

Guided Reading Activity



West Africa

Lesson 2 *The History of West Africa*

Essential Question: How do new ideas change the way people live?

Ancient Times

Directions: As you read the section, answer these questions about West Africa in ancient times.

1. How was the Sahara different ten thousand years ago? _____

2. How did people react as the climate grew drier? _____

3. What three vital elements did the Bantu people spread as they moved into areas outside West Africa? _____

4. How did Ghana become a powerful trading kingdom in the Middle Ages? _____

5. What weakened Ghana's empire in the A.D. 1000s? _____

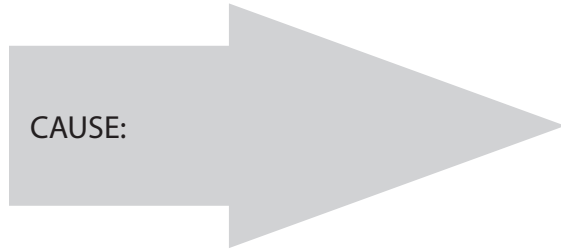
West African Kingdoms

Directions: Complete the chart by filling in the cause or effect of each of these events in the West African Trading Kingdoms.

Guided Reading Activity *cont.*

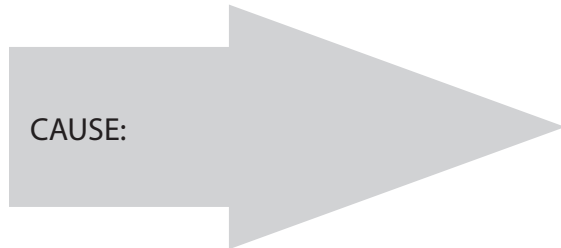
West Africa

1.



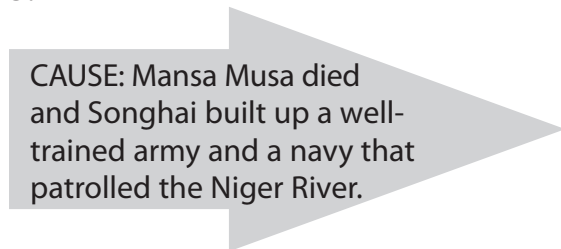
EFFECT: Mali became rich, conquered neighbors, and built an empire.

2.



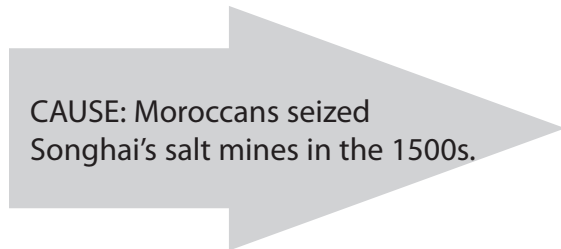
EFFECT: The Islamic world knew there was a new and powerful Islamic kingdom south of the Sahara.

3.



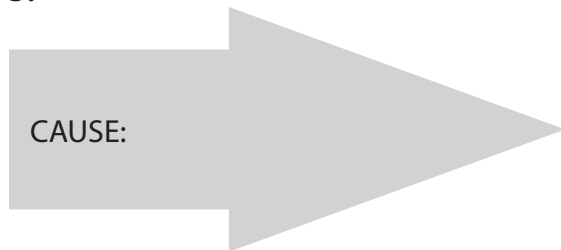
EFFECT:

4.



EFFECT:

5.



EFFECT: Small African kingdoms along the Atlantic coast became trading partners with Portugal, Spain, and Great Britain.

Guided Reading Activity *cont.*



West Africa

European Domination

Directions: Use your textbook to fill in the dates when each of the following events took place.

- _____ European countries were eager to expand into Africa.
- _____ The British government outlawed the slave trade.
- _____ The British founded Freetown in Sierra Leone as a safe haven for runaway or freed enslaved persons.
- _____ The United States founded Liberia as a home for freed American slaves.
- _____ The Suez Canal opened.
- _____ Diamonds were discovered in South Africa.
- _____ The European powers established rules for partitioning Africa.

New Countries

Directions: Use your textbook to decide if each statement is true or false. Write *T* or *F* in the blank. If a statement is false, rewrite it correctly.

- _____ 1. Most West African countries experienced an easy economic and political transition after independence.

- _____ 2. By the 1920s, countries on Africa's Gold Coast supplied more than half the world's cocoa.

Guided Reading Activity *cont.*



West Africa

_____ **3.** After approving a new constitution in 1992, Ghana has been a model of political reform in West Africa.

_____ **4.** After seeing Ghana struggle to gain independence, most other West African countries decided it was better to remain a colony.

_____ **5.** By 1961 all of France's West African colonies were independent.

_____ **6.** Britain combined three colonies to form the country that later became Nigeria in 1960.

_____ **7.** The Hausa and Yoruba ethnic groups welcomed the Igbo people's leadership after Nigeria gained independence.

_____ **8.** After years of conflict, a president was democratically elected to lead Nigeria in 1999.

_____ **9.** In 1989 Charles Taylor and Samuel Doe led a military coup of Liberia.

_____ **10.** The civil war in Liberia lasted 7 years and ended with 50,000 dead and 2 million homeless.
