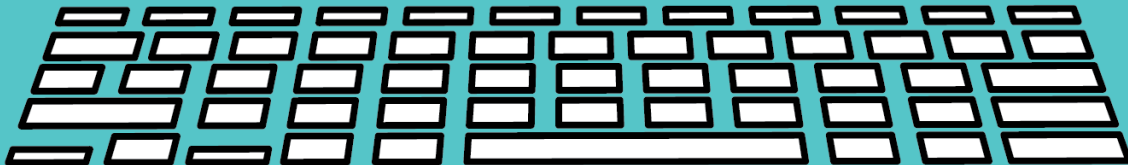
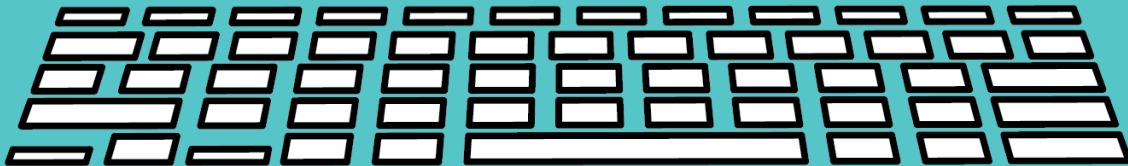


PAINTINGS
FOUND IN
NIGERIA ARE
SOME OF THE
OLDEST IN THE
WORLD

Short Answer	Type Answer Here
1. What empire was after the Empire of Ghana?	
2. What was the name of Sundiata's grandson?	
3. What river was the Songhai Empire along?	
4. What was almost as valuable as gold?	
5. In what city was Sankore University?	
6. Where was Sundiata from?	
7. Iron was transformed into tools and what else?	
8. What were storytellers called in Ghana?	



Short Answer	Type Answer Here	Fill in the Blank	Type Answer Here
1. Who was the empire named after after the Empire of Ghana?		9. Ghana comes from the Soninke people, meaning "___ king."	
2. What was the name of Sundiata's grandson?		10. Ironsmiths were considered ___.	
3. What river was the Songhai Empire along?		11. The Mali Empire collapsed in ___ CE.	
4. What was almost as valuable as gold?		12. The Soninke people banded together under king ___ Cisse.	
5. In what city was Sankore University?		13. Ghana was the first to trade the salt of Mansi the ___.	
6. Where was Sundiata from?		14. The Empire of Ghana mined for ___ and gold.	
7. Iron was transformed into tools and what else?		15. Some consider Mansa Musa to be the ___ person in history.	
8. What were storytellers called in Ghana?		16. The region of Ghana became known as the ___ Coast.	



ANCIENT AFRICA

Ancient Africa has some of the oldest discoveries about human development. For instance, cave paintings were discovered in Ancient Africa. Ancient Egypt is one of the oldest and most lasting parts of Ancient Africa. However, there are many ancient civilizations, empires, and cultures to explore in Ancient Africa. Mali Empire and the Kingdom of Ghana.

The Empire of Ghana was located in West Africa - where Mauritania, Senegal, and Mali are today. The Empire of Ghana was not located where Ghana currently is. This grassy region of the Sahara was from the Soninke people banded together under the name of Ghana from the Soninke people, meaning "warrior" or "warrior-king".

The Gambia River, Senegal River, and the Niger River in the Empire of Ghana were used for transportation and trade. The Trans-Saharan trade route. Trade was important since Ghana was located between traders from the north and south. For 200 years, soldiers from the army protected the gold mines in the south and salt mines in the north. Trade protection for goods, Ghana became rich. This region became known as the Gold Coast. As trade increased, Ghana became more prosperous. Caravans of camels transported goods across the Sahara. These travels from a coast to Ghana took up to 40 days.

The Empire of Ghana lasted for 800 years, from 300-1100 BCE, but it fell in 1100 CE. The people were happy and hard working. They were protected by a safe food, especially fish and water fowl, was abundant with the Niger River nearby. There was water for bathing and cooking. Likewise, farming was successful.

The Empire of Ghana mined for iron and gold. Ironsmiths were considered magicians because they used fire and earth to make resources. Iron was transformed into weapons and tools. Meanwhile, gold was traded for livestock, tools, and cloth. Salt was almost as valuable as gold.

The people of Ghana were creative and wove their own fabric. They valued people and peace and ruled with gentle laws. Storytellers were called Griots. Ghana was the first to tell the story of *Anansi the Spider*.

The Mali Empire followed the Empire of Ghana. It was located in West Africa, where Mali, Niger, Senegal, Mauritania, Guinea, and Gambia are today. Established around 1235 CE, Mali began losing power in the 1400s and collapsed in 1600 CE.

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Sundiata was a young king from Mali. Instead of trading only with people to the north and south, he expanded Mali. Eventually, Mali controlled some salt and gold mines, which is how Mali became wealthy. Ultimately, Mali controlled trade routes from the Sahara Desert to Europe and the Middle East.

Sundiata's grandson, Mansa Musa, built Sankore University in Timbuktu, a city on the Trans-Saharan Trade Route. He converted to Islam and established religious freedom. He traveled to Mecca, Saudi Arabia, with 60,000 people and camels carrying gold. He traded gold and picked up some architects, poets, and teachers along the way. Some consider Mansa Musa to be the wealthiest person in history.

The Songhai Empire of Western Africa lasted from 1464 to 1591. This fishing village was south of the Sahara Desert and along the Niger River. Under Mali's rule, the Songhai refused to pay taxes. However, the Mali Empire forgave this because the Songhai supplied fish.

Along the way, the Songhai developed a strong army and government. Nobles were considered nobles, however, the people were poor. Prince Sunni Ali ruled the Songhai after escaping Gao in 1464. Sunni Ali sent his warriors to control neighboring cities, including Timbuktu and Djenné. Sunni Ali's nickname was "Sunni" because he was considered a hero. At this point, the Songhai Empire controlled the gold and salt in the region.

Additionally, the Songhai were involved in the slave trade. Enslaved persons transported goods across the Sahara Desert to the Middle East. However, sometimes the enslaved persons were sold to Europeans.

Muhammad Ture, a devout Muslim, ruled the Songhai from 1493. He founded the Askaniya Dynasty. In the mid-1500s, civil war weakened the Songhai Empire. Moroccan army invaded Timbuktu and Gao in 1591, collapsing the empire.

Other empires in Ancient Africa included the Kingdom of Aksum on the eastern coast of Africa, along the Red Sea (100 BCE to 940 CE).

- Ancient Egypt in current-day Egypt along the coast of the Mediterranean (3100 BCE to 332 BCE)
- The Kingdom of Zimbabwe in southern Africa (1100-1500 CE)
- Kingdom of the Congo in central Africa (1300-1700 CE)
- The Kingdom of Luba in central Africa (1000-1800s)
- The Lunda Kingdom in central Africa (1000-1750)
- The Kingdom of Mutapa in central Africa (1300-1750)

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