

Bantu Migrations

SSWH6

A. IDENTIFY THE BANTU MIGRATION PATTERNS AND CONTRIBUTION
TO SETTLED AGRICULTURE.

OF MANSA MUSA TO MECCA.

EQ:

*What were the characteristics of early African societies?

*What changes occurred in the Sudanic kingdoms as a result of the role of Sundiata and Mansa Musa?

*What connections did Arab traders have with the Swahili coast and in what ways did the connection bring about change?

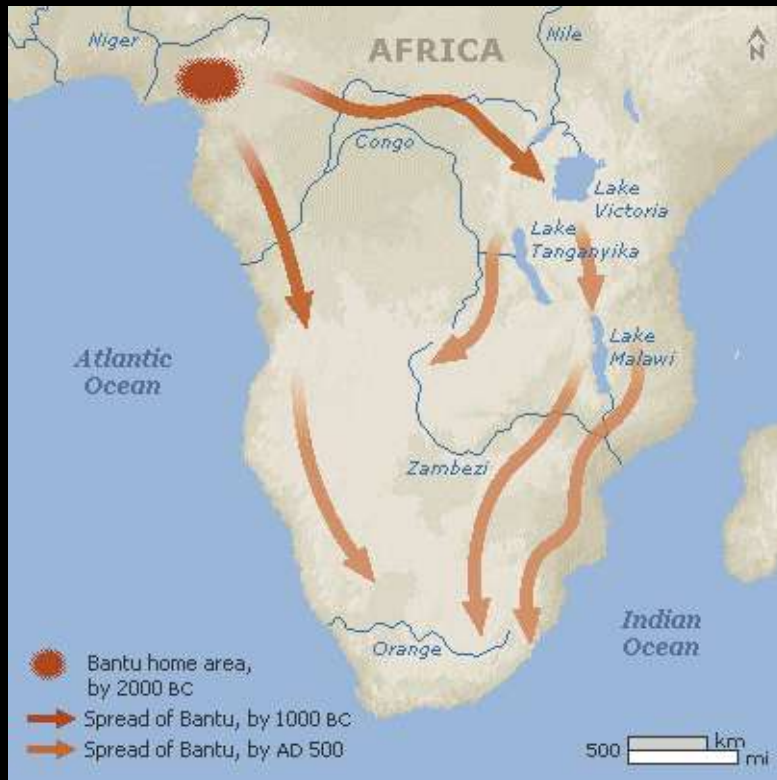
Who are the Bantu?

A group of people who began in Central Africa who went from hunter gathers to farming

The people who spoke the language are commonly called Bantu Peoples. They are not a unified nation, simply a group of people who speak the same language.

The word “Bantu” comes from the root word “ntu” which means “people.”

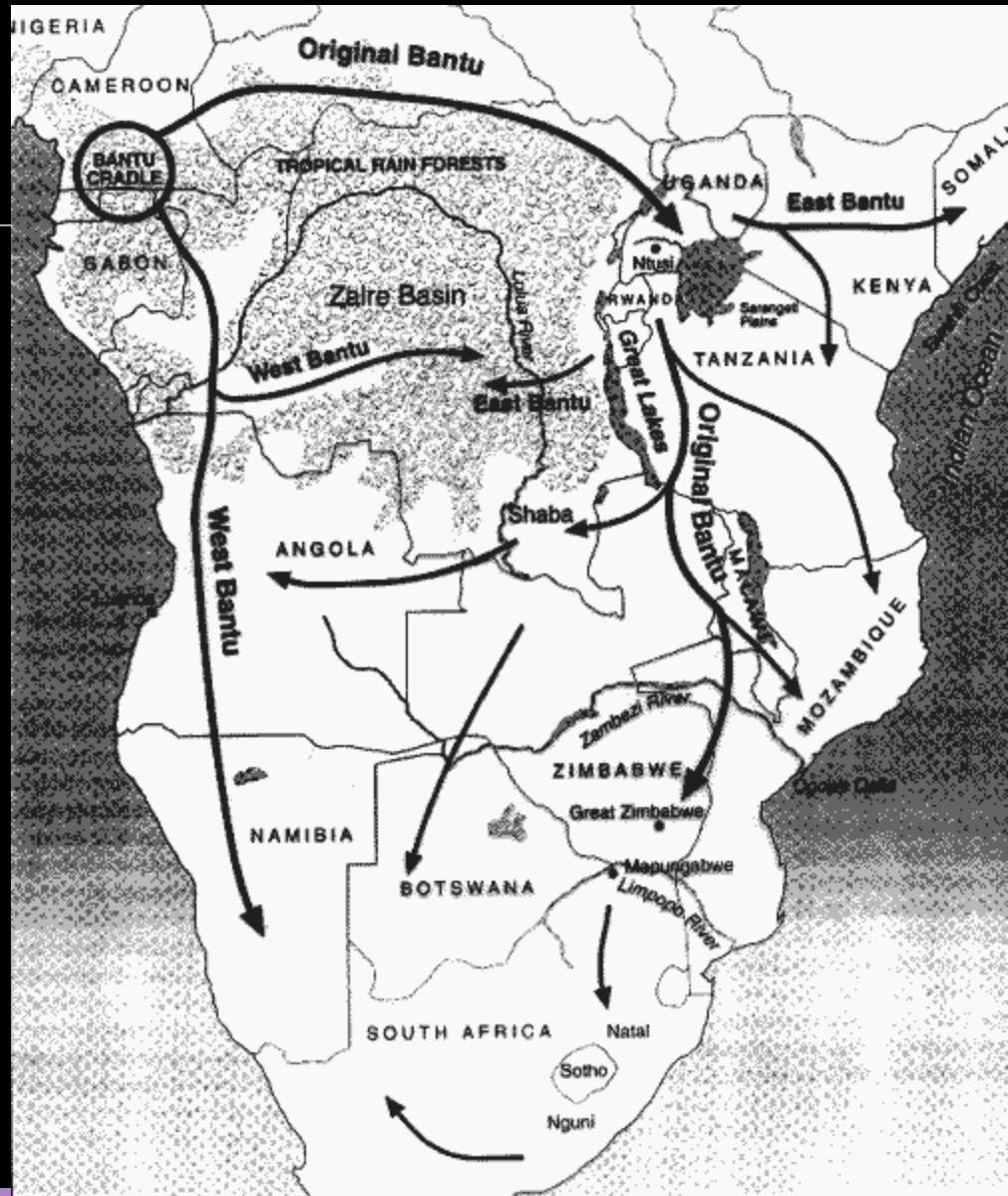
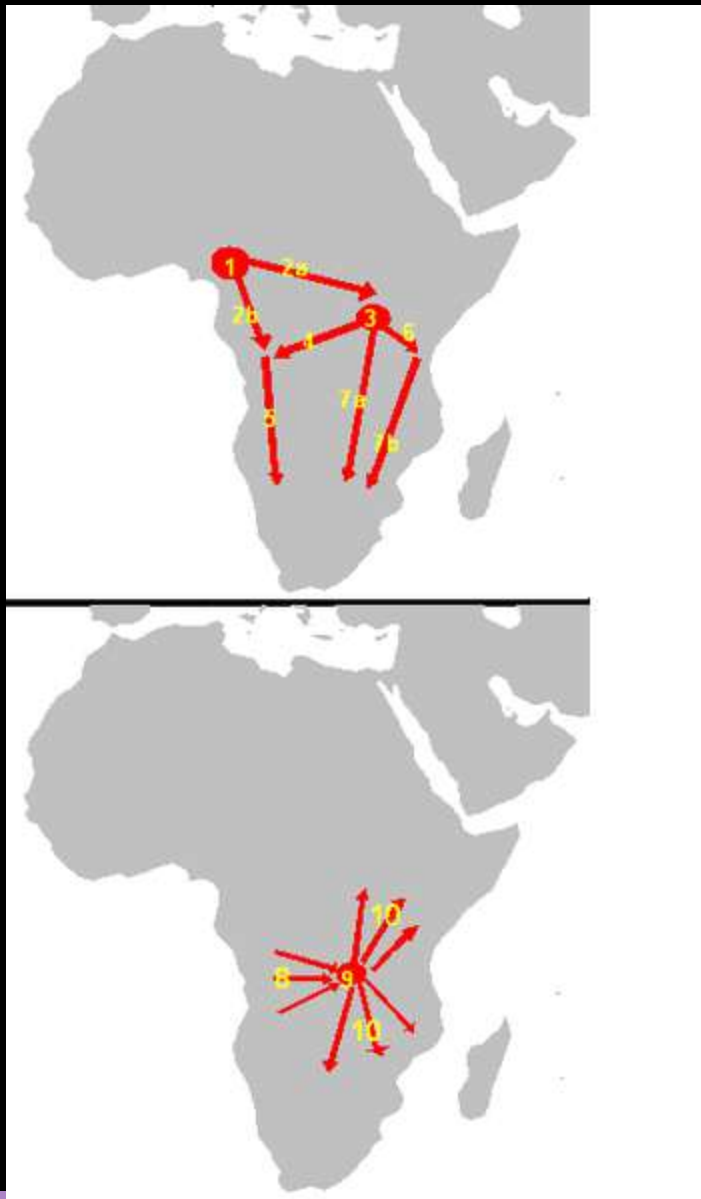
Bantu Migration



The Bantu migrations happened in two waves.

The first migration occurred between 2000 and 1000 BCE.

The second occurred between 1000 and 500 BCE.



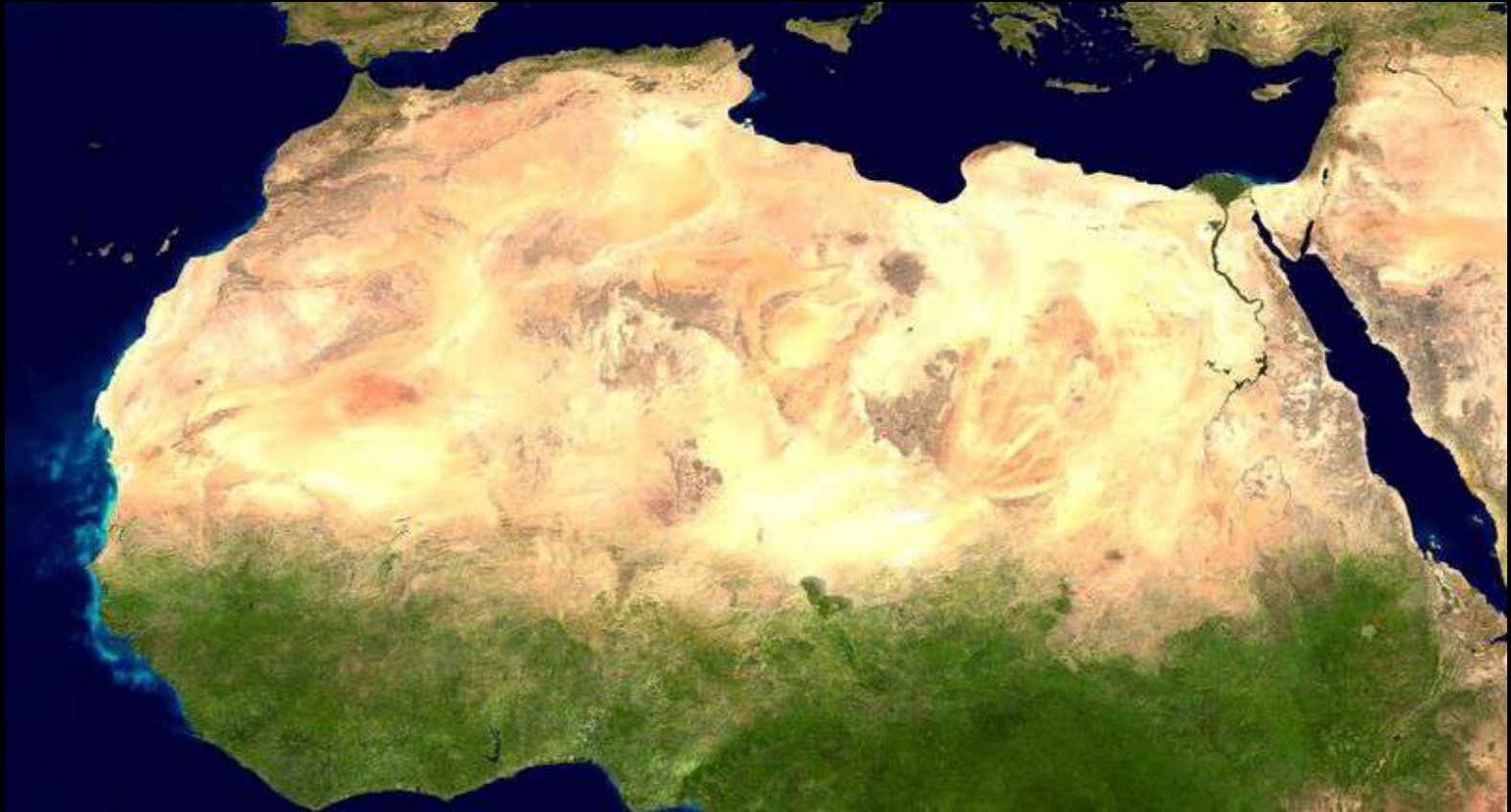
Bantu Migration

The migrations happened VERY SLOWLY.

Using primitive iron tools the Bantu would farm a plot of land for two or three years, but then the nutrients would be gone from the soil.

They originally lived in the savanna south of the Sahara in the area that is now Southeastern Nigeria.

Why Not Go North?



Causes of Migration

Permanent move from one place to another

Causes

- Environmental
- Economic
- Political

Movement depends on push-pull factors

Can be positive or negative

Farming techniques forced them to find new land to farm

Used the Slash and Burn technique

Increased population forced some to find new areas to live and farm

Effects of the Migration

Largest unforced human migration in history

Spread a language group

Forced native peoples like the BaMuti and the San who were hunter gathers out of the area.

More effects

Intermarriage caused a spread of culture

New technology of ironworking and weapons from copper, bronze, and iron

Spread farming techniques throughout the continent of Africa

SUDANIC KINGDOMS

b. 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.

SUNDANIC KINGDOMS



KINGS OF GHANA

- Strong rulers who governed without any laws
- Played active roles in the kingdom
- Vast wealth
- Relied on the well trained army of thousands of men to maintain their kingdom

ECONOMICS/TRADE

- ❑ Lived off land
- ❑ Prospered from possession of both iron & gold
- ❑ Skilled blacksmiths- highly valued because of their ability to turn ore into tools & weapons

Trade

- ❑ Gold made in the center of an enormous trade empire
- ❑ Muslim merchants brought metal goods, textiles, horses, and salt to Ghana
- ❑ Used silent trade

More Trade

- ❑ Other exports included ivory, ostrich feathers, hides, and slaves
- ❑ Most of the trade was by the Berbers – “fleets of the desert”
- ❑ Ghana flourished for several hundred years

Religion and Ghana

☐ . Islam

- ☐ spread through trade routes to Ghana

- ☐ Ghana maintained their traditional beliefs, but adopted some Islamic beliefs also

Collapse

- ❑ Collapsed during the 1100s
- ❑ Muslims from North Africa launched an attack which made Ghana weak
- ❑ Eventually swallowed up by powerful kingdom of Mali

Mali

- ❑ Greatest of West African trading societies, established in the Mid 13th century by Sundiata Kieta
- ❑ Sundiata defeated the Ghanaians and captured their capital in 1240.
- ❑ United the people of Mali; most were farmers who lived in villages with local rulers



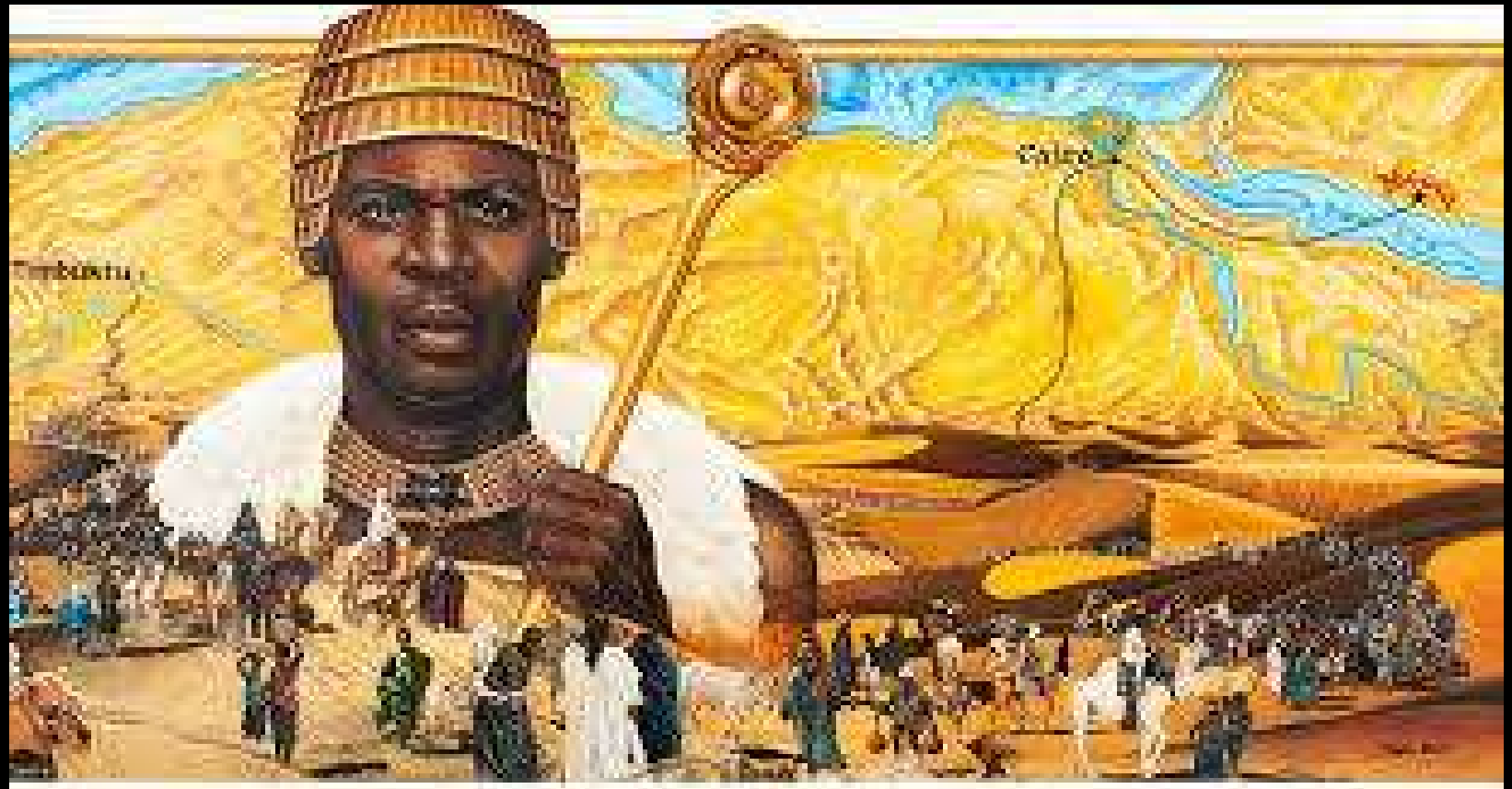
Sundiata Keita

- ❑ Created a strong central government
- ❑ Made Timbuktu a famous trading city
- ❑ Built Mali's wealth and power on gold and salt trade



Mansa Musa

- ❑ King of Mali who expanded empire.
- ❑ Converted to Islam
- ❑ Adopted Sharia law but promoted religious freedom and tolerance



Mansa Musa's impact

- ❑ **Pilgrimage** Completed a hajj to Mecca in 1324. Made “friends” with other Muslim nations which made Mali more powerful.
- ❑ **Created a strong central government** divided one kingdom into provinces
- ❑ **Doubled the size of Mali**

MANSA MUSA AND HAJJ TO MECCA

Musa was a devout Muslim and his pilgrimage to Mecca, a command ordained by Allah according to core teachings of Islam, made him well-known across northern Africa and the Middle East. To Musa, Islam was the foundation of the "cultured world of the Eastern Mediterranean". He would spend much time fostering the growth of Islam in his empire.

Musa made his pilgrimage in 1324, his procession reported to include 60,000 men, 12,000 slaves who all carried 4-lb. gold bars, heralds dressed in silks who bore gold staffs, organized horses and handled bags. Musa provided all necessities for the procession, feeding the entire company of men and animals. Also in the train were 80 camels, which varying reports claim carried between 50 and 300 pounds of gold dust each. He gave away the gold to the poor he met along his route. Musa not only gave to the cities he passed on the way to Mecca, including Cairo and Medina, but also traded gold for souvenirs. Furthermore, it has been recorded that he built a mosque each and every Friday.

Musa's journey was documented by several eyewitnesses along his route, who were in awe of his wealth and extensive procession, and records exist in a variety of sources, including journals, oral accounts and histories.

Musa is known to have visited with the Mamluk sultan Al-Nasir Muhammad of Egypt in July 1324.

Musa's generous actions, however, inadvertently devastated the economy of the region. In the cities of Cairo, Medina and Mecca, the sudden influx of gold devalued the metal for the next decade. Prices on goods and wares super inflated in an attempt to adjust to the newfound wealth that was spreading throughout local populations. To rectify the gold market, Musa borrowed all the gold he could carry from money-lenders in Cairo, at high interest. This is the only time recorded in history that one man directly controlled the price of gold in the Mediterranean.

From the far reaches of the Mediterranean Sea to the Indus River, the faithful approached the city of Mecca. All had the same objective to worship together at the most sacred shrine of Islam, the Kaaba in Mecca. One such traveler was Mansa Musa, Sultan of Mali in Western Africa. Mansa Musa had prepared carefully for the long journey he and his attendants would take. He was determined to travel not only for his own religious fulfillment, but also for recruiting teachers and leaders, so that his realms could learn more of the Prophet's teachings.

Mahmud Kati, *Chronicle of the Seeker*

Decline

- ❑ Disputes over succession weakened empire. By 1359 civil war divided Mali
- ❑ People left the empire and it began to decrease in size
- ❑ Mansa Musa was the last powerful king of Mali



Kingdom of Songhai

- ❑ In 1009, a ruler est. the Dia dynasty
- ❑ First Songhai state benefited from the Muslim trade routes linking Arabia, North Africa, and West Africa.
- ❑ Gao-Chief trading center

A greater Kingdom

- ❑ Replaced Mali as lead state in W. Africa.
- ❑ Largest of W. African states.
- ❑ Rulers and subjects were Muslim.
Mosques and schools studying Islam

Songhai & Trade

- ❑ Trade in gold and salt made the empire so prosperous
- ❑ Songhai empire reached its height under Muhammad Ture
- ❑ Maintained peace and security with a Navy and soldiers on horseback.

Songhai's Decline

- ❑ Frequent changes in leadership
- ❑ Civil war
- ❑ Fell because they did not have gunpowder. Empire collapsed after Moroccan invaders with gunpowder and cannons defeated Songhai warriors

Describe the trading networks and distribution of resources by examining trans-Saharan trade in gold, salt, and slaves; include the Swahili trading cities.

Gold was mined in the western sub-Saharan: supplying about 66% of the world's gold supply

The sub-Saharan lacked salt-essential for preserving food

Traders brought salt, and European goods with them in exchange for gold-trade was taxed by local rulers (Timbuktu)





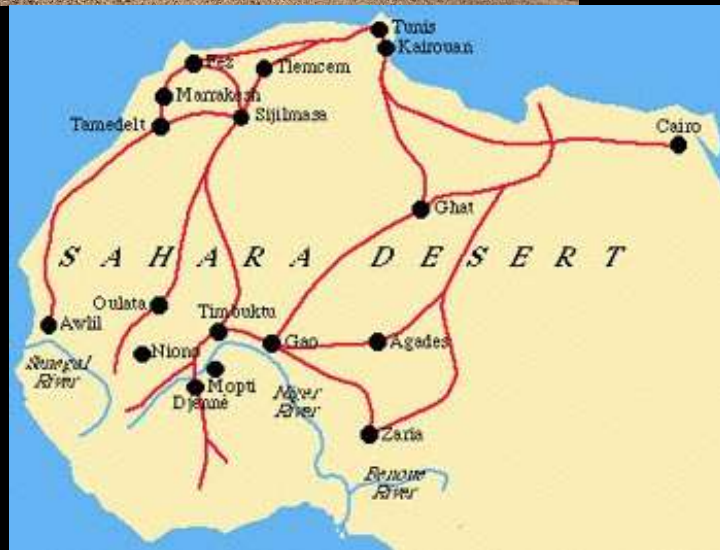
TRADE IN AFRICA:

❑ Camels enable traders to trek across Sahara.

- Gold and Salt
- West Africans control this trade and become very prosperous.

❑ Trans-Saharan Trade Network

- ❑ Camel caravans traveled across the Saharan desert into West Africa.
- ❑ Islam became the dominate religion in sub-Saharan Africa.



African Slave Trade



Arab traders exported slaves from Africa to Arabia and India to be used as domestic servants and soldiers

The slave trade was minor compared to the later slave trade to the Americas

TRADE PRODUCTS AND ROUTES

The rise of the Ghana Empire paralleled the increase in trans-Saharan trade. Mediterranean economies were short of gold but could supply salt

West African countries like Wangara had plenty of gold but needed salt

The trans-Saharan slave trade was also important because large numbers of Africans were sent north, generally to serve as domestic servants or slave concubines

The West African states imported highly trained slave soldiers. It has been estimated that from the 10th to the 19th century some 6,000 to 7,000 slaves were transported north each year

Perhaps as many as nine million slaves were exported along the trans-Saharan caravan route



TRADE IN AFRICA:

- ❑ Trade occurred in Indian Ocean
- ❑ East African international trade system led to a new culture & language: Swahili
- ❑ Language: Arabic words absorbed into Bantu-based language
- ❑ Primarily traded slaves with Middle East & India

EAST AFRICAN TRADING CITIES

SWAHILI TRADING CITIES, KINGDOMS

Swahili kingdoms are known to have had island trade ports, described by Greek historians as "metropolises"

established regular trade routes with the Islamic world and Asia

Ports such as Mombasa, Zanzibar, and Kilwa were known to Chinese sailors under Zheng He and medieval Islamic geographers such as the Berber traveller Abu Abdullah ibn Battuta

The main Swahili exports were ivory, slaves, and gold

They traded with Arabia, India, Persia, and China.

The Portuguese arrived in 1498. On a mission to economically control and Christianize the Swahili coast, the Portuguese attacked Kilwa first in 1505 and other cities later. Because of Swahili resistance, the Portuguese attempt at establishing commercial control was never successful.

SYNCRETISM

Syncretism

combining of different (often seemingly contradictory) beliefs, often while melding practices of various schools of thought

As Christianity and Islam were diffusing into Africa, there was a blending of traditional African beliefs with new ideas from CH and IS.

