



CHAPTER  
**19**

# West Africa

**1**

**HISTORY**

**Three Trading Empires**

**2**

**FOCUS ON**

**Nigeria and Ghana**

**3**

**FOCUS ON**

**Mali and Côte d'Ivoire**



## ESSENTIAL QUESTION

**How have centuries of colonialism affected West Africa?**

**CONNECT**

**Geography & History**



Use the map and the time line to answer the following questions.

1. What two European powers held the most land in Africa?
2. How did colonial boundaries appear to compare to traditional African ethnic boundaries?

### History

**c. 700** Ghana empire founded by Soninke people.

**A.D. 700**

### History

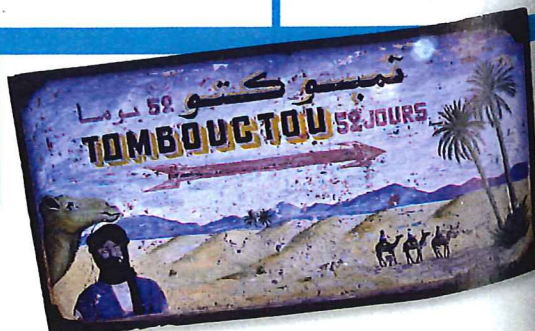
**c. 1300** Songhai empire begins to rise.

### History

**c. 1500** The Songhai empire reaches its peak.

### Geography

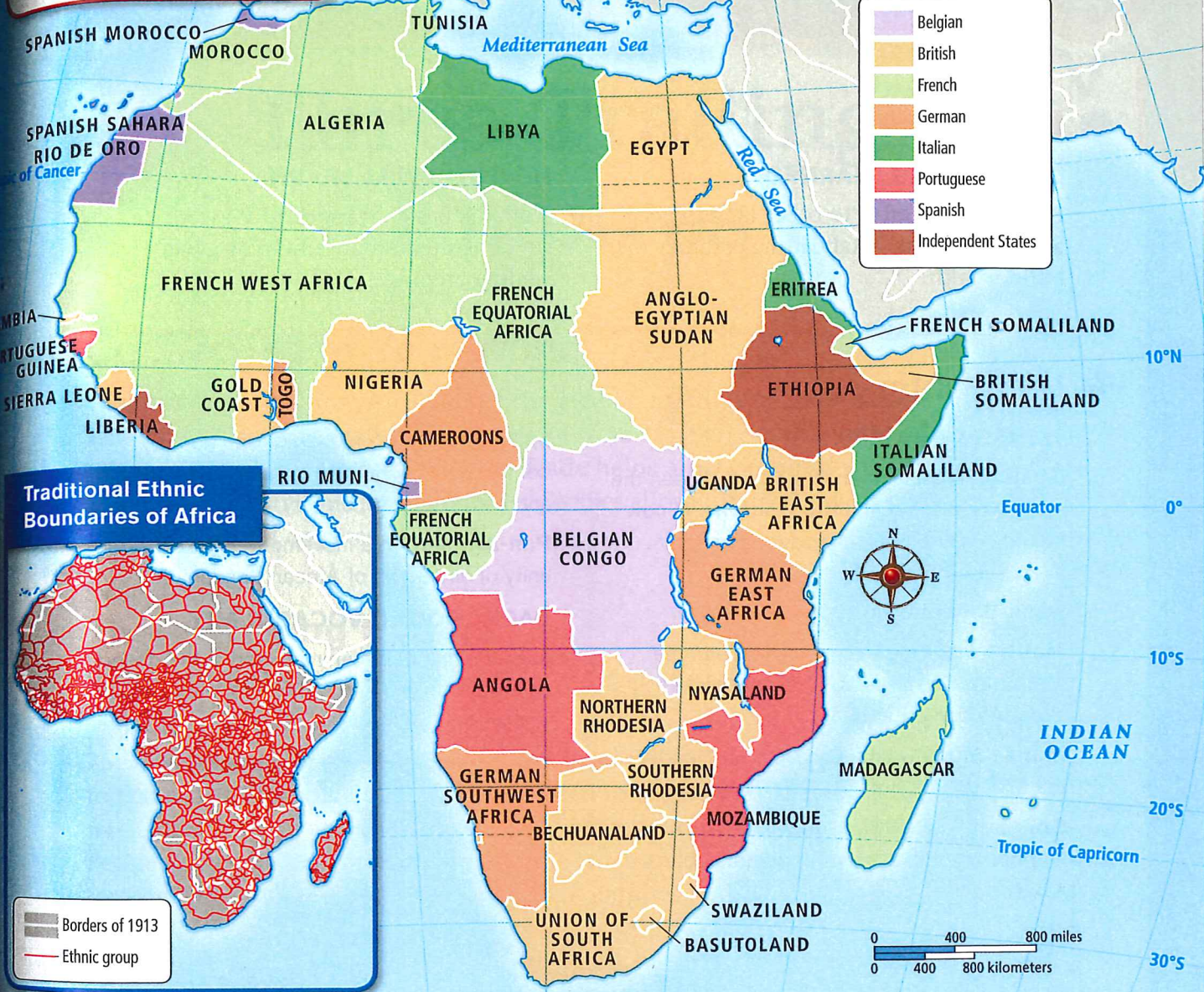
**1300s** Mali empire at its peak; Timbuktu, Mali's largest city, becomes center for trade and scholarship. ▶



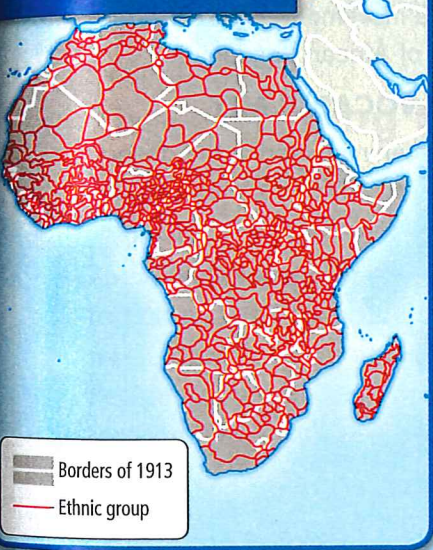


# Colonies in Africa 1913

[Click here](#) to explore West Africa @ClassZone.com

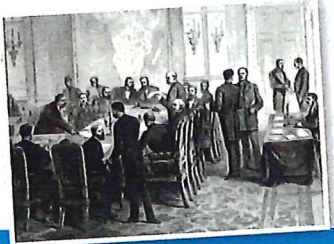


## Traditional Ethnic Boundaries of Africa



### History

**1591** Moroccan invaders destroy Songhai.



### Government

**1957** Modern Ghana wins independence from Great Britain, beginning a continent-wide independence movement.

### Government

**▲ 1884-1885** The Berlin Conference divides Africa among European nations.

## Today

### History

**◀ 2005** Signed agreement ends fighting in Côte d'Ivoire.





**SECTION 1**

# Reading for Understanding

## ▶ Key Ideas

### BEFORE, YOU LEARNED

Europeans traveled to other lands, such as the Americas, establishing colonies to build wealth.

### NOW YOU WILL LEARN

Colonizers also traveled to West Africa, dividing up land once held by great trading empires.

## ▶ Vocabulary

### TERMS & NAMES

**Ghana** a West African kingdom between the A.D. 700s and the A.D. 1000s in what is now Mauritania and Mali; a modern country in West Africa

**trans-Saharan** across the Sahara

**Mali** a West African empire between the A.D. 1200s and the A.D. 1500s; a modern West African country

**Mansa Musa** (MAHN•sah moo•SAH) leader of the Mali empire from 1312 to about 1337

**Songhai** (sawng•hy) an ancient West African empire, which was most powerful about A.D. 1500

**imperialism** the practice of one country controlling the government and economy of another country or territory

**Pan-Africanism** a movement calling for the unity of all people of African descent

### BACKGROUND VOCABULARY

**camel** a humped mammal used in the desert as a pack animal and provider of meat, milk, and wool

**self-rule** independent government

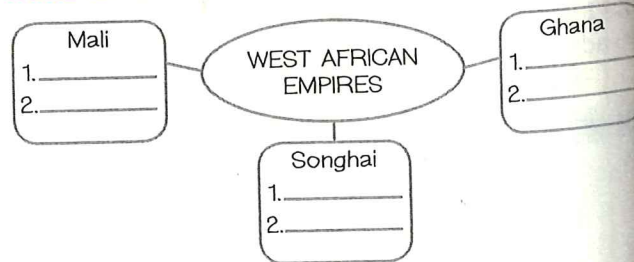
## ▶ Reading Strategy

Re-create the diagram shown at right. As you read and respond to the **KEY QUESTIONS**, use the diagram to organize important details about West Africa.



Skillbuilder Handbook, page R4

### FIND MAIN IDEAS



### GRAPHIC ORGANIZERS

Go to Interactive Review @ [ClassZone.com](http://ClassZone.com)



# Three Trading Empires

## Connecting to Your World

What makes a country strong? Is it the size of a nation or population? The United States' strength results partly from its size, population, and military power, but also from trade. Trade helps a nation build wealth, which makes it strong. Trade with other peoples allowed early West African cultures to build empires in Africa.

## Three Trading Empires

**KEY QUESTION** How did West African trading empires become wealthy?

Crossing the Sahara was always difficult, but it became easier around 2,000 years ago. That's when southwest Asian traders introduced camels to the region. **Camels** are perfectly adapted to the desert. Their feet can navigate soft sand, and they can survive without food or water for weeks. For centuries, camel caravans crossed the Sahara along established trade routes. These routes gave rise to three great empires.

### Camel Caravan

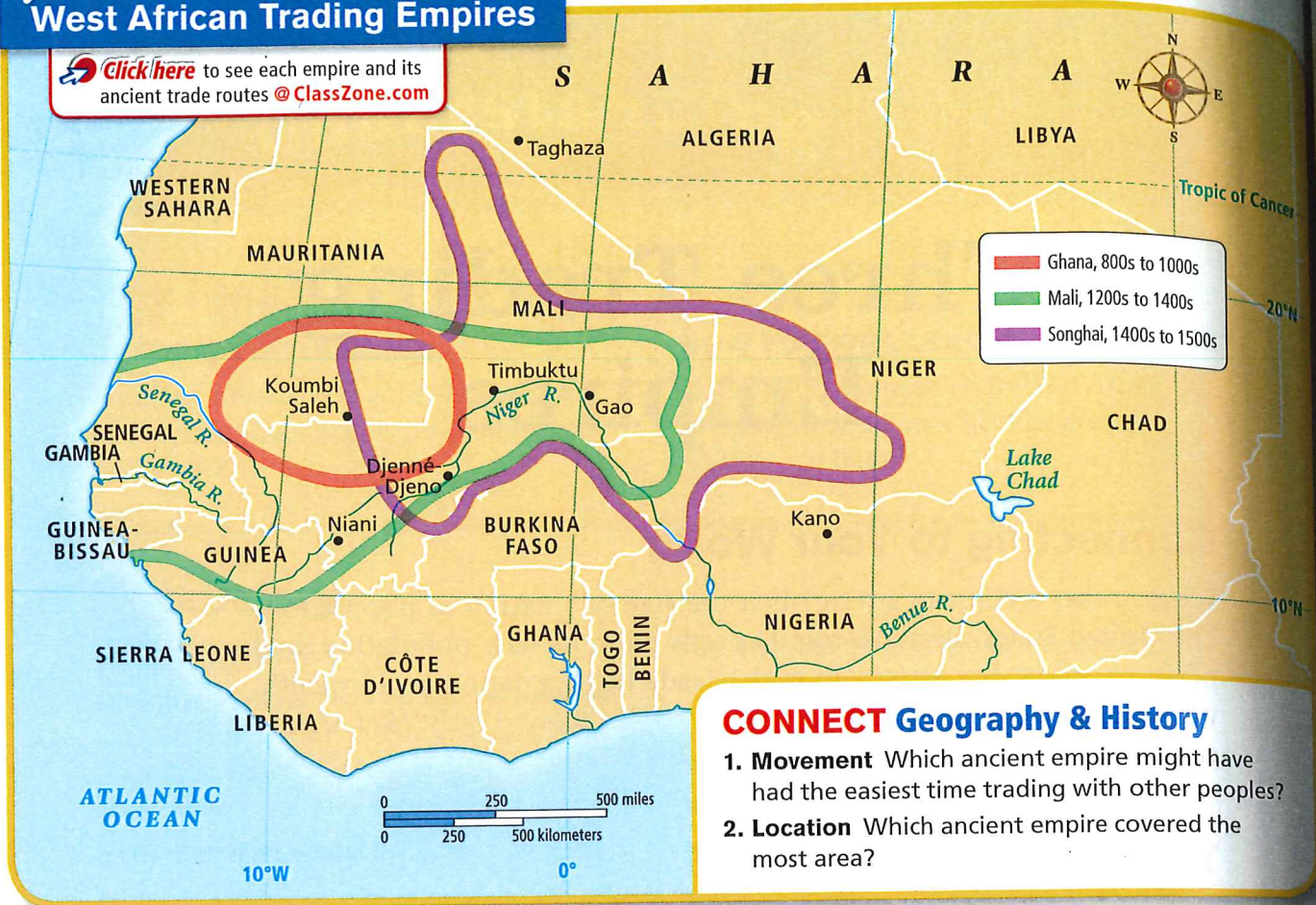
Nomadic Tuareg people lead their camels across the Sahara.





**West African Trading Empires**

[Click here](#) to see each empire and its ancient trade routes @ [ClassZone.com](#)



**CONNECT Geography & History**

- 1. Movement** Which ancient empire might have had the easiest time trading with other peoples?
- 2. Location** Which ancient empire covered the most area?

**Ghana** The Soninke people of **Ghana** founded the first West African empire around A.D. 700. Ancient Ghana began as a trading center for grains, cattle, and metals. Camel caravans from the Arabic world arrived at Ghana's markets, introducing Islam to the region and establishing a **trans-Saharan** trade. *Trans-Sahara* means "across the Sahara." Caravans brought books, salt, cloth, and tools from Arabia to Ghana, and carried back slaves, ivory, and gold. Taxing the gold trade enriched Ghana's rulers. In 1076, Moroccan Berbers conquered Ghana's major city. More defeats followed, and Ghana collapsed around 1200.

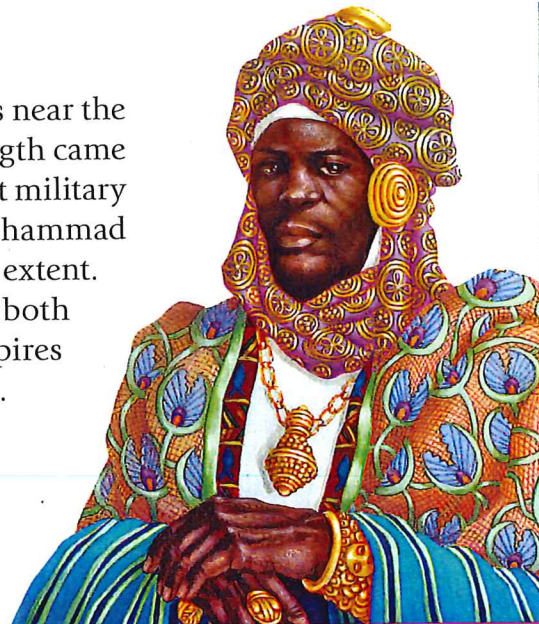
**Mali** As Ghana declined, several small states competed to control the empire. Between 1235 and 1240, a king named Sundiata conquered the other states to found a new empire east of Ghana. This empire, **Mali**, thrived because it controlled a large new gold field at the center of the trans-Saharan trade.

Sundiata's great-nephew **Mansa Musa** (MAHN•sah moo•SAH) ruled Mali from 1312 to about 1337, spreading Islam throughout the empire. Mosques, courts, and schools in Timbuktu, the capital of Mali's trading empire, made the city a major center of Muslim learning. After 1400, Mali gave way to a stronger empire.



**Songhai** The **Songhai** empire developed from large towns near the present-day border between Mali and Niger. Songhai's strength came from its control of the trans-Saharan trade. Sunni Ali, a great military leader, ruled Songhai from 1464 to 1492. In 1493, Askia Muhammad became king, eventually enlarging Songhai to its greatest extent. Askia, known as Askia the Great, promoted the spread of both Islam and trade. The last of West Africa's three great empires declined after Moroccan fighters defeated Songhai in 1591.

**SUMMARIZE** Describe how the three empires of West Africa gained wealth.



## European Imperialism

**KEY QUESTION** Why did Europeans come to Africa?

In the 1500s, Portuguese traders made their way to Africa. Soon Holland and other European powers also vied for the rich trade in slaves, gold, and ivory.

**The Slave Trade** Shortly after the Portuguese arrived in West Africa, they started enslaving Africans and shipping them to Europe. Before this time, African powers had sent some slaves to Asia and Europe. But the Atlantic slave trade exceeded anything that had come earlier. Scholars say it was history's single largest forced movement of people. African merchants and rulers sold enslaved Africans to Europeans, who sent the slaves to the Americas. The slave trade devastated Africa. Between the late 1400s and the middle 1800s, 10 to 12 million enslaved persons came to the Americas. Slave raiding and warfare emptied towns and villages, destroying ancient patterns of culture, work, and trade.

**Europeans Carve Up Africa** Even after the slave trade ended, Europeans continued to raid Africa for cheap labor, natural resources, and markets. European **imperialism**, or control of weaker nations, grew with the European industrialization of the late 19th century. Railroads, steamships, and the repeating rifle helped Europeans control much of Africa. In the 1880s, European powers carved Africa into a colonial map for European convenience. The new colonial boundaries ignored traditional ethnic boundaries. In many cases, this grouped long-standing enemies together in colonies.

## HISTORY MAKERS

### Askia Muhammad 1441?–1538

Askia (AS•kee•uh) Muhammad, shown here in an artist's rendering, ruled the West African Songhai empire at its most powerful. He became king by overthrowing the son of Sunni Ali, an earlier ruler. Askia enlarged Songhai by seizing big chunks of Mali. He also conquered several states ruled by the Hausa people, and colonized Berber towns. In 1528, Askia Muhammad's son took power.



#### ONLINE BIOGRAPHY

For more on the rulers of West Africa, go to the Research & Writing Center @ [ClassZone.com](http://ClassZone.com)



**Impact of Imperialism** By 1914, only Liberia, founded by former U.S. slaves, and Ethiopia were free of European control. Africans resisted colonization, but superior weapons helped Europeans hold power. Different colonial powers had different styles of control, as shown in the chart below. The British ruled indirectly, letting Africans take over some parts of government. France refused to share any power, considering its colonies part of a global French nation.

The scars of imperialism still mark Africa. Colonizers discouraged industrial development, keeping colonies dependent. Wars of conquest and resistance cost many lives. So did the brutal demands of plantation work. Colonial boundaries remained after independence and still cut across ethnic lines.

 **ANALYZE POINTS OF VIEW** Describe why Europeans wanted to colonize Africa.

## African Colonies Gain Independence

 **KEY QUESTION** How did African colonies win independence?

In the early 1900s, some colonies sent African students overseas to universities. These well-educated Africans began to dream of freedom for their own people. They joined with former slaves and descendants of slaves in the Americas in calling for freedom and unity for all people of African descent. Their movement became known as **Pan-Africanism**. African soldiers fought alongside Allied forces in World War I and World War II. After the wars, Africans began to demand independence for their own countries. Some Europeans also

### COMPARING Forms of Colonial Rule

	<b>INDIRECT RULE of African Colonies</b>	<b>DIRECT RULE of African Colonies</b>
<b>Methods</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Local governments used</li> <li>Limited self-rule</li> <li>Goal: to develop future leaders</li> <li>Government based on European styles, but may have local influences</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Foreign officials brought in to rule</li> <li>No self-rule</li> <li>Goal: to get colonies to adopt European culture</li> <li>Government based only on European styles</li> </ul>
<b>Examples</b>	British colonies such as Nigeria	French colonies such as French West Africa

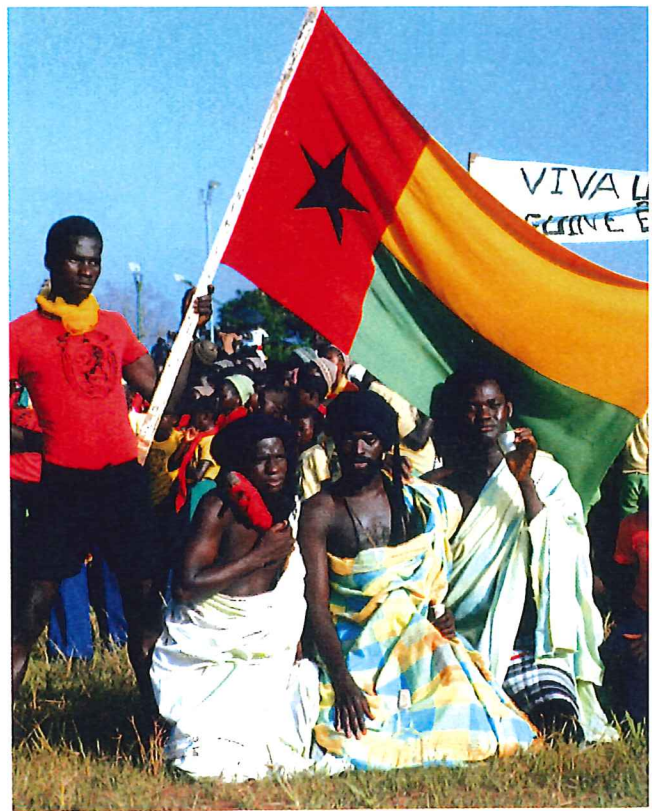
#### CRITICAL THINKING

**Draw Conclusions** Which form of rule do you think would be the best long-term method, and why?



began to question whether it was right to maintain colonies. Britain's indirect control of its colonies helped prepare African leaders for eventual **self-rule**. More tightly controlled colonial governments left newly independent nations to struggle on their own.

**Methods of Attaining Independence** The first West African colony to win independence was the Gold Coast. In 1957, it peacefully separated from Great Britain and reclaimed the ancient name of Ghana. Nigeria won independence in 1960. Independence for some other West African countries came only after years of guerrilla warfare. For example, war erupted in the Portuguese colony of Guinea-Bissau in the early 1960s. The conflict dragged on until 1974. By the end of 1975, Portugal had given up the last of its African claims.



**Independence** Guinea-Bissau citizens celebrate the end of Portuguese colonization in 1974.

**COMPARE** Describe the paths different colonies took toward independence.

**ONLINE QUIZ**  
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**Interactive Review**  
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## Section 1 Assessment

### TERMS & NAMES

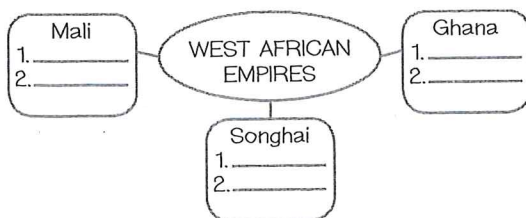
**1. Explain the importance of**

- Ghana
- Mansa Musa
- Songhai
- Pan-Africanism

### USE YOUR READING NOTES

**2. Find Main Ideas** Use your completed diagram to answer the following question:

What did the ancient West African empires have in common?



### KEY IDEAS

3. What were the names of West Africa's great empires?
4. How did industrialization promote European imperialism in Africa?
5. How did West African countries win independence from their colonizers?

### CRITICAL THINKING

6. **Evaluate** How did World Wars I and II lead some Europeans to question colonialism?
7. **Make Inferences** Why do you think the modern nation of Ghana chose the name of an ancient empire in a different location?
8. **CONNECT to Today** In 1994 in Rwanda, 800,000 people were killed in ethnic fighting. How has Africa's colonial past promoted such conflicts?
9. **TECHNOLOGY Create a Multimedia Presentation** Create a slide show about historical Timbuktu. Focus on Timbuktu's history as a prominent center of trade and Islamic learning.