**Early African Societies Guided Notes**

**SSWH6 Describe the diverse characteristics of early African societies before 1500 CE/AD.**

1. **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.**
2. **Describe the trading networks and distribution of resources by examining trans-Saharan trade in gold, salt, and slaves; include the Swahili trading cities.**

**Three 3 Great West African Empires: Ghana, Mali, and Songhai 300-1600 C.E.**

**West Africa’s 4 Climate Zones**

* Sahara Desert: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ was key trade good – \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_
* Steppe: Shore of the Desert: area in between desert and savanna
* Savanna: tall grasses and small trees: good for growing grains
* Rain forest: wood and edible roots like yams

**The Niger and Senegal Rivers**All three empires were located near the \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ and Senegal Rivers. - “Where the canoe meets the camel”

**Ghana: The First Great West Empire**

* Arab scholars described Ghana as a fabled “land of \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.”
* Ghana’s succession was \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.
* Farmers in villages ruled by a local ruler.
* Ghana had a powerful army.
* The use of \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ to make tools and weapons was important because these helped Ghana expand its control over neighboring people.

**Trade**

* Ghana becomes wealthy by taxing traders. There were the “middleman” between gold traders from north and salt traders from the south,
* Gold and salt were \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ in value.
* Locals practiced \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.
* Trade increased between North and West Africa due to the introduction of the camel and the spread of \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.

**Ghana’s Collapse**

* Ghana collapsed due to
  + - * a loss of \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_
      * an invasion by the Almoravids.

**Mali: The 2nd Great West African Empire**

* Established in the mid-13th century by \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_
* Sundiata united the people of Mali and created a strong government
* The \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ of West Africa occurs under Mansa Musa’s leadership.
* Profited greatly from the \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.

**Mansa Musa’s Pilgrimage**

* Mansa Musa puts Mali on the world map with his \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.
* Mansa Musa brings scholars back to Mali and make it (especially Timbuktu) a center of learning.

**\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_: A Center of Trade and Learning**

**Songhai: Third Great West African Empire**

* About 100 years after Mansa Musa’ death, the \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ rise up under Sunni Ali and conquer Mali.
* Under Askia Mohammed Toure, Songhai expands and becomes a strict Muslim empire.

**Kingdom of Songhai**

* Trade in gold and salt made the empire prosperous
* Maintained peace and security with a \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ and soldiers on horseback
* Declined during the 16th century.

**The Decline of Songhai**

* 1591- Moroccans raided Taghaza’s salt mine and the Songhai were defeated at the Battle of Tongdibi.  
  The empire never recovered.

**c. Understand the blending of traditional African beliefs with new ideas from Islam and   
Christianity and their impact on early African societies.**

**Early African Society & Religion**

* Many families (like those Ibn Battuta describe in his writings) were matrilineal– inheritance traced through mother’s side of the family
* \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ had a larger role in society particularly in West Africa
* Religion was varied
  + - Some were \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_
    - Many identified the forces of nature with divine spirits
    - Used rituals and ceremonies to worship
    - \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**Oral Traditions**

* Griots are poet-musicians and historians.
* \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ were used to pass down history and to teach young people morals and values.
* Proverbs are popular sayings meant to express something wise or true.
* African music has influenced \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, blues, rock and rap music.

**Islam Brings Change**

* Islam brought changes in:
  + religious practices
  + \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ (patrilineal)
  + government (more centralized)
  + system of law (\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_)
  + education with Timbuktu becoming a center of learning
  + language with \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ becoming the language of religion, learning, trade and government
  + architecture (al-Saheli, built great mosques and introduced a new design for houses)
  + arts (including \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_)

**Syncretism**

* the \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ of different forms of belief or practice.
* Examples include \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_-- Bantu based language
* \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_– idea of a supreme God from Christianity and Islam blended with local beliefs
* Architecture– blending of African and Arabic designs