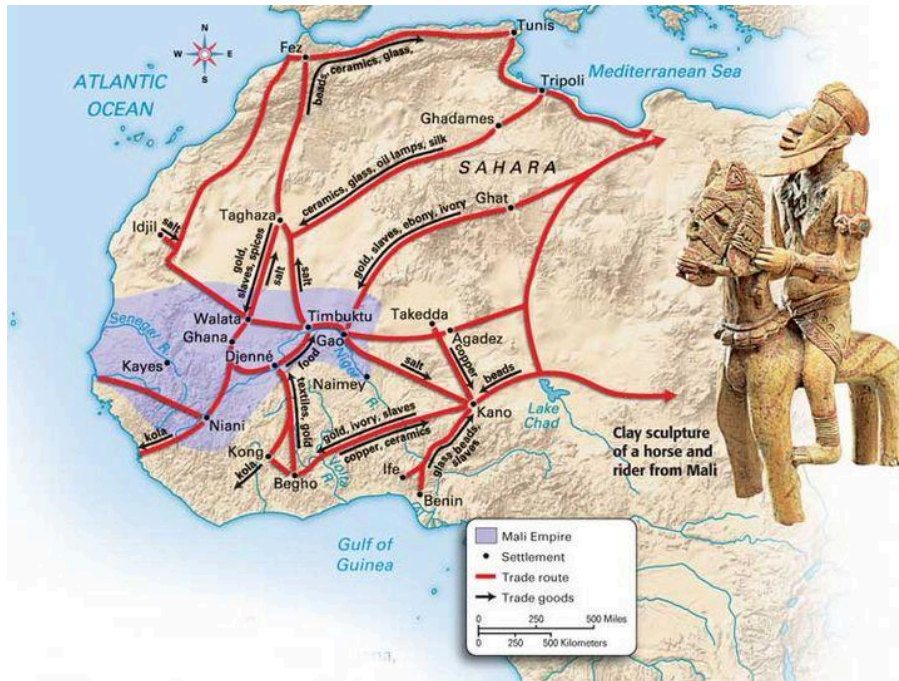
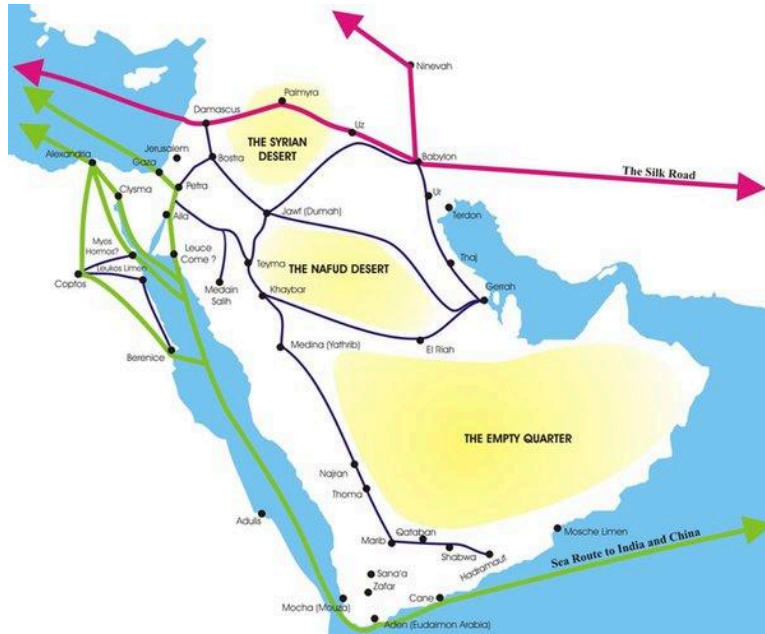


Fayette County Public Schools
7th Grade Social Studies
Benchmark Assessment
Spring 2025 Arabia/Africa

7.G.GR.1 Analyze the spatial organization of people, places and environments found in the societies and empires of AfroEurasia and the Americas between 600-1600.



1. Because of its location in the Sahara Desert, what does the map tell you about settlements in the Mali Empire?
 - a) Important settlements like Timbuktu, Niamey, Gao, and Kayes were along rivers like the Senegal and Niger.
 - b) Trade routes themselves had little influence on where settlements were developed.
 - c) The Mali Empire relied heavily on oceanfront settlements to promote and control sea routes.
 - d) Clay was an important resource to manufacture goods along the Mali trade network.



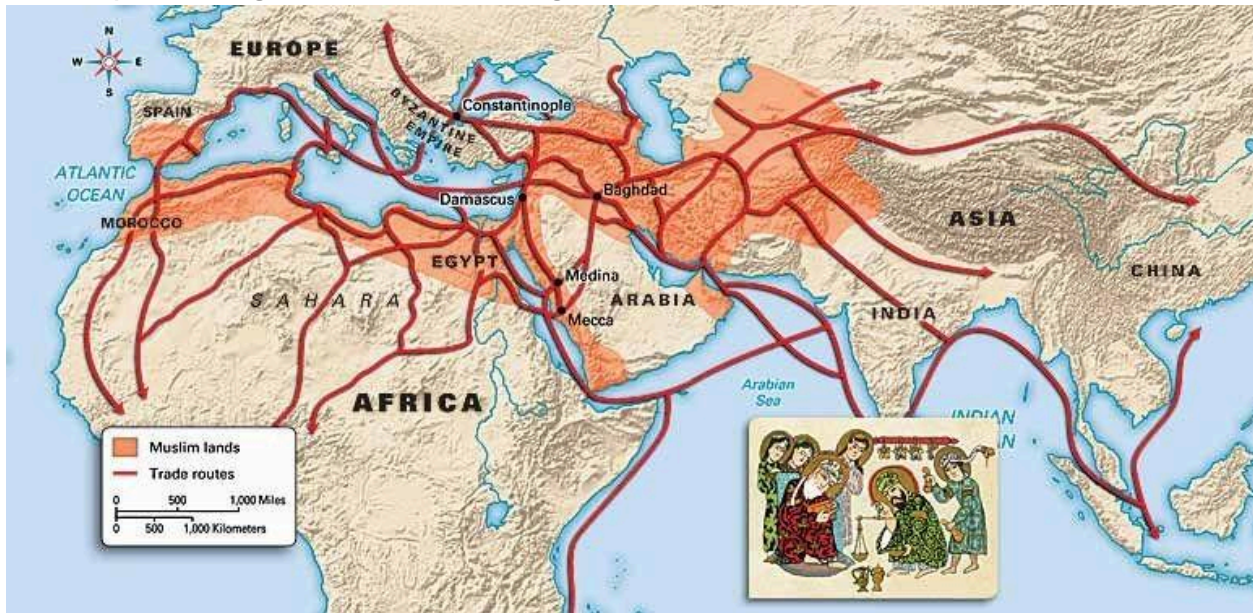
2. Based on the map of the Arabian Peninsula, which of the following is true of settlements and trade networks in the region?

- a) All trade routes and settlements were along the coastlines.
- b) Trade and settlements occurred around and outside natural barriers like deserts.
- c) Settlements and trade networks did not extend beyond the Arabian Peninsula.
- d) Trade networks were limited to only land within the Arabian Peninsula.

3. Which of the following is true about trade from Arabia to parts of Eastern Asia including India and China?

- a) It was nearly impossible to trade goods with India and China because of the harsh terrain.
- b) Traders were often unsuccessful to trade with India and China by sea routes.
- c) A land route through the Silk Road and Sea Routes to India and China made trade possible between civilizations.
- d) The Mediterranean Sea played an important role in creating sea routes to India and China.

7.H.CO.1 Explain how religion influenced state-building, trade and cultural interactions between 600-1600.



4. According to the map, what connection can be drawn between the importance of Islam to Muslims and trade networks?

- a) Trade networks were very influential in the expansion of Muslim lands.
- b) Muslim influence would have spread further without sea routes.
- c) Trade networks limited Muslim influence to mostly Arabia.
- d) Muslim influence had the strongest hold in the Byzantine Empire.

Islam had a big impact on African societies, but it's hard to measure exactly how much. In some places like Ghana and Gao, Muslim merchants built mosques. Mansa Musa, the king of Mali from 1312 to 1337, went on a pilgrimage to Mecca and brought back an architect named al-Sahili, who helped create a new building style called Sudano-Sahelian. Musa's brother, Mansa Sulaiman, also supported building mosques and promoting Islamic learning. Islam introduced writing and new ways to measure things in Africa. Timbuktu, for example, became a busy center for trade and learning, staying strong even during tough times.

5. What was one significant impact of Muslim merchants in African places like Ghana and Gao?

- a) Establishment of new trade routes
- b) Building mosques
- c) Introduction of new crops
- d) Development of new languages

6. As a result of Islamic innovations such as **writing**, how did Timbuktu thrive?

- a) It was only a trading post for gold, ivory, and salt.
- b) It became a center for trade and learning.
- c) It became the hub of the Empire of Ghana.
- d) It allowed for laws to be written for the first time.

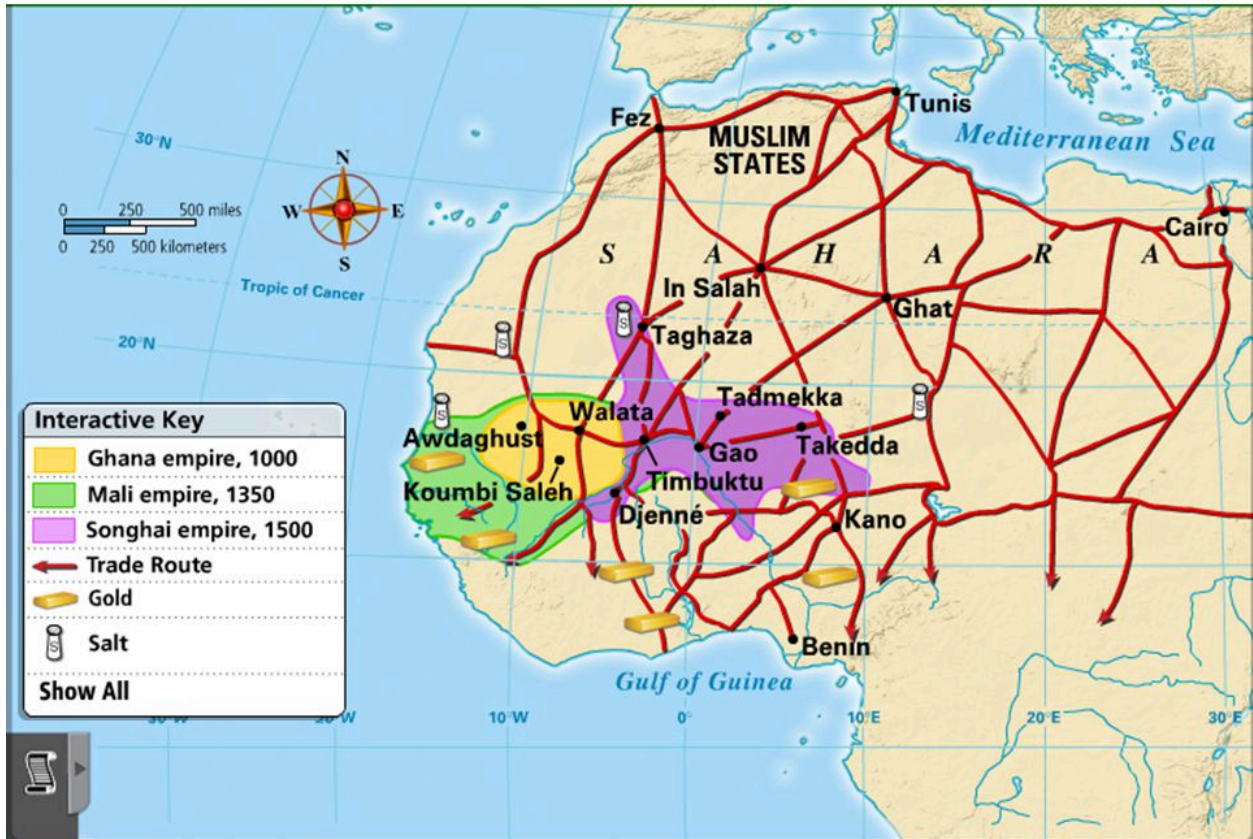
7.E.IC.2 Analyze the impact of growth and expansion on the allocation of resources and economic incentives.

	Axum	Ghana	Mali	Songhai	Zimbabwe
Location	East Africa	West Africa	West Africa	West Africa	Southeast Africa
Time Period	100-1400	400-1200	1200-1450	1000-1600	700-1450
Goods Traded	Ivory, Frankincense, Myrrh, Slaves	Iron products, Animal products, Salt, Gold	Salt, Gold	Salt, Gold	Gold, Copper, Ivory
Key Facts	King Ezana converted to Christianity and made it the official religion	Taxes from traders passing through made Ghana rich	King Mansa Musa built mosques and libraries	Songhai gained control of West African trade by conquering Timbuktu and mastering trade by river.	Kings Mutota and Matope built the region's biggest empire.

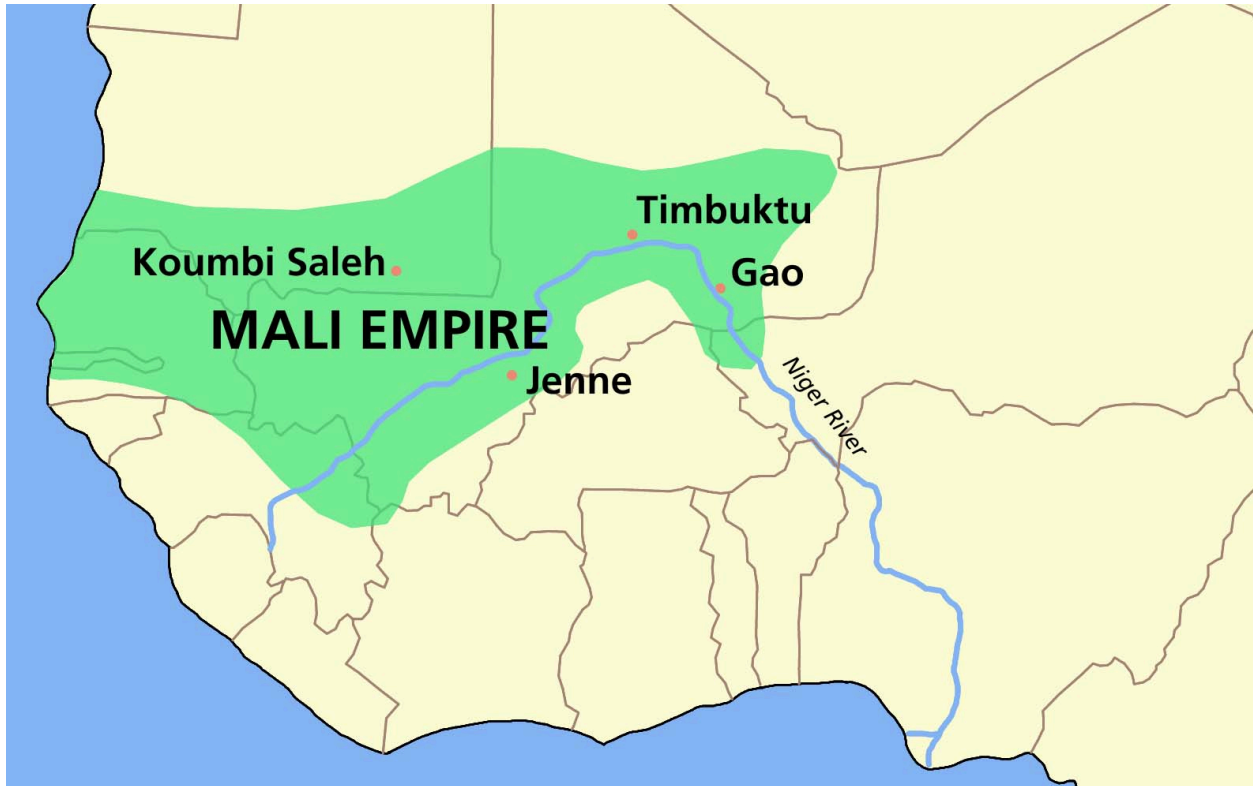
7. According to the table, which of the following statements is true?
- All civilizations of West Africa grew rich by taxing traders with tolls to pass through the empire.
 - All civilizations of West Africa thrived before the year 1000.
 - All civilizations of West Africa gained much of their wealth through the trade of gold and salt.
 - All civilizations of West Africa thrived under the rule of Christian kings.
8. With so many traders passing through their lands, Ghana's rulers looked for ways to make money from them. One way they raised money was forcing traders to pay taxes. What can you infer about Ghana's rulers from this passage?
- They were smart businessmen who took advantage of opportunities.
 - They disliked foreign traders and merchants.
 - They tried to stop the trading in their empire.
 - They illegally made money by manipulating the poor.
9. Which of the following best synthesizes the information in the table?
- African Empires of the time struggled to innovate and thrive through trade.
 - African Empires were centers of culture through trade, education, and architecture.
 - African Empires were all ruled by kings that were early converts to Christianity.
 - African Empires all grew wealthy through the taxation of travelers.

7.G.HE.1 Examine how physical geography influenced the societies and empires of Afro-Eurasia and the Americas between 600-1600

West African Trading Empires 800's – 1500's



10. How did the Sahara Desert influence the trade networks of the West African Empires?
- It prevented any form of trade from developing.
 - It created natural trade routes for caravans.
 - It lacked any natural resources, so trade was mostly exchange of ideas.
 - It was an impassable barrier for trade.



11. How did the Niger River impact the development of the Mali Empire between 600-1600?
- a) It provided a natural barrier against invasions.
 - b) It facilitated trade and agriculture, supporting urban growth.
 - c) It isolated the empire from other civilizations.
 - d) It caused frequent flooding that hindered development.



12. This photo of the site of Dumat al-Jandal is an example of how settlement around water occurred in the Arabian Desert. Which of the following best shows how Medieval Arabians were able to deal with the scarcity of water in the region?
- a) They built along an extensive network of wells and oases.
 - b) They constructed dams across rivers.
 - c) They imported water from neighboring regions.
 - d) They were led by nomadic tribes unable to settle.

7.C.RR.1 Compare rights, roles, responsibilities and limitations of subjects in empires between 600-1600 with those of citizens in modern countries.

Griots: Keepers of West African History

Griots were essential figures in West African society, serving as oral historians, storytellers, poets, and musicians. They were highly respected members of their communities, often associated with the nobility. Through their training and performances, griots preserved the rich history of their people, passing down stories and traditions from generation to generation. Their skills as musicians, including playing instruments like the kora, enhanced their ability to captivate and educate their audiences.

13. How did the roles of griots in Western African societies compare to modern-day roles?
- a) Griots were primarily military leaders, unlike modern roles.
 - b) Griots were storytellers, historians, and advisors, similar to modern historians.
 - c) Griots had no real influence, unlike modern journalists.
 - d) Griots were religious leaders, unlike modern religious figures.

Responsibilities of Muslim Citizens Under the Caliphate:

Muslims adhere to the Five Pillars of Islam: the Shahada (declaration of faith), the five daily prayers, Zakat (charity), fasting during Ramadan, and the Hajj pilgrimage. Beyond these foundational acts, Muslims are encouraged to connect with the global Muslim community, the ummah, through pilgrimage and social interactions. The caliph, seen as the successor to the Prophet, is considered a leader whose guidance many Muslims follow. Historically, the caliphate supported maritime trade, promoting economic prosperity and combating piracy, which facilitated the growth of trade networks across vast regions.

14. Which of the following was a significant responsibility of Muslim citizens in the caliphates?
- a) Paying a special tax if they converted to Islam
 - b) Serving in the military at all times
 - c) Following the Five Pillars of Islam, including paying zakat (charity)
 - d) Voting in democratic elections

Non-Muslims in Islamic states were generally permitted to practice their own religions and were exempt from military service and the zakat tax. However, they were required to pay the jizya, a tax levied on able-bodied male adults. The jizya was seen as a sign of submission to the state and its laws. While early attitudes toward non-Muslims were relatively tolerant, they began to harden over time, with some scholars viewing the jizya as a marker of inferior status. The jizya is no longer imposed by nation states in the Islamic world, but it is still enforced by some armed groups in areas they have captured.

15. What rights did non-Muslim subjects (dhimmis) have in the Arabian caliphates?
- a) They had no rights and were persecuted.
 - b) They had to convert to Islam or leave.
 - c) They could practice their religion but had to pay a special tax.
 - d) They had the same rights as Muslim citizens.