

Kingdoms of Africa

Did you know?

- Africa is one of the earth's seven continents.
- The earliest evidence of human beings comes from Africa.

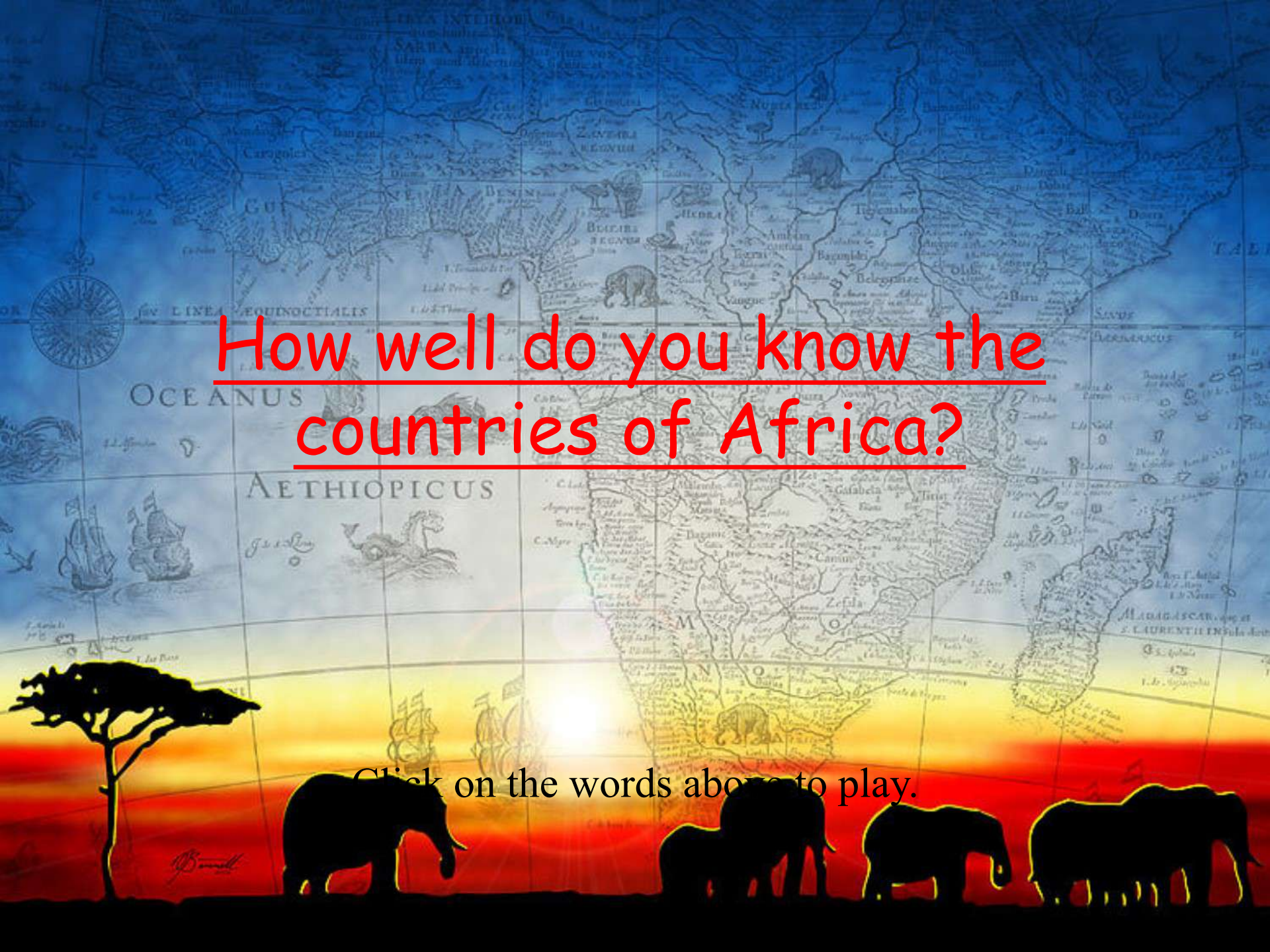


Geography

Africa is one of the earth's seven continents. There are many different countries on the continent of Africa. Play these games to learn more about the geography of Africa and world.

Click on these
links to play
some
geography
games

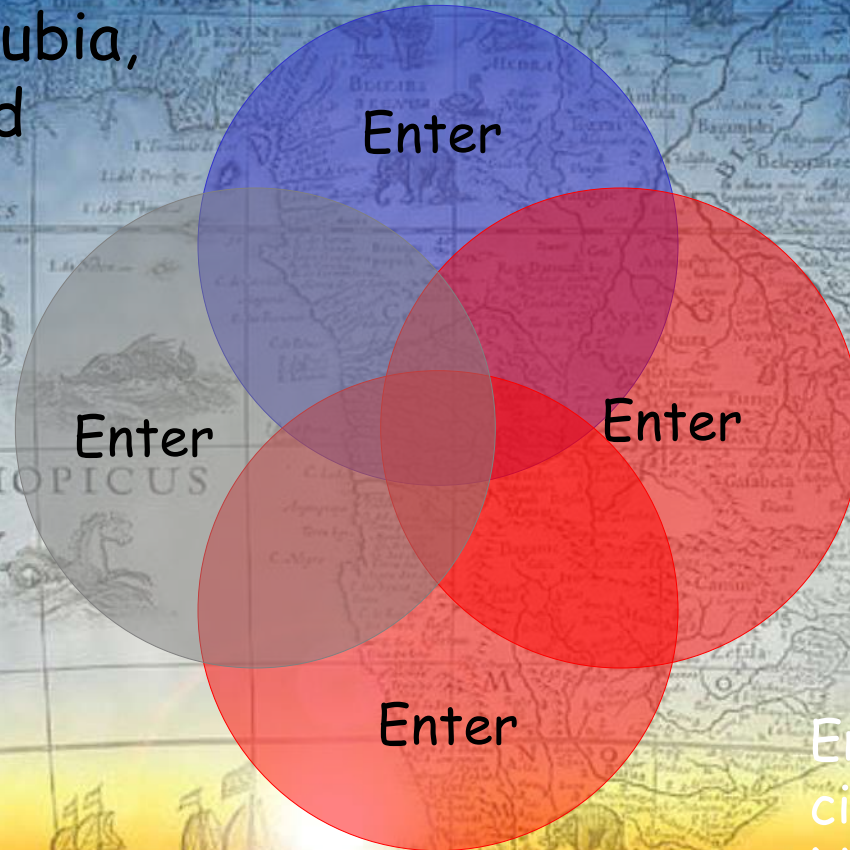


The background features a historical map of Africa, likely from a 17th-century travelogue, with various regions and cities labeled in Latin. The map is overlaid on a sunset background with silhouettes of African animals and a tree. The text is centered over the map.

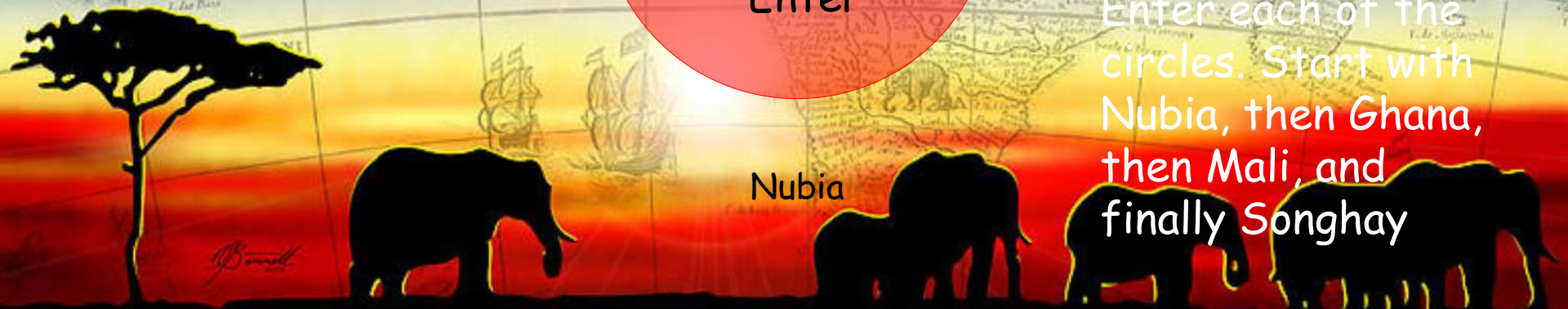
How well do you know the countries of Africa?

Click on the words above to play.

Africa was the home of four great civilizations; Nubia, Ghana, Mali and Songhay.



Enter each of the circles. Start with Nubia, then Ghana, then Mali, and finally Songhay



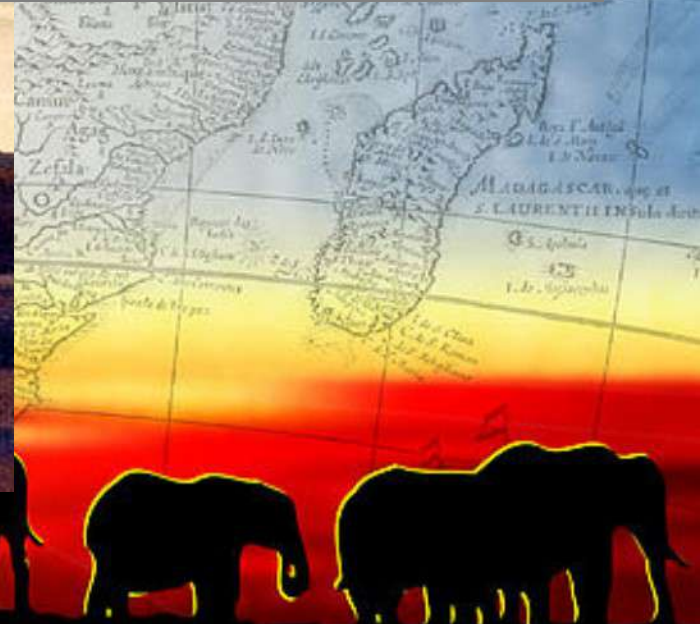
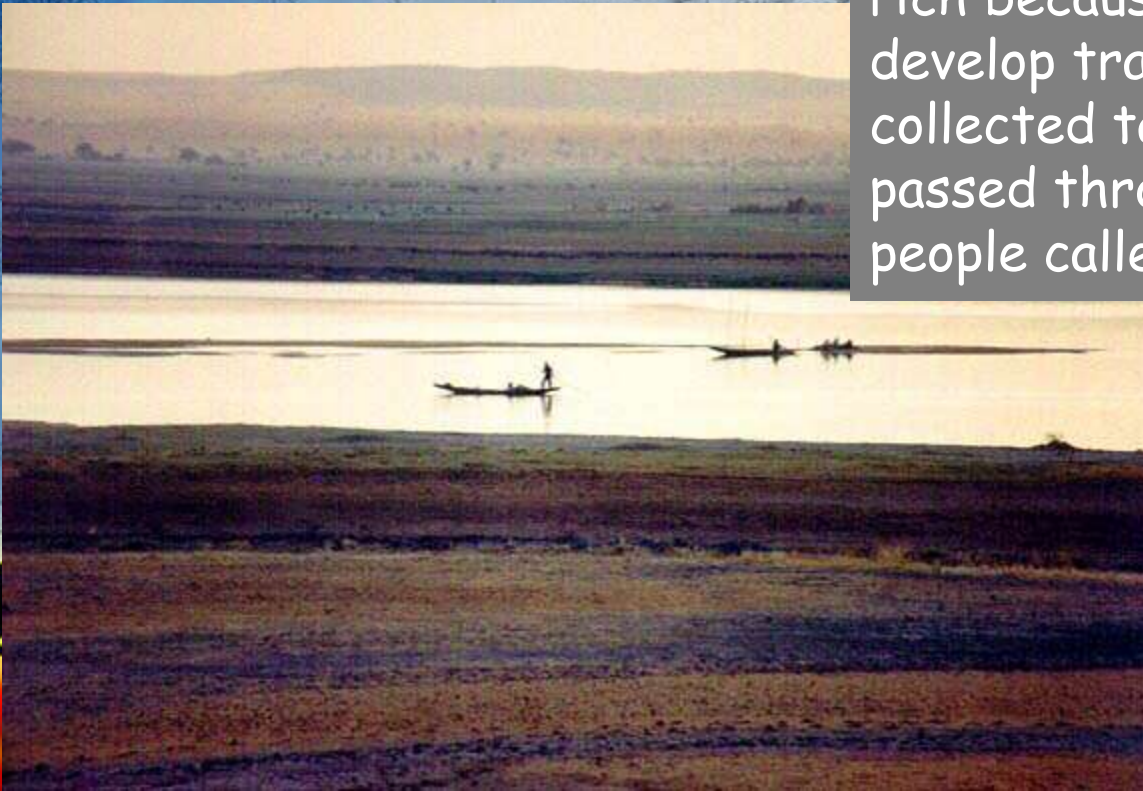


GHANA



Ghana developed in West Africa between the Niger and the Gambia Rivers.

The rivers helped Ghana to grow rich because they were used to develop trade. Ghana also collected taxes from traders who passed through the kingdom. The people called their nation Wagadu.



Ghana had few natural resources except salt and gold

Ghanaian warriors used iron tipped spears to subdue their enemies.

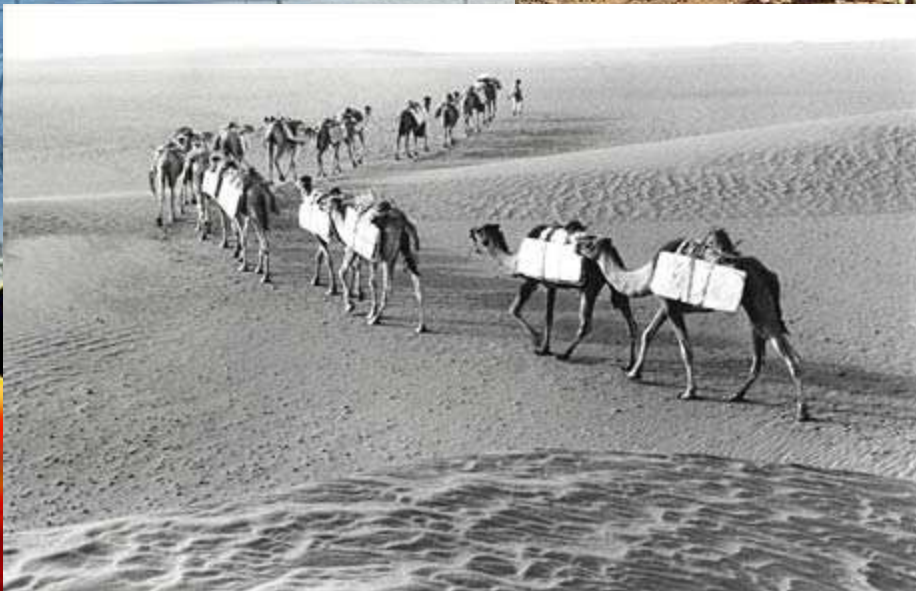


YOU DON'T NEED TO WRITE THIS

"The King . . . (wears). . . necklaces round his neck and bracelets on his forearms and he puts on a high cap decorated with gold and wrapped in a turban of fine cotton. He (meets people) in a domed pavilion around which stand ten horses covered with gold-embroidered materials...and on his right, are the sons of the (lesser) kings of his country, wearing splendid garments and their hair plaited with gold.

This is a primary source that describes the court of one king of Ghana. Complete the worksheet on the modified reading.

Ghana relied on trade and trade was made faster and bigger with the use of the camel.



Click here to learn about camels.



Islamic
Mosque
in Ghana



[blankbluesky.com/ travel/ghana/](http://blankbluesky.com/travel/ghana/)

After 700 AD, the religion of Islam began to spread over northern Africa.

Muslim warriors came into Ghana and fought with the non-Islamic people there. This weakened the great civilization of Ghana.



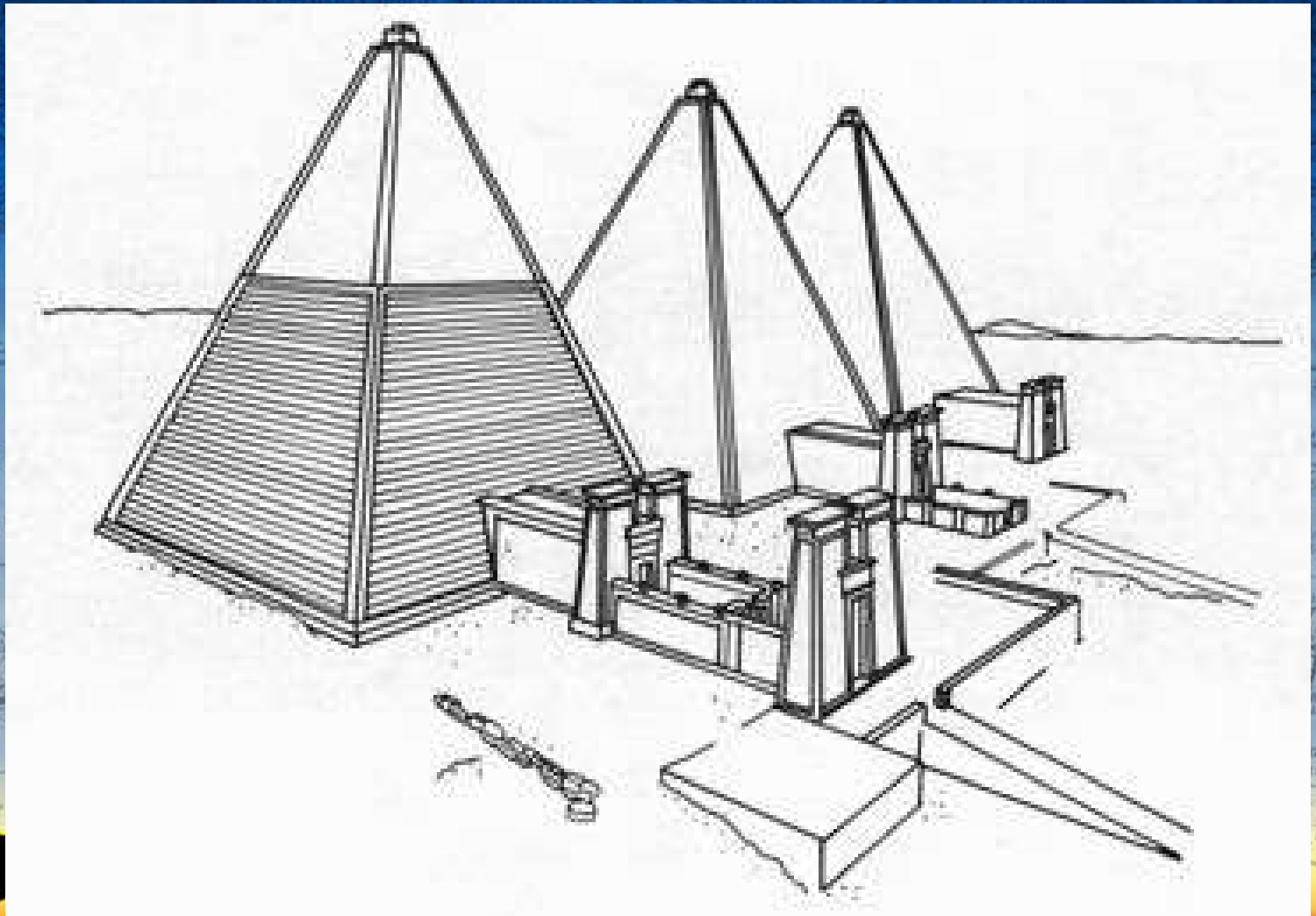
Nubia





Nubia was a great civilization that developed along the Nile River south of Egypt. They shared many of the same cultural traits as Egypt such as religion, architecture and art.

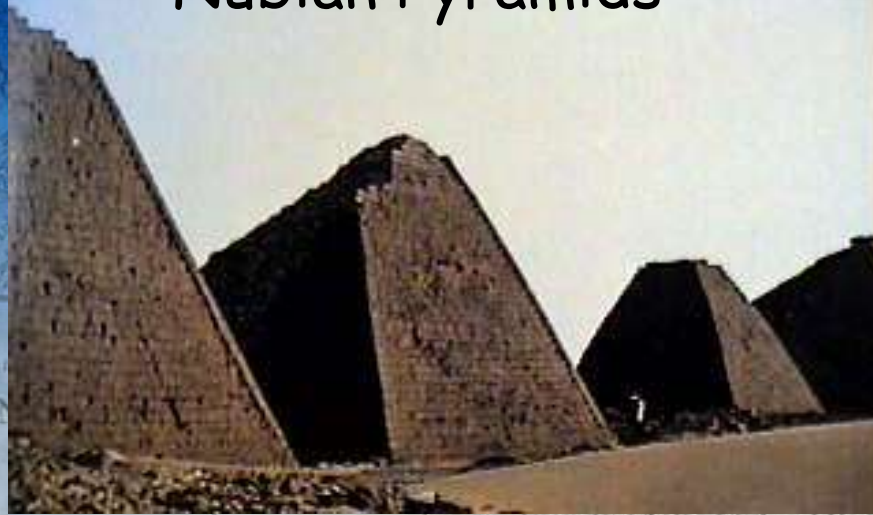




These are the pyramids of Ancient Nubia. They were used as tombs.



Nubian Pyramids



As you look at the following pictures, think of these questions: What are the pyramids made of? How many sides are there? How large are they? (Notice person next to middle one.)



Nubian Pyramids





www.calstatela.edu/faculty/acolvil/sediments.html

These are the pyramids of Egypt. Compare them to those of Nubia.



This is one of the biggest pyramids in Egypt.





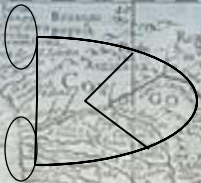











Notice the people at the base of this Egyptian pyramid. This helps to show the size of the pyramid.

The Land of Nubia

For many centuries, the people and culture of Ancient Nubia were a mystery to the world. Even the Ancient Greeks wrote about an advanced culture that was mostly unknown to other civilizations of the time.



Nubian Hieroglyphs	Cursive Version	Nubian Hieroglyphs	Cursive Version
I 		T 	
K 		N 	
		D 	

One reason little was known about the culture was that they did not write down their history until late in ancient times.

Another reason is they were isolated geographically.

Nubian writing was similar to Egyptian writing but developed into a completely separate language later in time.

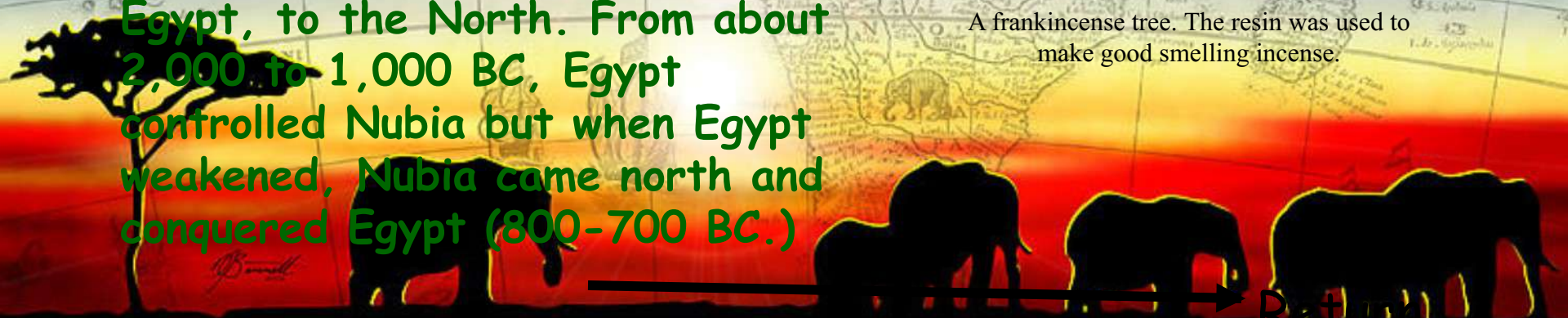
Ancient Nubia resources: gold, ivory, copper, frankincense and ebony.

Nubia was also known as Kush and The Land of the Bow (archery).



A frankincense tree. The resin was used to make good smelling incense.

They were often at war with Egypt, to the North. From about 2,000 to 1,000 BC, Egypt controlled Nubia but when Egypt weakened, Nubia came north and conquered Egypt (800-700 BC.)



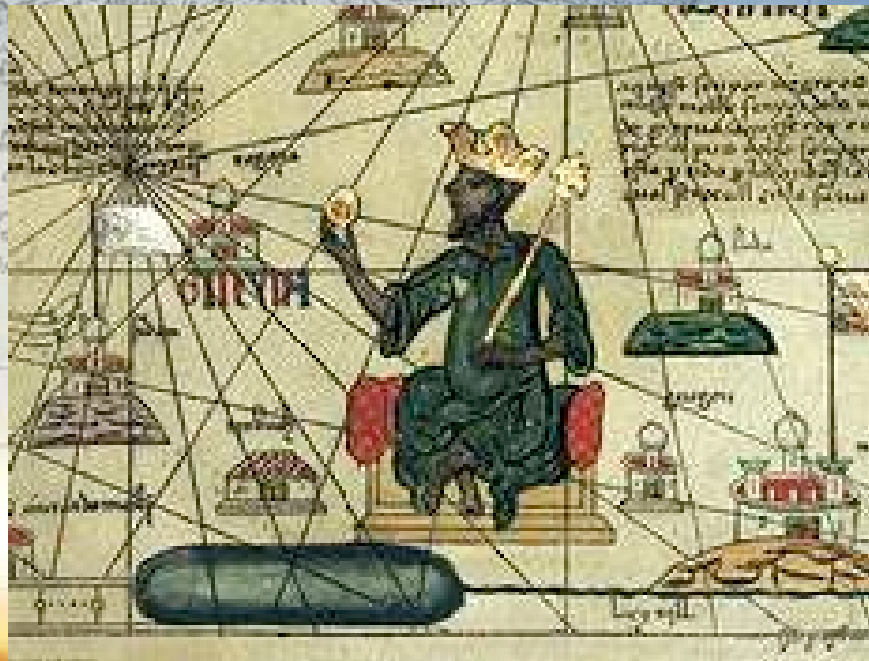


Mali



A powerful king named Sundiata ruled this area from around 1230-1255 AD.

Perhaps the greatest king of Mali was Mansa Musa (1312-1337). He developed the gold and salt trade of Mali.

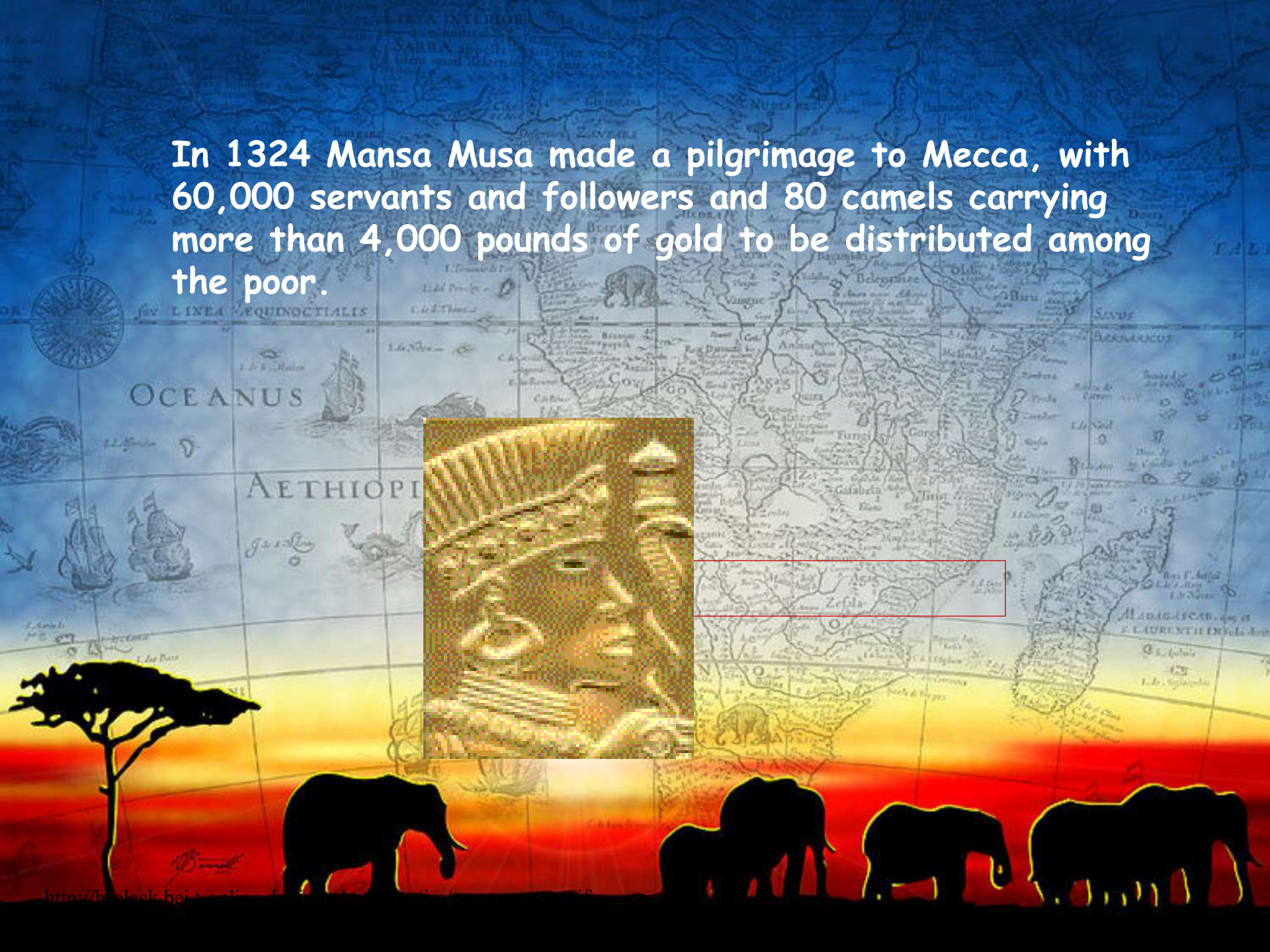
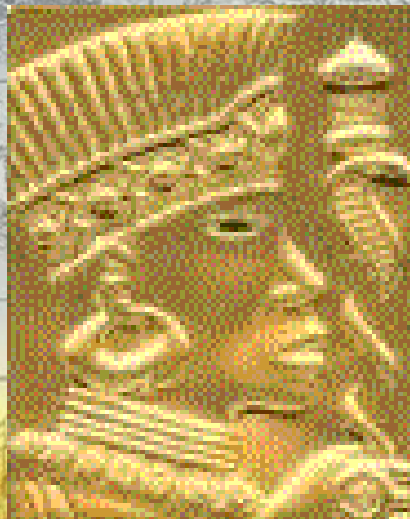


Mansu Musa: Lord of the Golden Kingdom of Mali. (P. 100, History of Mali)

Mansa Musa was a Muslim,
meaning he followed the religion
of Islam. He built many mosques
in western Africa.



In 1324 Mansa Musa made a pilgrimage to Mecca, with 60,000 servants and followers and 80 camels carrying more than 4,000 pounds of gold to be distributed among the poor.



When Mansa Musa died there were no kings as powerful as he was to follow.

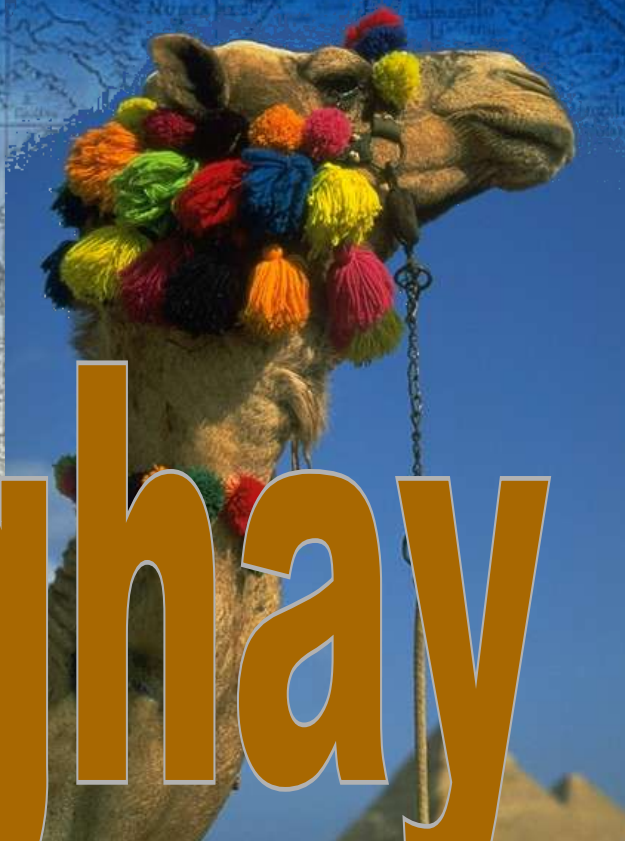
Berbers came from the south and destroyed Mali

Although Mali fell, another advanced African kingdom took its place, the kingdom of Songhay.



The Berbers still live in North Africa. This picture, taken in 1893, shows a Berber group.

Songhay





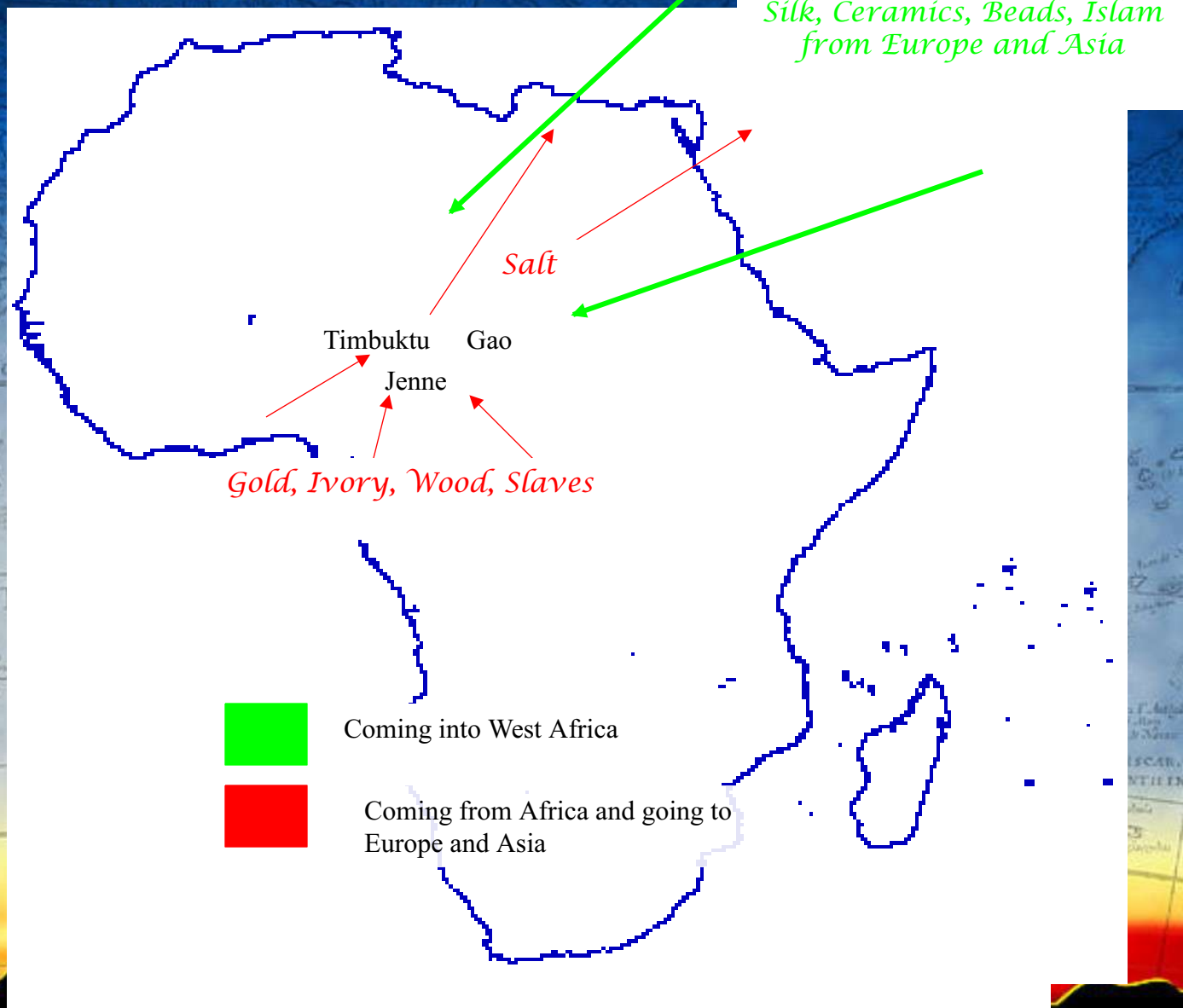
This map was created in 1375. The same trade routes were used by the merchants of the Songhay kingdom.

What kinds of pictures do you see on the map and why do you think the mapmaker put them there?



The picture above is one artist's idea of what the great Songhay leader, Sunni Ali might have looked like. Sunni Ali saw that the kingdom of Mali was weakening and he led his soldiers to conquer the area. He began the kingdom of Songhay. He also set up a complex government to rule all the lands he had conquered.

All three kingdoms of West Africa relied on trade.





Click here to complete a scavenger hunt about western [Africa](#). Use the "Scavenger Hunt" worksheet in your packet.



Sunni Ali died in 1492 CE. His son took over the rule of Songhay but he did not accept Islam as a religion.

One of Sunni Ali's generals, named Muhammad Ture, overthrew the new king and made himself king of Songhay. Islam was reinstated

This is a photo of a mosque, or place of worship for Muslims, in western Africa. Many mosques were built of local materials.



For more detailed information on Songhay,
click on the picture.



Songhay remained a rich and strong kingdom under Muhammad Ture's rule. It had a complex government centered in the city of Gao, and great centers of learning. But later rulers were not as powerful. In the late 1500s, Morocco invaded Songhay to take its rich trade routes.

Moroccans had a new weapon, the gun, and the army of Songhay did not. This led to the fall of So





OCEANUS

AETHIOPICUS



Barnwell