

Africa-Geography

Africa has many areas that are not the same. The weather is different, so animals and people live differently.

In the North, is the Sahara **Desert**. A desert is a VERY dry, hot, and windy place. It does not rain a lot. Very few animals and people live here. Camels can live in the desert because they can live a LONG time with no water. Places with water in the desert are called an Oasis. People live near the Oasis.

South of the desert is the **Savanna**. This is a flat area with short grass. It is good for farming and raising animals. Many people and animals live in this area.

In Eastern Africa, there is a big **valley**. This is called the Great Rift Valley. Many people live in the valley because it is good for farming. There are some high areas called **Mounts**. Mounts are the same as Mountains but there are only one or two together! The highest Mount is Mount Kilimanjaro.

Vocabulary-Match the Word to the Picture

Desert



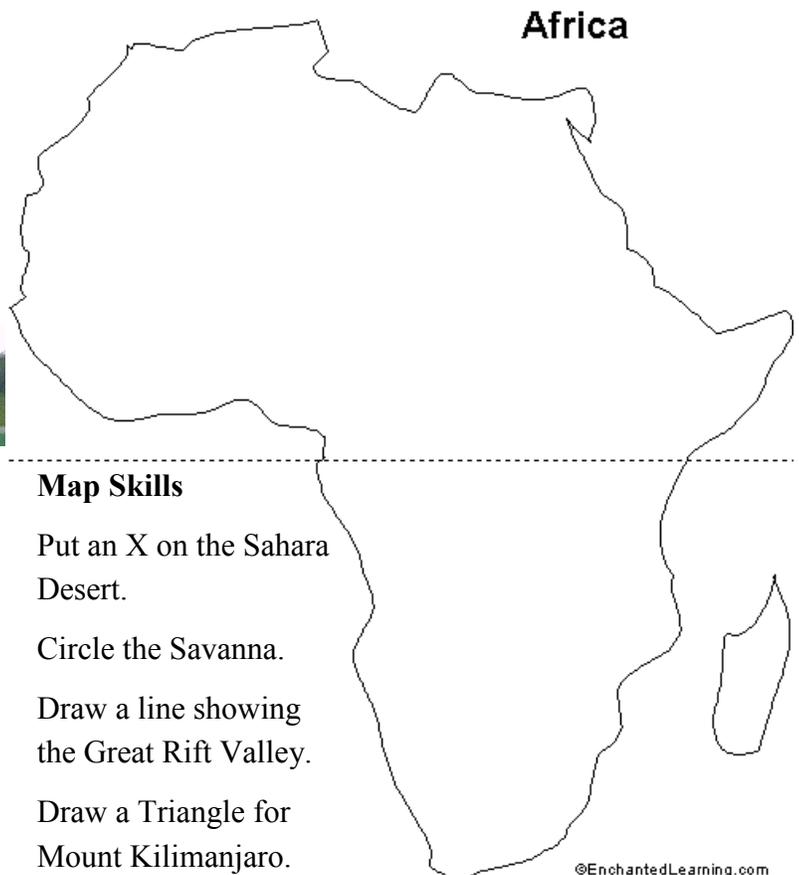
Valley



Mount



Savanna



Comprehension Question

Where do most people live in Africa?

Map Skills

Put an X on the Sahara Desert.

Circle the Savanna.

Draw a line showing the Great Rift Valley.

Draw a Triangle for Mount Kilimanjaro.

Africa-Ghana

Ghana was one of the first **kingdoms** of West Africa. Ghana started about 300 AD. Most people farmed, fished, and took care of **cattle**. Some people were **traders**. Trading was not a safe and people would be robbed.

Ghana became a very **rich** kingdom from gold. It was between salt fields and gold mines. Salt was dried in the Sahara desert. Gold was found in Wangara (near Atlantic Ocean). Ghana was in the middle. Ghana made sure everyone was safe when they traded. Ghana made people pay a tax to trade in their kingdom. This made them very rich.

Ghana traded with far away places like the Middle East. They traded gold, salt, and ideas. Many people in Ghana liked the ideas of the Middle East. This changed the people of Ghana. They changed religions and became Islamic. They also liked Arabic numbers and borrowed them.

Vocabulary-Match the word to the meaning

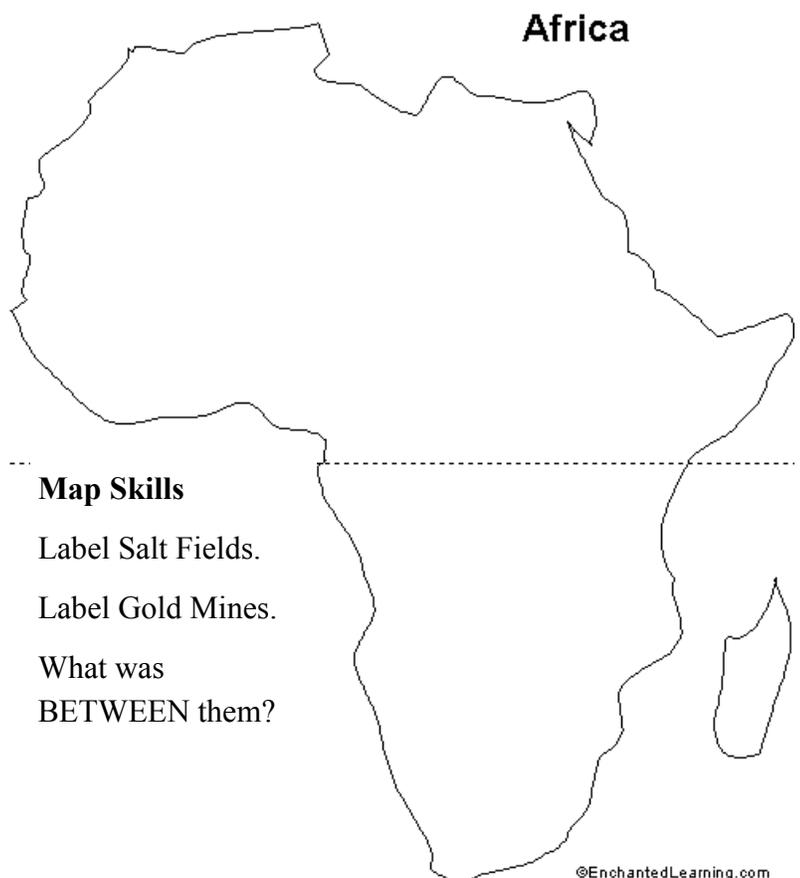
Rich	People who trade
Cattle	Lots of money
Traders	King's area
Kingdom	Cows

Comprehension Question

Name two things Ghana borrowed from the Middle East.

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Lexile: 510



Africa-Mali

Mali was in West Africa. Mali was united by a King named Sundiata. He set-up the **empire** of Mali. The **empire** of Mali was bigger than Ghana.

The people in Mali farmed many things. Farm life is called **agriculture**. People grew crops like rice, onions, and potatoes. They became rich from the **goods** or things that they traded. The Mali traded ideas too. Many people liked the ideas of Islam and changed religions.

King Sundiata was the **grandfather** of Mansa Musa, a great king of Mali. King Mansa Musa made a trip to Mecca. He took thousands of people with him. He gave away lots of gold and food. He brought back many smart Islamic men to teach in Mali. One man built a big mosque in Timbuktu. This made Mali very famous.

People in Europe started to notice Mali and its gold and food. People started being interested in learning more about Africa.

Vocabulary-Draw a picture to show the meaning of the word.

Empire

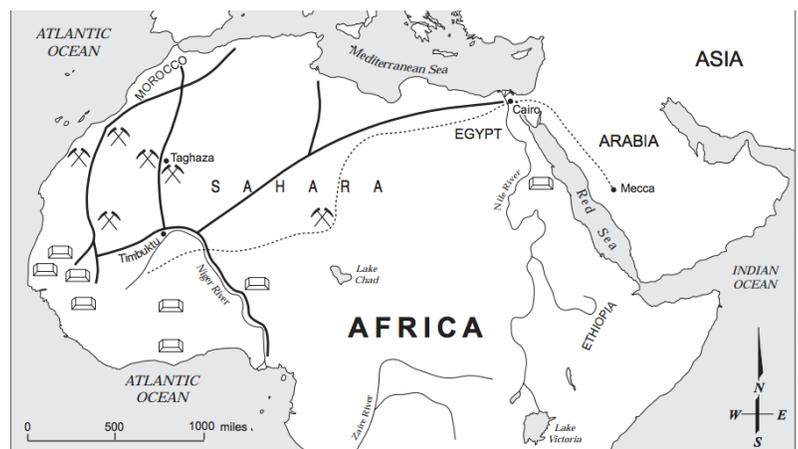
Agriculture

Grandfather

Goods

Comprehension Question

Which empire was bigger, Ghana or Mali?



Legend

..... Mansa Musa's route to Mecca, 1324
— trade route
⚒ salt mine
🛒 gold mine

Map Skills

What area/country is Mecca in?

Name two places Mansa Musa touched to reach Mecca.

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Africa-Songhai

The Songhai people lived near the Niger River. They were farmers, traders, and fighters. They lived very close to the Mali Empire. They tried to stay **independent** but, Mansa Musa took them over.

In 1375, the Songhai **refused** to pay taxes to the Mali. The Songhai fought the Mali. They won Mali land. By 1464, they started making their own empire! A new king, Sonni Ali, made the Songhai empire even **BIGGER** than the Mali empire. He divided the land into **provinces** or states. Each province had a leader and an army. He wanted to protect his people and his trade. This was the biggest empire in West Africa, but it did not last very long. More and more Muslims came into Songhai. Groups fought with each other. Some provinces wanted to be independent. They left the Songhai Kingdom.

Finally, the Moroccans attacked in 1591. They had guns and they **conquered** the Songhai.

Lexile: 420

Vocabulary-Match the word to the meaning

Refuse	Separate
Independent	Take Over
Province	Not Do
Conquered	State

Comprehension Question

Name two things Sonni Ali did to make the Songhai Kingdom good.

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Map Skills

Look at the key

- What color shows the Mali Kingdom?
- What century did the Songhai Kingdom exist?

Which kingdom was the smallest?

Which kingdom was the largest?

