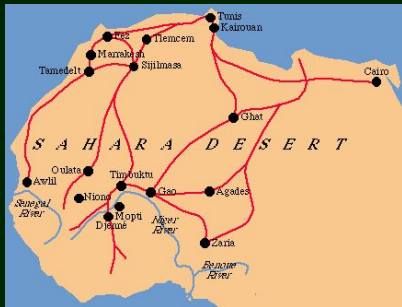


Western African Civilizations: Ghana, Mali, & Songhai





Africa, 800-1500



- Ghana, 800s to 1000s
- Hausa city-states, 1200s to 1500s
- Mali, 1200s to 1400s
- Songhai, 1400s to 1500s
- Other kingdoms



Ghana

- The first of the West African trading kingdoms
 - Through weapon making technology (iron smelting), Ghanaian warriors expanded boundaries
 - Gained control over trade routes

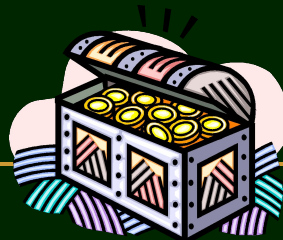


Ghana



■ Gold Salt Trade

- Location! Location! Location!
 - Ghana was located in the midway between Saharan salt mines and tropical gold mines
- Caravans of Muslim merchants brought goods, which Ghanaian people exchanged for gold
 - Trade conducted via the silent trade
 - Muslims brought their religion to the people of Ghana



The Ghana Empire



Salt as a commodity

<http://www.history.com/shows/mankind-the-story-of-all-of-us/videos/salt>

Salt Mines



Mali

- Mansa Musa

- Devout Muslim king

- Bases legal and justice system on the Qur'an

- Makes hajj to Mecca, but stops in Egypt first

- Gives Egypt so much gold that the value of gold declines for 10 straight years
- Traveled with 12,000 servants each wearing silk & carrying gold bars, which were given to the poor



Mali

- Mansa Musa

- Brings back Islamic scholars and architects to Mali
- Builds city of Timbuktu
- Timbuktu
 - Center of learning and art
 - Increased Islamic influence in West Africa
 - Use of credit
 - Written contracts
 - Education for many classes



Timbuktu



Watch to 2:50 Min and start at
23-25 min

Mansa Musa Videos



Ibn Battuta

- Moroccan born traveler and explorer
 - Travel the Islamic world from North Africa to China
 - Spent 30 years traveling
 - His primary source writings inform historians about the Muslim world in Africa



Answer the following question:

Much of the wealth of the West African kingdoms of Ghana and Mali was gained from the

- A. Sale of slaves to Europeans
 - B. Creation of colonies on the Mediterranean coast
 - C. Taxation on goods brought by Indian merchants
 - D. Control of the trans-Saharan trade in gold and salt.
-

Answer the following question:

Which description best characterizes the city of Timbuktu?

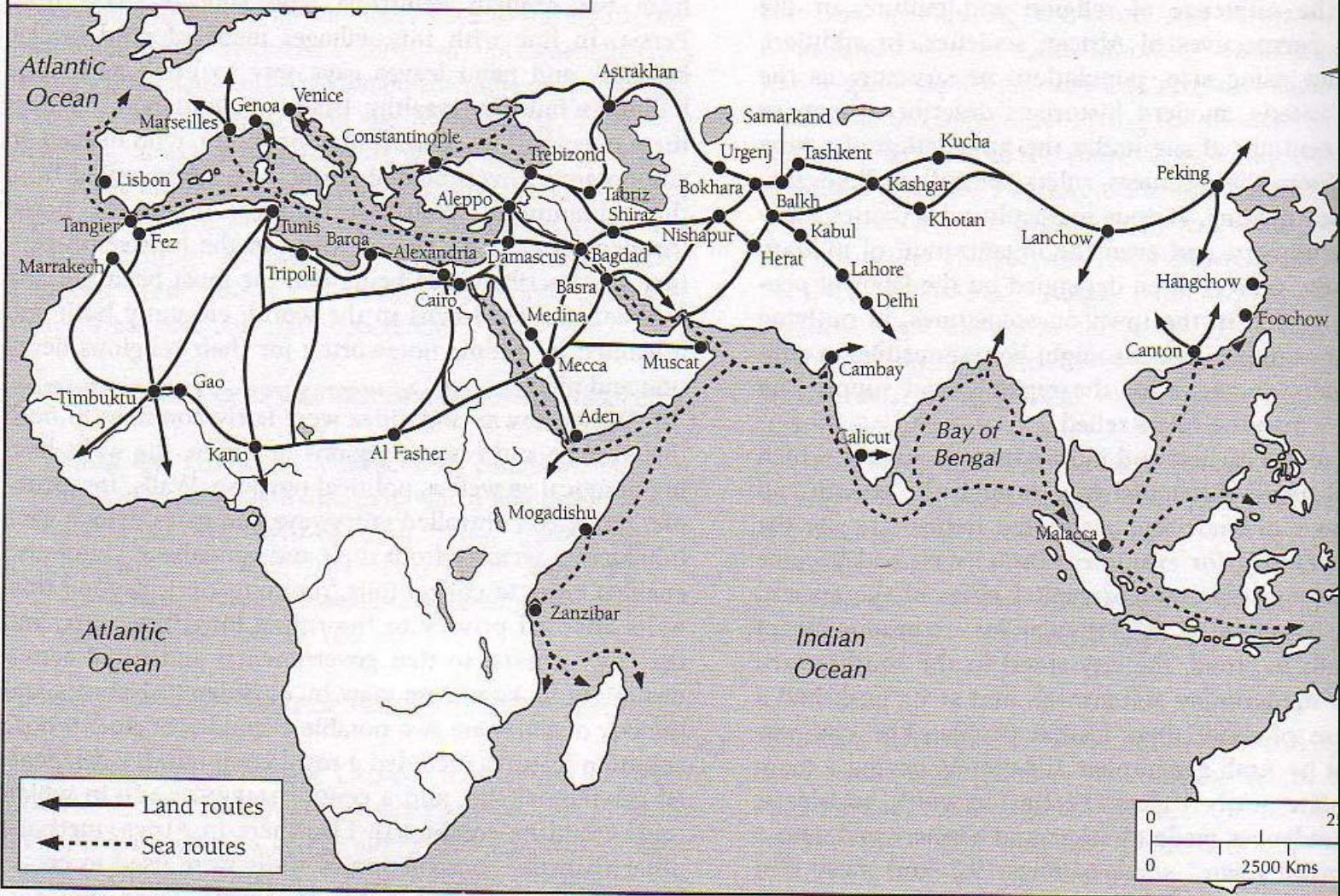
- (1) port on the water route to East Asia
- (2) major urban and industrial center on the Silk Road
- (3) commercial and cultural center of West Africa
- (4) inland city of the Hanseatic League

Songhai

- The largest of the 3 major West African kingdoms
- Took control of Timbuktu
- Expanded trade to Europe and Asia
 - Time of great cultural diffusion
- Askia Muhammad sets up high functioning bureaucracy
 - 5 provinces each with
 - A governor
 - Tax collector
 - Judges (Like Mansa Musa, had laws based on Qur'an)
 - Trade inspectors



Africa to Asia Trade Routes c. 1500



Masks

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