

Guided Reading Activity

Kingdoms and States of Medieval Africa

Lesson 2 *Kingdoms and States of Africa*

Review Questions

Directions: Read the lesson and complete the outline below. Refer to your textbook to fill in the blanks.

I. The Kingdom of Ghana

A. Ghana, located in the upper _____ valley, was the first great trading state in West Africa and had an abundant supply of iron ore and _____.

B. Ghanaian exports included gold, ivory, hides, and _____.

II. The Kingdom of Mali

A. Mali was established in the mid-thirteenth century by _____, who united the people of Mali.

B. Extending from the Atlantic coast inland to the trading city of _____, Mali built its wealth and power on the gold and _____ trade.

C. _____ ruled Mali from 1312 to 1337. After a pilgrimage to _____, he made Timbuktu a center of Islamic learning and culture.

III. The Kingdom of Songhai

A. In 1009, _____ established the Dia dynasty, the first Songhai state. Then, under the leadership of _____ beginning in 1464, who created a new Sunni dynasty, Songhai expanded.

B. Muhammad _____, who seized power in 1493, helped the Songhai Empire reach its height. Under _____, who ruled from 1549 to 1582, Songhai became the largest empire in African history.

IV. Societies in East Africa

A. In the first millennium B.C., farming peoples who spoke dialects of the _____ language began to move slowly from the Niger River region into _____.

B. _____ began to emerge as a language as a result of trade between Arab lands and the _____ people on Africa's eastern coast.

Guided Reading Activity *Cont.*



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V. Societies in South Africa

- A. Until the eleventh century, most peoples in South Africa lived in what are sometimes called _____.
- B. Zimbabwe prospered from the _____ trade. Its capital, _____, located on the Zambezi River, was well placed to benefit from trade between the coast and the interior.

Summary and Reflection

Directions: Summarize the main ideas of this lesson by answering the question below.

How did trade contribute to the growth and prosperity of early African states and societies?
