

Empire of Ghana

Iron tools and weapons helped Ghana to grow.

**Gold and salt trade helped Ghana grow strong and powerful.
Army grew. It took over other cities.**

**Ghana declined in mid-1000s
----invasions by Almoravids
----overgrazing-animals ate grass, good soil blew away.
----rebels from conquered country**

Empire of Mali

**King Sundiata-strong warrior, powerful
--conquered Ghana
--traded gold, salt, cotton, food
--army and slaves farmed together
--became Muslim religious leader**

**Mansa Musa-Sundiata's son--Richest man ever
---hajj to Mecca-60,000 men, 30,000 pounds of gold--gave it away
---Europe learned Africa had gold**

Mansa Musa

**-- made schools, mosques, university to learn Arabic, Qur'an.
--more trade=Mali richer**

Timbuktu=very rich city, trade center, center of learning--on Niger river.

Mali falls

**--Mansa Musa's son weak
--parts of empire break away
--invaders take over many parts**

Empire of Songhai

Songhai regained freedom when Mali grew weak.

**Sunni Ali (1464) ruler
--conquered Timbuktu and Djenne
--unified, strengthened and enlarged Songhai
--brought peace and stability.**

When he died, son overthrown.

Askia the Great

**-- Muslim, Hajj to Mecca
--schools, universities, libraries, mosques
--Math, science, medicine, law
--organized government
--first professional army**

Songhai falls

**--Morocco invades to get salt mines.
--guns, cannons
--used prisoners to fight
--trade routes change to ocean ports**

Historical and Artistic Traditions

**West Africa --no written language (Muslims knew Arabic)
Oral history-memorized**

**Griots=storytellers
--histories of ancestors, events
--proverbs, wise sayings
--epics=long poems about kingdoms and heroes.**

Other Europeans wrote about Africa (Leo Africanus)

Arts

--Sculpture-people, ancestors, gifts for gods

--Masks--wood, animals, for rituals

--Clothing-Kente-handwoven, colored fabric

--Music and dance--entertainment, way to honor history, celebrations