

WEST AFRICAN KINGDOMS / EMPIRES

ANCIENT WEST AFRICAN KINGDOMS/EMPIRES of

Mali, Songhai and Ghana

[and 3 West African countries today]

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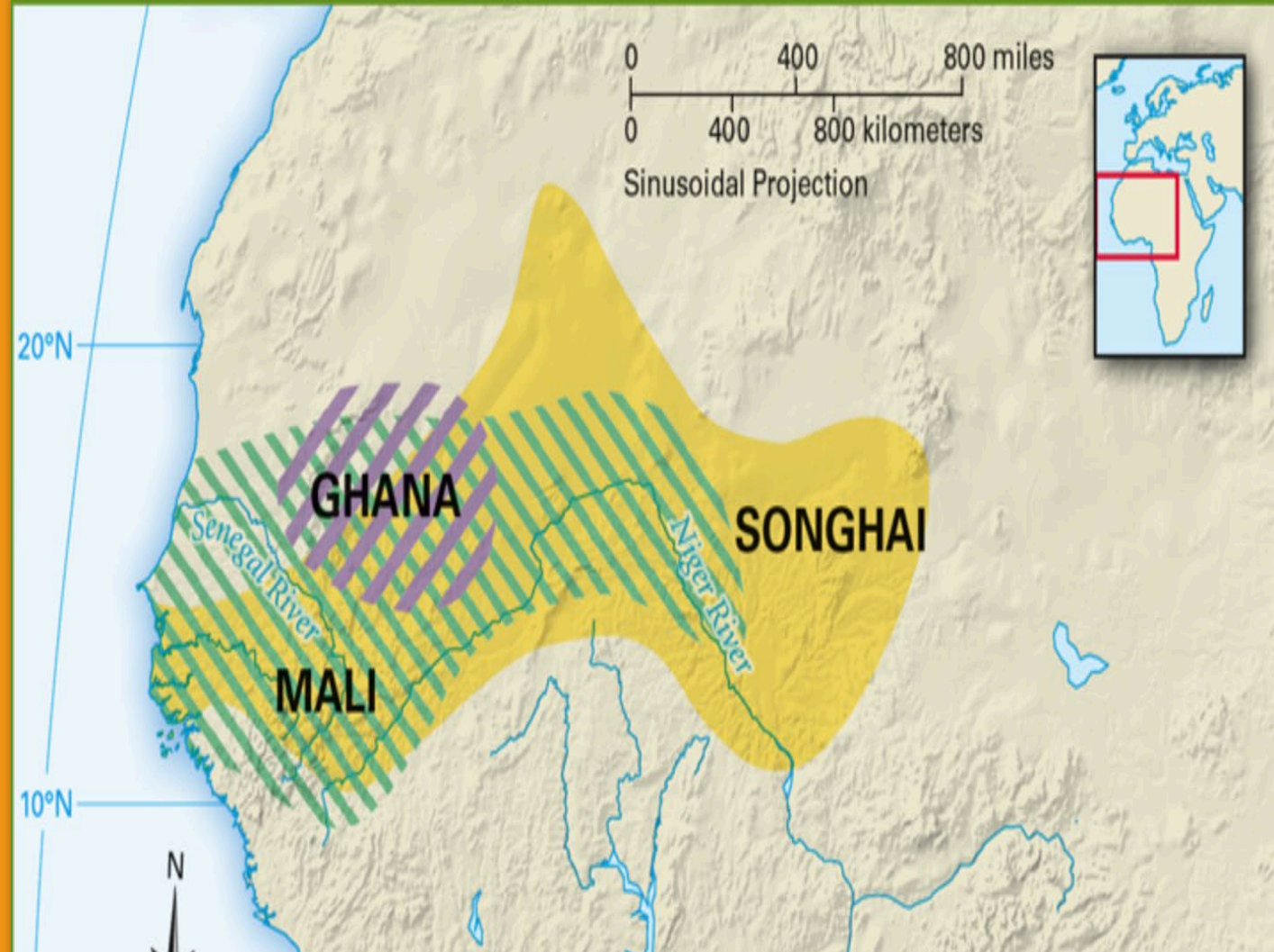
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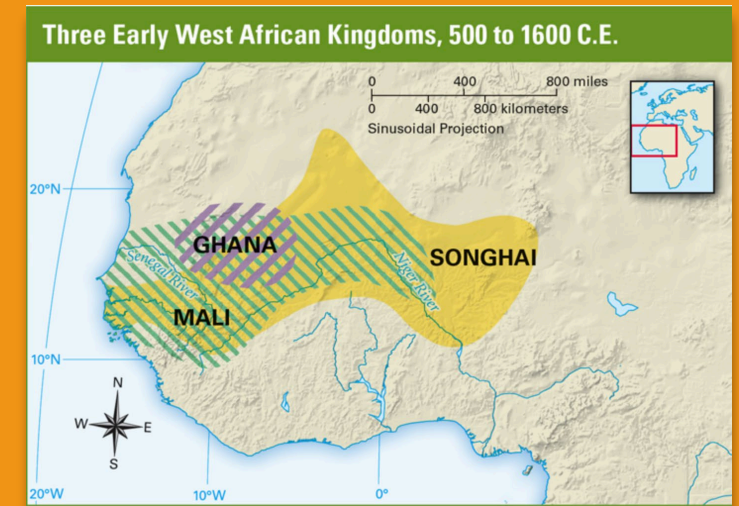


Three Early West African Kingdoms, 500 to 1600 C.E.



The (3) different empires of West Africa

- Ghana Empire, Mali Empire, Songhai Empire
- In west Africa their people gained control of lucrative trade routes, a succession of three powerful kingdoms rose to dominance. Ghana was the first of these empires to rise, followed by Mali and Songhai. Historians believe that the early inhabitants of Ghana were farmers living around the Niger River.
- Ghana, Mali, and Songhai were the three kingdoms, These three kingdoms established themselves along the Niger River's banks. These three kingdoms will be discussed in this presentation.



Ghana Empire

- Ancient Ghana **ruled from around 300 to 1100 CE.**
- The Ghana empire was thought to be great magicians because they worked with fire and earth to manufacture iron.
- The Ghana Empire prospered as a result of increased trans-Saharan gold and salt commerce, allowing for the growth of larger metropolitan centers.
- Furthermore, the traffic stimulated territorial development in order to gain control of the various trading routes. Historians disagree over when Ghana's royal dynasty began.
- When traveling by camel caravan from a coastal city to Ghana, it took about 40 days to cross the Sahara Desert.



Mali Empire

- The Mali Empire ruled West Africa From around 1235 to 1670.
- Sundiata Keita (c. 1214 - c. 1255) built the Mail empire, which the empire became known for the riches of its emperors, particularly Mansa Musa (Musa Keita)
- Mansa Musa inherited a wealthy kingdom, but his efforts to promote trade created Mali Africa's wealthiest country. His fortune came from the Mali kingdom's huge salt and gold reserves.
- Mali was West Africa's largest empire, affecting the region's culture profoundly and broadly through the expansion of its language, laws, and customs.
- Elephant ivory was also a valuable commodity.



Songhai Empire

- In the 15th and 16th centuries, the Songhai Empire ruled the western Sahel/Sudan region of Africa.
- Political growth, commerce success, and scholastic progress are three of the Songhai Empire's achievements/uniqueness.
- The Songhai Empire was the largest and final of West Africa's three great pre-colonial empires.
- The Songhai Empire was regarded as the most powerful empire at the time.
- The Songhai people would prove troublesome and powerful due to the fact that they controlled river transport on the Niger



References

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