

Kush

- Dates: 2000 BCE – 350 CE
- Location: south of Egypt in modern-day Sudan
- Important Ruler(s): King Piankhi, who conquered Egypt in 750 BCE
- Rise: The Kingdom of Kush was first called Nubia. It was formed as early as 2000 BCE, when it began selling luxury items to Egypt.
- Fall: In 350 CE, the Kingdom of Kush was conquered by the Kingdom of Axum.
- Answers to Homework Questions:
 1. Where was the Kingdom of Nubia located?
South of Egypt in part of modern-day Sudan
 2. How did Egypt interact with the Nubians?
Egypt and Nubia were connected through trade and politics. Nubian merchants provided Egyptians with luxury items.
 3. How and why did the Kingdom of Nubia end?
Egypt conquered Nubia because it wanted control of Nubia's trade network.
 4. How did the Kingdom of Kush come to power?
By 1000 B.C.E., Nubia had won its independence from Egypt. King Piankhi also conquered Egypt in 750 C.E.
 5. How did the Assyrians conquer the Kushites?
The Assyrians conquered the Kushites in 663 C.E. The Assyrians had iron weapons, which were much stronger than the Kushite's bronze weapons.
 6. After their defeat by the Assyrians, the Kushites moved to Meroë. Why was Meroë a good location for the Kushites?
Because it is where two trade routes met and the location of large iron ore deposits, which the Kushites used to make weapons and tools.

*****Takeaways*****

- Kush's relationship with Egypt
- Importance of iron

Axum

- Dates: 300 BCE – 1543 CE
- Location: east Africa in modern-day Ethiopia
- Important Ruler(s): King Ezana, who was the king when Axum defeated Kush. In 324 CE, he converted to Christianity and made it the official religion of Axum.
- Rise: Arabs and Africans joined together to create the trading kingdom of Axum in 300 BCE.
- Fall: After defeating the Muslim traders, Axum split into several different kingdoms.
- Answers to Homework Questions:
 1. When and where was the Kingdom of Axum founded?
300 B.C.E. in East Africa (modern day Ethiopia)
 2. Who founded Axum?
Arabs and Africans
 3. What was Axum's main business?
Trade
 4. What was Axum's relationship with Kush like?
Axum and Kush were trading rivals. Axum defeated Kush in 300 C.E. to become the primary trading kingdom in east Africa.
 5. Who was King Ezana?
King of Axum who converted to Christianity in 324 C.E. and made Christianity the official religion of Axum.
 6. Why was there conflict between Axum and the Muslim traders?
Fighting broke out because Muslim traders were trying to take over the slave and ivory trade.
 7. How did the kingdom end?
After defeating the Muslim traders, Axum split into several different kingdoms.

*****Takeaways*****

- Trading kingdom
- Christianity was the official religion

Zimbabwe

- Dates: 1400s – 1500s
- Location: southeast Africa
- Important Ruler(s): Mutota and his son Matope, the leaders of the Shona (a Bantu-speaking group) who drove out other clans living in the area to form the Monomotapa Kingdom.
- Rise: In the 1400s, Mutota and Matope drove out other groups living in the area to form the Monomotapa Kingdom.
- Fall: Monomotapa was defeated by the gold-seeking Portuguese in the 1500s.
- Answers to Homework Questions:
 1. What does Zimbabwe mean?
“Great Stone Houses”
 2. What was the Great Zimbabwe?
The largest of the stone houses built by Bantu-speakers in the area. It has a palace, towers, a fort, and fences made out of stone.
 3. What empire was founded in the Zimbabwe region?
Monomotapa
 4. Describe the economy in the Zimbabwe region.
Zimbabwe’s economy was based on trade. Zimbabwe’s main export was gold. They taxed all merchants traveling through the area.
 5. Who (people and leader) founded this empire?
The Shona led by Mutota and his son, Matope.
 6. What kind of government did this leader set up? Describe this system of government.
Feudal government – vassals owed yearly service, loyalty, and sometimes money to higher nobles in return for protection
 7. How did this empire end?
The Portuguese defeated them in the 1620s.

*****Takeaways*****

- Meaning of Zimbabwe / the Great Zimbabwe

Ghana

- Dates: 500 CE – 1240 CE
- Location: west Africa in parts of modern-day Mauritania, Mali, Senegal, and Guinea
- Important Rulers: none (according to the reading)
- Rise: Began as a farming community. The Kingdom of Ghana was formed after the discovery of large gold mines in the area.
- Fall: Began to slowly decline in the 1100s because it never fully recovered from Islamic invasions. States began breaking away from the kingdom. The final blow came when Sundiata Keita of Mali conquered Ghana in 1240 CE.
- Answers to Homework Questions:
 1. Where was the Kingdom of Ghana located?
Parts of modern-day Mauritania, Mali, Senegal, and Guinea
 2. Describe Ghana's economy.
Ghanians mined gold and traded with North Africans for salt.
 3. How did gold and salt contribute to the success of Ghana?
The kings taxed the salt coming in and the gold going out to become wealthy.
 4. What role did Islam play in Ghana?
Invading armies and merchants brought Islam to the region. Islam scholars followed the merchants began teaching Islam. People living in the city converted to Islam. People living in the country did not.
 5. How did the Kingdom of Ghana end?
The Kingdom of Ghana never truly recovered from Islamic invasions and began to decline in the 1100s C.E. Some states broke away. The kingdom officially ended when King Sundiata conquered it and founded the Kingdom of Mali.

*****Takeaways*****

- Salt / gold trade
- Influence of Islam

Mali

- Dates: 1234 CE – 1400s CE
- Location: west Africa, from the Atlantic coast to modern-day Niger
- Important Ruler(s): Sumanguru, Sundiata Keita, and Mansa Musa
- Rise: Sumanguru seized part of Ghana. To increase his power, Sumanguru killed the 11 brothers of Sundiata Keita. To avenge their deaths, Sundiata Keita killed Sumanguru and took over Mali.
- Fall: After Mansa Musa's death, Berbers from the north invaded and civil wars broke out. In 1359, Gao and Timbuktu broke away. Mali quickly lost its importance.
- Answers to Homework Questions:
 1. According to the *Epic of Sundiata*, how was the Kingdom of Mali founded?
Sumanguru, the ruler of Kaniaga, took over part of Ghana. To increase his power, Sumanguru killed 11 princes. To avenge their deaths, Sundiata Keita killed Sumanguru and took over his land to found the Kingdom of Mali.
 2. Describe Mali's economy.
Most of the people in Mali were farmers. Mali's wealth was built on the gold and salt trade. All imports and exports were taxed. Citizens were also taxed heavily.
 3. Describe Mansa Musa's pilgrimage to Mecca.
Mansa Musa was the king of Mali who ruled from 1312 to 1337. He converted to Islam and went on a grand pilgrimage to Mecca. He took 60,000 people with him, including 12,000 slaves. He also brought 150,000 pounds of gold, which he gave away freely during his trip.
 4. What was Timbuktu? Why was it important?
Timbuktu was the capital of Mali. After Mansa Musa's pilgrimage to Mecca, Timbuktu became the world center for Islamic learning.
 5. How did the Kingdom of Mali end?
Berbers invaded after Mansa Musa's death. At the same time, there were civil wars going on. Because of all the fighting, Timbuktu and Gao (another city in Mali) broke away from the kingdom and Mali became less important.

*****Takeaways*****

- Mansa Musa
- Influence of Islam
- Timbuktu

Songhai

- Dates: 1450 – 1600s
- Location: west Africa, with the city of Gao as its center
- Important Ruler(s): Sunni Ali and Askia Muhammad, who took over after Sunni Ali's death
- Rise: After Gao broke away from the Kingdom of Mali, it became the center of Songhai's trading kingdom.
- Fall: Fighting among rivals and the invasion of the sultan of Morocco ended the Kingdom of Songhai by the early 1600s.
- Answers to Homework Questions:
 1. Who founded the Kingdom of Songhai?
Sunni Ali
 2. Why did this leader want to expand his territory?
He wanted to expand the gold and salt trade.
 3. What happened after this leader's death? Who took over?
After Sunni Ali's death, fighting broke out over who would rule. Sunni Ali's son lost the fight to Muhammad Ture, who changed his name to Askia Muhammad.
 4. Describe the government under this new leader.
Askia Muhammad divided the kingdom into provinces ruled by governors.
 5. How did the leader's pilgrimage to Mecca influence Songhai?
After his pilgrimage to Mecca, Askia Muhammad encouraged people to convert to Islam and supported the building of schools and mosques. Islamic principles became the basis for social reforms and the court system.
 6. How did the Kingdom of Songhai end?
Fighting among rivals and the invasion of the sultan of Morocco.

*****Takeaways*****

- Influence of Islam