SSWH6 Describe the diverse characteristics of early African societies before 1500 CE/AD.

1. Describe the development and decline of the Sudanic kingdoms (Ghana, Mali, Songhai); include the roles of Sundiata, and the pilgrimage of Mansa Musa to Mecca.
Vocabulary

1. Ghana - Early West African trading kingdom located in present day Mali and Mauritania

2. Sundiata - Sundiata was a West African ruler who was responsible for laying the groundwork for Mali to be a rich and powerful kingdom. He died in 1255

3. Mali - medieval West African trading empire located in present day Mali

4. Mansa Musa - was a devoted Islamic ruler in Mali who became the throne in 1312. He was one of the richest men of his era.

5. Songhai - medieval West African civilization located in present day Mali, Niger, and Nigeria.
Ghana, Mali, & Songhai

Where were these empires located?

- In Western Africa
- South of the Sahara Desert
- Near the Niger River.
• 1. Ghana is a kingdom in West Africa located between the Niger and Senegal Rivers.

2. Ghana means ruler and was the name used for this kingdom by Arab traders

3. Because of their favorable location, the rulers of Ghana controlled the gold-salt trade across West Africa.

4. The Gold market was so great, Arab writers called Ghana, "the land of the Gold."

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ADOSXAUS8us
Camels were used on the trade routes to carry goods.

Salt was mined in the Sahara and traded for gold.

Timbuktu had universities and libraries.

Djenne was an important trade city.

Gold mines in the western part of Mali were important for trade.

Salt mines
Farming (onions, millet, tomatoes)
Gold mines
Cities

Mali 300 mi.
1. Even before the rise of Ghana, Muslim traders had brought their faith to West Africa.

2. Muslim merchants introduced their Arabic language/writing, coinage, and business methods.

3. Many African rulers embraced Islam, which led their people to convert to the new religion.

4. The Qur'an influenced the belief systems and the way of life of the native people of Ghana. For example, Muslim rulers imposed a zakat, or a yearly tax on certain property that was used for charitable purposes.
Ghana Decline

• 1. Around 1050, the Almoravids, launched a campaign to spread their form of Islam and seized control of Ghana's trade routes.

• 2. The Almoravids eventually conquered Ghana, but did not maintain control over the kingdom.

• 3. Eventually, the Kingdom of Ghana was swallowed by a rising African Power, the kingdom of Mali.
ClassWork/Homework Questions

1. Where was the Kingdom of Ghana located? What two rivers were important to the Ghana Kingdom?
2. What is the English meaning or translation of the word "Ghana?"
3. Because of its favorable location, what two resources and trade routes were the rulers of Ghana reluctant to control?
4. What did Arab writers refer to Ghana as?
5. What influence did Muslim traders have during their travels to Ghana? What influence did the Q'uran have on Ghana society?
6. Explain the fall of The Kingdom of Ghana.
The Kingdom of Mali

1. The Kingdom of Mali and the Mandinka people was founded by the son of former King. The son's name was Sundiata.

2. By 1235, Sundiata had become a powerful king, crushed his enemies, and seized control of the lucrative gold trade routes, and founded the empire, Mali.

3. Mali is the Arab version of Mandinka, a word that means "where the king dwells.

4. The most famous city of the Mali Empire was Timbuktu.
Who is Mansa Musa?

• 1. The Greatest Mali ruler was Mansa Musa, who came to the throne around 1312.

• 2. During his 25 year reign, Mansa Musa, worked to ensure peace and order in his empire that stretched from the Atlantic Ocean to central Africa.

• 3. He converted to Islam and based his system of justice based upon the Q'uran.

• 4. In 1324, Mansa Musa fulfilled one of the 5 Pillars of Islam by making a pilgrimage to Mecca.

• https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=CHZI8d6_RUM  -->The Kingdom of Mali
Travel with Mansa Musa

During his pilgrimage, Mansa Musa crossed the Sahara and visited Cairo before arriving in Mecca. While historians do not know for sure the route Mansa Musa followed, this map shows some of the sites he visited along the way.
#8 – Mansa Musa

- Pilgrimage to Mecca brought attention to the wealth of the Mali Empire
  - Mali controlled trans-Saharan trade route
- Built capital at Timbuktu
- Built mosques and schools to promote Islam
The Rise of Timbuktu Under Mansa Musa

1. After returning from his pilgrimage, Mansa Musa stopped in the busy city of Timbuktu where he decided to build a mosque and a palace.

2. For hundreds of years afterwards, Timbuktu became an important stopping point for some of the best scholars, doctors, priests, and judges.

3. Timbuktu is well known for its thriving university that reportedly had 25,000 students from Africa and the Muslim World.
Timbuktu became the center of West African gold and salt trade across the Sahara Desert.

Center of learning that attracted students from Europe, Africa and Asia. Many of whom studied the Quran.

Mali’s King Mansa Musa brought back scholars and architects from his pilgrimage to Mecca here.

How was Timbuktu different from other trading cities like Venice and Canton?
The Kingdom of Mali - Classwork/Homework Questions

• 1. Who was the first ruler of the Kingdom of Mali, and what year did he become ruler?
• 2. What is the Arabic translation of Mali mean?
• 3. What is the most famous city in the Mali Empire?
• 4. Why was Mali such an important trade route in Africa? What resources were located in and around the Mali Empire that brought traders and merchants from across Africa and the Muslim world to Mali?
• 5. How did Mansa Mansa fulfill his duty as a Muslim? What influences did Mansa bring back to Mali as a result of his pilgrimage to Mecca?
• 6. Describe the growth of the city of Timbuktu as a result of the Mansa's pilgrimage to Mecca.
The Fall of Mali & The Rise of Songhai

1. By the 1460's, the wealthy trade city of Gao(Gow) had become the capital of the emerging West African kingdom of **Songhai**.

2. Songhai developed on fertile ground at the bend of the Niger River in present day Mali & Niger.

3. Between 1464-1492, the soldier king, **Sonni Ali**, built the largest state that ever existed in West Africa, which became the Kingdom of Songhai.

4. He brought African trade routes and cities like Timbuktu under his control, but unlike other African Rulers, he was NOT Muslim.
Askia Muhammed

- After the death of Sonni Ali in 1492, emperor Askia Muhammed set up a Muslim dynasty.
- Askia Muhammed improved the efficiency of the Songhai government:
  - 1. He set up a bureaucracy with separate departments for farming, the military, and the treasury.
  - 2. Officials appointed by the emperors supervised each department.
- He too, made a pilgrimage to Mecca to improve ties with the Muslim world and brought many scholars to Gao where built mosques and opened schools for the study of the Q'uran.
The Fall of Songhai

- Songhai flourished until the death of Askia Muhammed in 1528, at which point disputes over succession led to frequent changes in leadership.
- In 1586, a dispute erupted into a civil war.
- Following the civil war, the ruler of Morocco sent his armies south to seize the West African gold mines, and used gunpowder weapons to defeat the divided forces of Songhai.
- [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=11XUwCcC9tw](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=11XUwCcC9tw) --- The Songhai Kingdom
The Kingdom of Songhai - Classwork/Homework Questions

• 1. What was the capital of the Songhai Empire? What two rivers were important for agriculture and trade in Songhai?

• 2. Who was the first ruler of the Songhai Empire in West Africa? Why did he create an imperial navy to patrol those rivers?

• 3. Who is credited for the expansion of the Songhai Empire?

• 4. What Songhai ruler created a Muslim Dynasty? How did he improve the inter-workings of the Songhai Government?

• 5. Explain why did Askia Muhammed make a pilgrimage to Mecca?

• 6. Explain the fall of the Songhai empire. What events occurred that contributed to its fall?