

SONGHAI EMPIRE

COMPREHENSION

FILL IN THE BLANK

Directions: Use the words below to fill in the reading.

Sahara	Mali
prisoner	gold
soil	powerful

Empire was located in Western Africa, south of the Sahara Desert. It grew powerful and prosperous by dominating the Trans-Saharan trade routes. The empire spanned the western Sahel, a region that stretched from Senegal eastward to Sudan. It had valuable salt and gold mines. The profits from trading salt and gold created a wealthy ruling class in the kingdom. The profits from trading salt and gold created a wealthy ruling class in the kingdom. The profits from trading salt and gold created a wealthy ruling class in the kingdom.

TASK 5: TRUE OR FALSE

Directions: Answer each question below by coloring in the box of the TRUE statements. Next, unscramble the word using the large bold letters of only the TRUE statements.

The Songhai Empire was located in Western Asia.	The Songhai Empire dominated the Trans-Saharan trade routes.	The profits from trading salt and gold created a wealthy ruling class in the kingdom.	Sunni Ali II was the last Songhai Emperor.
T	P	R	I
Sunni Ali seized control of Niani (the Mali capital), Djenné, and Timbuktu.	Askia Muhammad ruled the empire from 1493 to 1528.	Before the Songhai Empire came to be, the Ottoman Empire ruled Africa.	The religion of Islam became a big part of Songhai culture.
O	M	B	E
A pilgrimage is a religious trip.	Mecca was the capital of the Songhai Empire.	Askia Muhammad's peaceful reign was known as the copper age.	The Songhai Empire was divided into 14 provinces.
E	D	G	H
Sonni Baru ruled for 43 years.	Sahel was a region extending from Senegal eastward to Sudan.	Muhammad's rule ended around 1648.	Eventually, the Spanish armada took control of the Songhai Empire.
C	R	W	M

SECRET WORD

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TASK 4: TEXT

Directions: Find the answers in the text or color them with the crayons.

YELLOW

BLUE

GREEN

PINK

Who was the last Songhai Emperor?

Who was given the title of Caliph?

Why was the Moroccan army successful against the Songhai?

What was the name of the capital of the Songhai Empire?

Directions: Place the following words in the correct sentence in the reading passage.

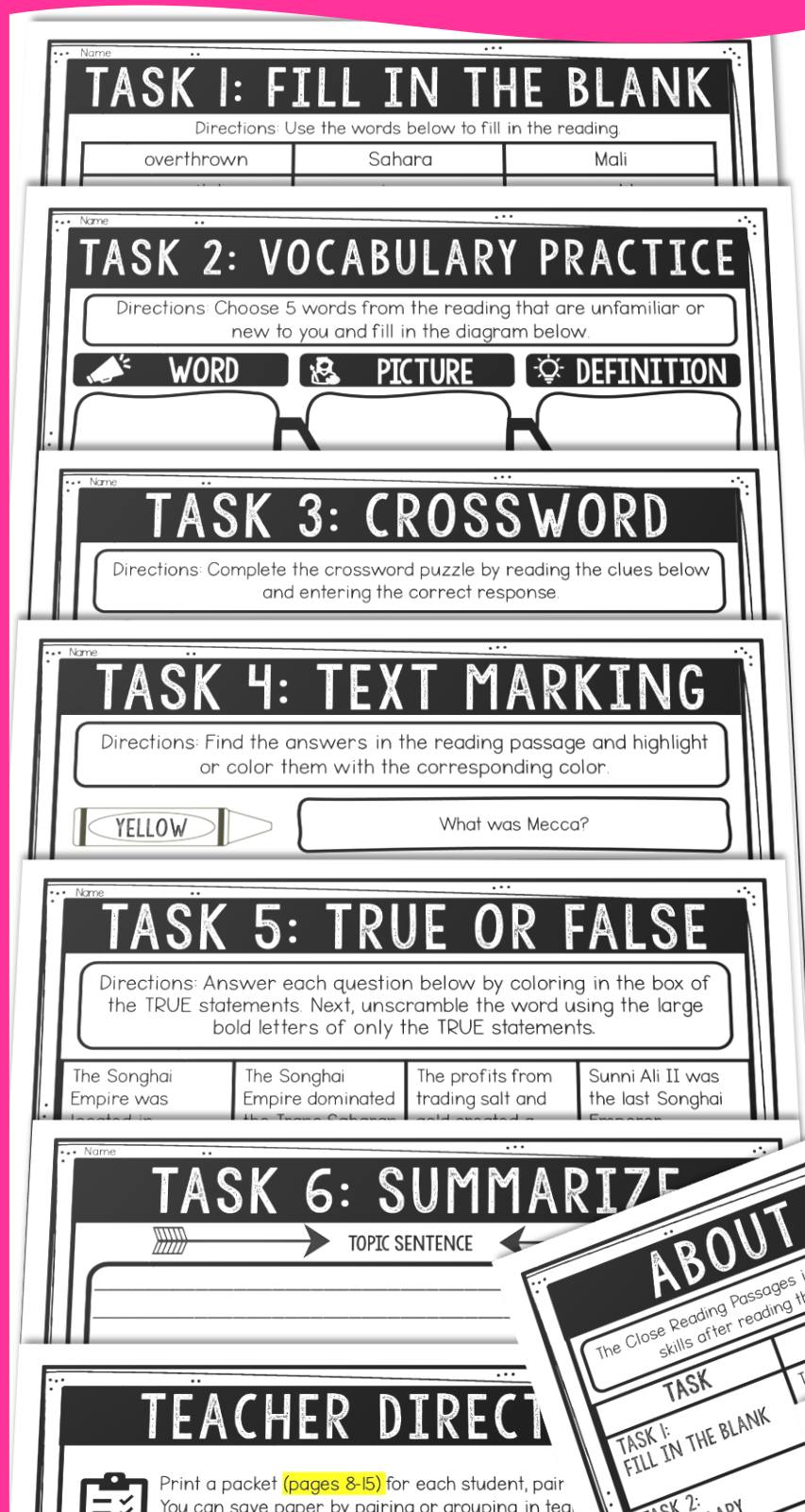
Some of the most important cities located on the Niger River were Timbuktu, Djenné, and Niani.

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WHAT'S INCLUDED?

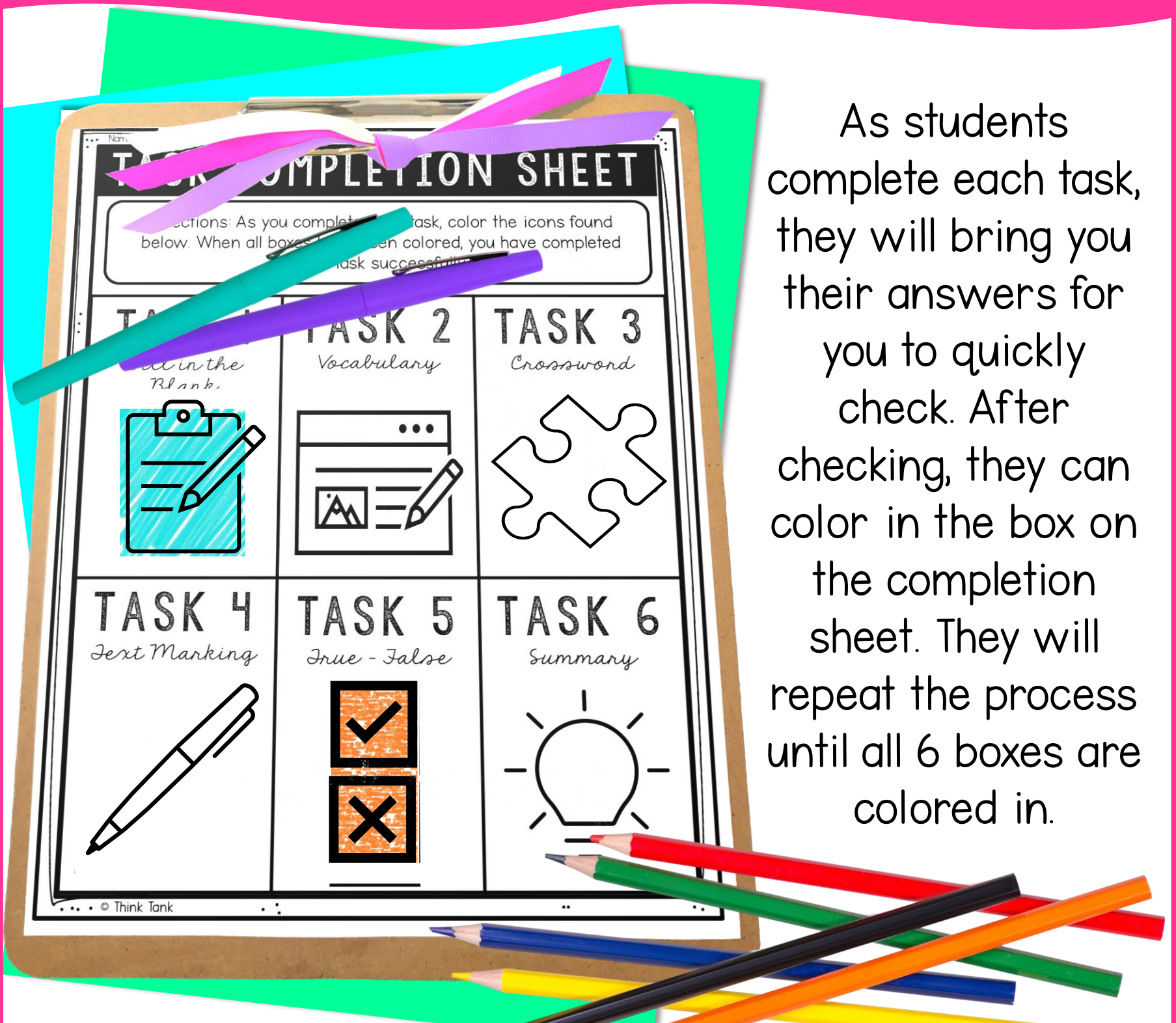


- ✓ Task 1: Fill in the Blank
- ✓ Task 2: Vocabulary
- ✓ Task 3: Crossword Puzzle
- ✓ Task 4: Text Marking
- ✓ Task 5: True or False
- ✓ Task 6: Graphic Organizer
- ✓ Student Completion Sheet
- ✓ Teacher Answer Key
- ✓ Teacher Guide



EARN ICONS

As students complete each task, they will bring you their answers for you to quickly check. After checking, they can color in the box on the completion sheet. They will repeat the process until all 6 boxes are colored in.



6 TASKS

6: SUMMARIZE

TOPIC SENTENCE

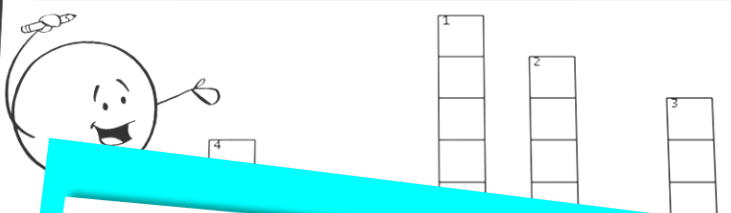
SUPPORTING DETAIL

SUPPORTING DETAIL

DETAIL

TASK 3: CROSSWORD

Directions: Complete the crossword puzzle by reading the clues below and entering the correct response.



TASK 2: VOCAB

Directions: Choose 5 words from new to you and fill in the boxes.

WORD

WORD

WORD

WORD

WORD

5: TRUE OR FALSE

Answer each question below by coloring in the box of statements. Next, unscramble the word using the large bold letters of only the TRUE statements.

The Songhai Empire dominated the Trans-Saharan trade routes.	P	The profits from trading salt and gold created a wealthy ruling class in the kingdom.	R
Askia Muhammad ruled the empire from 1493 to 1528.	M	Before the Songhai Empire came to be, the Ottoman Empire ruled Africa.	B
Mecca was the capital of the empire.	O	Askia Muhammad was known for his copper age.	A
Sahel was a region extending from Senegal to Mali.	S	Muhammad ended the empire in 1648.	E

TASK 1: FILL IN THE BLANKS

Directions: Use the words below to fill in the blanks in the reading passage.

overthrown	Sahara	Mali
capital	prisoner	gold
trade	soil	power

The Songhai Empire was located in Western Africa, south of the Sahara between 1464 and 1591. It grew powerful and prosperous by dominating the _____ routes. The empire spanned the western Sahel, an empire that brought in riches.

Over the centuries, an empire would emerge as the most powerful in the region. _____ controlled trade. Before the Songhai Empire came to be, the _____ was in control, established by the Malinke people. It was an extremely powerful kingdom with endless amounts of _____. The _____ found in the city of Gao Mali took control of Gao because it became the _____ center. Sunni Ali, a prince of the Songhai people, was held as a _____ by the emperor of Mali. When he escaped, he was able to take back _____ as other major trading cities in Mali. Eventually, he sent an army to the _____ left of Mali and established the Songhai Empire (Songhay) with Gao as its capital.

The profits from trading salt and gold created a wealthy ruling class in the kingdom. _____ was as valuable as gold during this time. The gold mostly came from the _____ Desert known as Wangara. _____ profit by collecting taxes on _____ and gold trades. The city of Gao _____ most important _____ was located on the Niger River. The city had _____ clean water to bathe in, food, and fertile soil.

During the rule of Sunni Ali, Songhai grew a great empire. _____ (the Mali capital), Djenné, and Timbuktu. He was a great warrior, _____ bigger, richer, and more _____ was. After his death, his son Sonni Baru took over as _____ and quickly _____ by a _____ just one year.

TASK 4: TEXT

Directions: Find the answers in the text or color them with the color of the answer.

YELLOW

BLUE

GREEN

PINK

YELLOW

BLUE

Who was held as a prisoner?

Who was given the title of Caliph of Mali?

Why was the Moroccan Caliph of Mali interested in the Songhai Empire?

What was Wangara?

Directions: Place the following main idea sentence in the reading passage.

? Something you have a question that you do not understand.

! Something that is important.