

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Period: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

## Chapter 13 – Early African Civilizations – Study Guide

# GEOGRAPHY OF ANCIENT AFRICA

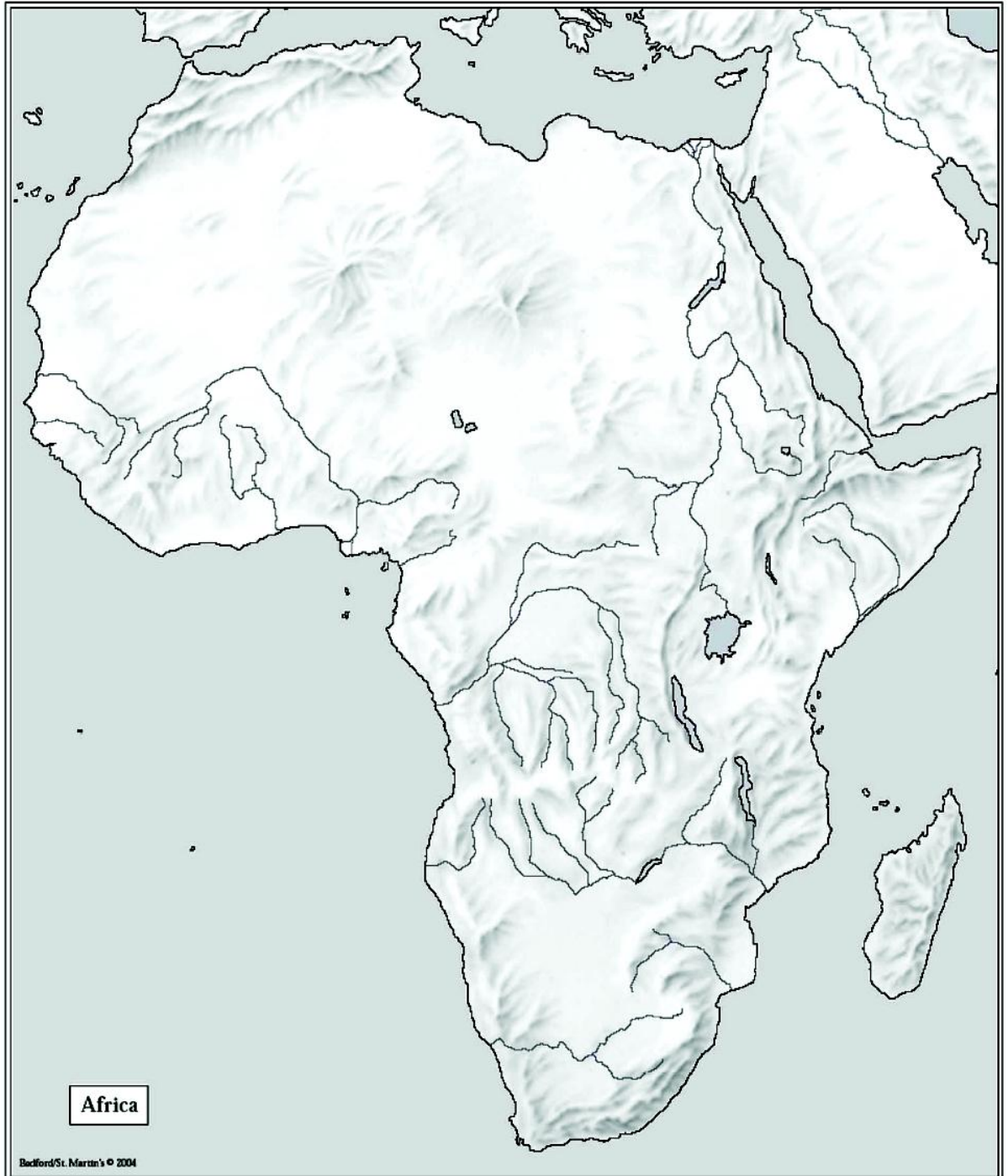
Draw and label the following geographic features or areas on the map. Label and color the regions of the ancient empires. Use the maps in chapter 13 to help you.

### Geographic Features

Kalahari Desert  
Sahara Desert  
Serengeti Plain  
Sahel  
Tropic of Cancer  
Equator  
Tropic of Capricorn  
Rain Forest  
“Horn of Africa”  
Great Rift Valley  
Niger River  
Congo River  
Zambezi River  
Nile River  
Strait of Gibraltar  
Indian Ocean  
Atlantic Ocean  
Mediterranean Sea  
Red Sea  
Gulf of Guinea  
Gulf of Aden  
Lake Victoria  
Mozambique Channel  
Madagascar  
Mt. Kilimanjaro  
Atlas Mountains

### Ancient Empires

Egypt  
Kush (Nubia)  
Carthage  
Ghana  
Mali  
Songhai  
Great Zimbabwe



## Chapter 13, section 1 - Geography and Early Africa

Directions: Define the following terms or state the significance of the person or event.

**Rifts** –

**Sub-Saharan Africa** –

**Sahel** –

**Savannah** –

**Serengeti** –

**Rain Forest** –

What do West African families consist of? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Men did what kind of jobs \_\_\_\_\_

Women did what kind of jobs \_\_\_\_\_

What was another central feature of village life? \_\_\_\_\_

What is **animism**? \_\_\_\_\_

Africans found that they could heat certain kinds of rock to get the hard metal known as \_\_\_\_\_

What did they use this metal for? \_\_\_\_\_

What two items were Africa's sources of great wealth? \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_

**Describe the impact of geography on the way of life for early Africans** –

**Crossing the Sahara** (reasons to do it and the challenges involved) –

## Chapter 13, section 2 - The Empire of GHANA

### Ghana Controls Trade

Who were the Soninke? \_\_\_\_\_

What was considered the beginning of Ghana? \_\_\_\_\_

What did people of Ghana do to make a living? \_\_\_\_\_

Ghana's two major resources were \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_

A process in which people exchange goods without contacting each other directly is called \_\_\_\_\_

As trade in gold and salt increased, \_\_\_\_\_

As they gained power, name three things Ghana did:

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.

### Ghana Builds an Empire

Nearly all trade between northern and southern Africa passed through \_\_\_\_\_

Who kept the trade routes safe? \_\_\_\_\_

Ghana's rulers looked for ways to profit from traders passing through their lands, so they \_\_\_\_\_

THEN, \_\_\_\_\_

Did the people of Ghana also have to pay taxes? Yes / No

Did small tribes that lived near Ghana have to pay these taxes too? Yes / No

What brought even more income to the royal treasury? \_\_\_\_\_

What ensured that the king was richer than all his subjects? \_\_\_\_\_

Part of Ghana's wealth went to \_\_\_\_\_

What did Ghana's kings use their army for? \_\_\_\_\_

The empire of Ghana reached its peak under a ruler named \_\_\_\_\_

### Ghana's Decline

What were the three major factors that contributed to the end of the Ghana Empire?

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.

Who invaded Ghana and what did they do to weaken the empire? \_\_\_\_\_

How did animals contribute to the decline of the Ghana Empire? \_\_\_\_\_

Who had finally taken over the entire empire of Ghana? \_\_\_\_\_

## Chapter 13, section 3 - Later Empires

### **MALI**

Mali lay along what river? \_\_\_\_\_

Was Mali similar to Ghana? Yes / No How? \_\_\_\_\_

Who raised Mali into great power? \_\_\_\_\_

Was Ghana captured by Mali? Yes / No

What did Sundiata take over? \_\_\_\_\_

What crops were grown in Mali? \_\_\_\_\_

What did Sundiata do to keep order in his kingdom prosperous? \_\_\_\_\_

What's another name Sundiata had for himself? \_\_\_\_\_

This name gave him more power and had both \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ roles in society.

Who was Mali's most famous Muslim ruler? \_\_\_\_\_

Mali reached great power and wealth during Mansa Musa's rule. He even influenced the spread of \_\_\_\_\_ throughout West Africa.

Also during his rule, Mali added \_\_\_\_\_, a trading city, to its empire.

Along with religion what else was very important to Mansa Musa? \_\_\_\_\_

Who began the fall of Mali and where were they from? \_\_\_\_\_

What happened to Mali in 1431? \_\_\_\_\_

### **SONGHAI**

Songhai was another powerful kingdom growing. Their capital was \_\_\_\_\_ and they participated in \_\_\_\_\_

Songhai leaders were \_\_\_\_\_ as well as many North African Berbers who \_\_\_\_\_ in West Africa.

Was Songhai and North African Berbers friends? Yes / No

As ruler, Sunni Ali worked to \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_, and \_\_\_\_\_ his empire.

How did Sunni Ali bring stability to Songhai?

- 1.
- 2.

After Sunni Ali died, why did the people rebel against the new king? \_\_\_\_\_

Who was leader of that rebellion? \_\_\_\_\_ He then chose the title \_\_\_\_\_, which is a title of \_\_\_\_\_, and eventually became known as \_\_\_\_\_

What two things did Askia the Great support? \_\_\_\_\_

Was Askia the Great a follower of Christianity? Yes / No \_\_\_\_\_

Name three things Askia did to help maintain order.

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.

A northern rival of Songhai wanted to control the \_\_\_\_\_. Who was this northern rival? \_\_\_\_\_

The Moroccan soldiers carried advanced weapons on their journey to take over Songhai. What were these advanced weapons called and what did they do? \_\_\_\_\_

Along with a defeat from the superior weapons of Morocco, what else ended the Songhai Empire?  
\_\_\_\_\_

## **GREAT ZIMBABWE**

Great Zimbabwe was a powerful kingdom located \_\_\_\_\_

What did the people of Zimbabwe do to make a living? \_\_\_\_\_

What made this kingdom rich and powerful and how did they protect it? \_\_\_\_\_

What brought the Great Zimbabwe kingdom down? \_\_\_\_\_

## **Chapter 13, section 4 - Historical and Artistic Traditions**

Most of early Africa's history has been lost due to the disruption of its "oral history" because of slavery. Why? What does this mean? Explain.

**griots** –

**proverbs** –

**process** –

**The Dausi and the Sundiata** –

**Kente** –

# Ch. 13 – Early African Civilizations

## Civilizations Comparison Chart

Location	GHANA	MALI	SONGHAI	GREAT ZIMBABWE
Leaders				
Trade				
Religion				
Other Important Info.				