22. What was the importance of Mansa Musa's *hajj* to Mecca?
 - a. He became an important leader in the Islamic leadership.
 - b. His followers built a large mosque in his honor.
 - c. He became famous and introduced the world to the Mali Empire.
 - d. He became even wealthier through very shrewd trading deals.
23. Which of the following was *not* a way Mansa Musa spread Islam and education throughout Mali?
 - a. He hired artists and architects from other empires to build mosques in Mali.
 - b. He sent scholars to study in Morocco and then to set up schools in Mali.
 - c. He stressed the importance of reading and writing in Arabic, the language of the Qur'an.
 - d. He outlawed all religions except Islam.
24. Mansa Musa sent scholars to study in Morocco and set up schools in Mali so that
 - a. students in Mali could learn to read the Qur'an.
 - b. Timbuktu would be a great center of learning.
 - c. all his people could attend a university
 - d. Islam would be spread throughout Morocco.
25. Which of the following shows Mansa Musa's promotion of religious tolerance?
 - a. allowing angry miners to keep their own religion
 - b. the building of great mosques throughout the Mali Empire
 - c. making a journey, or *hajj*, to Mecca
 - d. stressing the importance of reading and writing the Qur'an in Arabic




26. Which of the following did *not* contribute to the fall of the Mali Empire?
- The empire had grown so large that the government could not control it.
 - Weak leaders could not unite the empire.
 - Several catastrophic droughts destroyed croplands and created famine.
 - Invaders from the north could not be defeated.
27. Which of the following is the *most* appropriate response to the statement “Sunni Ali was bad for the empires of western Africa”?
- “This is true, because he waged war on all the empires in the region.”
 - “This is incorrect. Sunni Ali gave back lands to everyone who had lost territory.”
 - “This is false, because he brought peace and stability to the area.”
 - “This is correct. Sunni Ali’s policies destroyed the environment.”
28. What are two lasting governmental inventions of Askia the Great?
- income taxes and toll roads
 - specialized government offices and a permanent professional army
 - public holidays and public schools
 - government-owned companies and the sales tax
29. Why did Morocco invade Songhai?
- Morocco wanted to use captured Songhai citizens as slaves.
 - Songhai merchants had taken over many of Morocco’s trading partners.
 - The Moroccans were after Songhai’s rich deposits of gold and salt.
 - The Moroccans thought that the askias of Songhai were converting to Christianity.
30. Which of the following did *not* contribute to the collapse of the Songhai Empire?
- Moroccan troops looted and destroyed the major Songhai cities.
 - Masses of Songhai people were taken away and sold into slavery.
 - Trade patterns changed, shifting more to sea routes rather than through Songhai land.
 - Europeans arrived and then took much of the West African gold when they left.

<p>Much of what we know about early West Africa comes from the writings of travelers and scholars from Muslim lands such as Spain and Arabia.</p>

31. What is the *best* inference you can make from this statement?
- The people of West Africa were not interested in keeping track of their histories.
 - The people of West Africa never traveled beyond the borders of their empires.
 - The people of West Africa left no written histories of their own.
 - Very few travelers ever visited early West African empires.
32. African storytellers who memorize and recite the names and histories of their people are called
- griots.
 - kente.
 - Dausi.
 - Battuta.
33. How was music and dance incorporated into the lives of the people of early West Africa?
- It played only a small role.
 - Children were taught that music and dance were evil forms of entertainment.
 - It was entertainment and also a way to celebrate their history and other important events.
 - Only very important citizens were allowed to play music or dance.
34. The exchange of gold and salt by silent barter helped
- Ghana controls the trade routes.
 - traders who spoke different languages communicate.
 - keep the location of gold mines a secret.
 - Ghana gets money to finance its army.
35. The history of West Africa was passed on to each new generation by
- the epic poem *Dausi*.
 - storytellers called griots.
 - scholars who read Arabic.
 - the works of Ibn Battutah.
36. How did the location of cities in the West African empires of Ghana and Mali influence their growth?
- their location in river valleys allowed for extensive trading.
 - their costal location made the cities major ports for maritime trade.
 - their location on major trade routes allowed them to prosper economically.
 - their mountainous location made the cities easily defensible.

African Trading Empires, A.D. 100–1600

	Axum	Ghana	Mali	Songhai	Zimbabwe
Location	East Africa	West Africa	West Africa	West Africa	SE Africa
					
Time Period	c. 100–1400	c. 400–1200	c. 1200–1450	c. 1000–1600	c. 700–1450
Goods Traded	ivory, frankincense, myrrh, slaves	iron products, animal products, salt, gold	salt, gold	salt, gold	gold, copper, ivory
Key Facts	King Ezana converted to Christianity; made it official religion.	Taxes from traders passing through made Ghana rich.	King Mansa Musa built mosques and libraries.	Songhai gained control of West African trade by conquering Timbuktu and mastering trade by river.	Kings Mutota and Matope built the region's biggest empire.

37.  Which kingdom developed in southeastern Africa?
38.  How did Ghana grow rich?
39.  Which empire lasted the longest?
40. What effect did Islam have on Africa?