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**Fill in the Blanks**

*Use your study sheet to find the correct answers.*

**A GREAT ORAL TRADITION**

Africa was once known as “the D\_\_\_\_\_ Continent” because the European c\_\_\_\_\_ powers saw it as a v\_\_\_\_\_ and d\_\_\_\_\_ place filled with s\_\_\_\_\_ people. The E\_\_\_\_\_ did not know of A\_\_\_\_\_’s many a\_\_\_\_\_ civilizations. A great deal of what we know about African history comes from the stories of the g\_\_\_\_\_. Griots will often m\_\_\_\_\_ the f\_\_\_\_\_ histories of a village going back \*h\_\_\_\_\_ of years. American writer Alex H\_\_\_\_\_ met a g\_\_\_\_\_ that knew the same family stories he learned while growing up in T\_\_\_\_\_.

What we know about African \*h\_\_\_\_\_ evolves as time passes. Recently we learned that c\_\_\_\_\_ developed in West Africa nearly a \*m\_\_\_\_\_ earlier than previous estimates. We now know that A\_\_\_\_\_ had an I\_\_\_\_\_ Age culture with c\_\_\_\_\_ and t\_\_\_\_\_ routes about \_\_\_\_\_ BC.

**Answer in complete sentences**

*Use your study sheet to find the correct answers.*

\*1. Find and explain the metaphor in the first paragraph of this section.

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2. What is a griot?

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3. What have archaeologists recently concluded about African civilization?

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#### THE NOK

In 1928, a c a o o i ts uncovered an ancient \*unn civilization in the present day village of N , Nigeria. The ancient Nok c l u e apparently flourished for at least years beginning in BC. The artifacts of the region included figurines made of t c , or fired clay. The s of the figurines lead archaeologists to believe the N culture was even o d r than the oldest figurine.

The ancient N culture to s iron by h rocks. Iron has many uses. It can be r to make w and p . Iron can also be used for c and h because it c heat well. The Nok apparently moved from the S to the I Age. Most cultures discovered c and b before iron. We don't know if the N discovered the secrets of i on their own, or if they learned about it from another c .

#### THE NOK

1. Why do we refer to an ancient African civilization as the Nok?

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\*2. Why do archaeologists believe that the Nok civilization may have been much older than its oldest artifact?

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\*3. List five tools or weapons made from iron that would advance an ancient civilization.

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\*3. How might the Nok have been able to move directly from the Stone Age to the Iron Age?

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#### THE PHOENICIANS AND CARTHAGE

The P\_\_\_\_\_ were the greatest t\_\_\_\_\_ and t\_\_\_\_\_ of their time. The originally settled C\_\_\_\_\_ as a t\_\_\_\_\_ post, but when the A\_\_\_\_\_ and P\_\_\_\_\_ conquered their h\_\_\_\_\_ in the modern nation of L\_\_\_\_\_, Carthage became an I\_\_\_\_\_ state.

Carthage fought and l\_\_\_\_\_ three brutal w\_\_\_\_\_ against R\_\_\_\_\_, a c\_\_\_\_\_ on the I\_\_\_\_\_ Peninsula. The wars were known as the P\_\_\_\_\_ Wars because Puncia was the R\_\_\_\_\_ name for C\_\_\_\_\_. Carthage, with its superior navy, was favored to win the first war, but it was surprised by the R\_\_\_\_\_ navy. A great Carthaginian military leader named H\_\_\_\_\_ stormed into I\_\_\_\_\_ on a team of e\_\_\_\_\_. Hannibal won a few early v\_\_\_\_\_, but the Romans o\_\_\_\_\_ his forces and were able to once again defeat C\_\_\_\_\_.

The Romans destroyed C\_\_\_\_\_ for good in the Third P\_\_\_\_\_ War. After a s\_\_\_\_\_ in 146BC, the Romans went from house to house, s\_\_\_\_\_ the Carthaginians. The few s\_\_\_\_\_ were s\_\_\_\_\_ into s\_\_\_\_\_. The Romans then d\_\_\_\_\_ the c\_\_\_\_\_ and h\_\_\_\_\_ and poured s\_\_\_\_\_ over the f\_\_\_\_\_ t o ensure its b\_\_\_\_\_. Some historians compared the brutality of Adolph Hitler's Nazi Party in \*G\_\_\_\_\_ to the Romans in the T\_\_\_\_\_ Punic W\_\_\_\_\_.

### Answer in complete sentences

*Use your study sheet to find the correct answers.*

\*1. It has been said that the Phoenicians were from "everywhere and nowhere." What do you think this statement might mean?

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2. Why did the Phoenicians settle Carthage? Why did they choose that location?

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**Answer in complete sentences**

*Use your study sheet to find the correct answers.*

3. What city-state defeated Carthage three times in the Punic Wars?

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\*4. Why do you think Hannibal's army used elephants instead of horses in the Second Punic War?

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5. Why did the Romans pour salt over the farmland of Carthage?

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**Fill in the Blanks**

*Use your study sheet to find the correct answers.*

THE PEOPLE SOUTH OF THE SAHARA DESERT HAD LITTLE CONTACT WITH THE REST OF THE WORLD

The people south of the Sahara Desert had little contact with the rest of the world. It was almost impossible to cross the harsh, dry Saharan Desert without modern technology. The few rivers that flow from sub-Saharan Africa contain many high waterfalls that make travel difficult. Additionally, both the sub-Saharan Africans and the people north of the Sahara were fearful of venturing into the open desert. Finally, the tsetse flies that live on the edge of the desert carry deadly diseases. It is understandable that people from the East knew little of the advanced cultures that were hidden behind "a great wall of sand."

**Answer in complete sentences**

*Use your study sheet to find the correct answers.*

\*6. Write a paragraph that describes why the people south of the Sahara Desert had little contact with the rest of the world. Remember to include a topic sentence, two supporting sentences and a conclusion that restates but does not repeat your topic sentence. You may not use the exact words from the passage above.

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Fill in the Blanks

Use your study sheet to find the correct answers.

TRADE

The ancient W\_\_\_\_\_ African c\_\_\_\_\_ were based on t\_\_\_\_\_.  
Caravans from N\_\_\_\_\_ Africa first braved the scorching heat of the S\_\_\_\_\_ Desert to reach sub-S\_\_\_\_\_ Africa about AD700. They exchanged s\_\_\_\_\_ for g\_\_\_\_\_. The West A\_\_\_\_\_ used the salt as a f\_\_\_\_\_, a food p\_\_\_\_\_ and to retain body m\_\_\_\_\_.

The B\_\_\_\_\_ of N\_\_\_\_\_ Africa brought their devout \*M\_\_\_\_\_ faith along with their wares across the desert. Many of the m\_\_\_\_\_ converted to I\_\_\_\_\_, but most of the c\_\_\_\_\_ people of W\_\_\_\_\_ Africa kept their t\_\_\_\_\_ beliefs. Many people of West A\_\_\_\_\_ would not accept the Muslim b\_\_\_\_\_ in o\_\_\_\_\_ god. They believed that many g\_\_\_\_\_ existed in n\_\_\_\_\_, much like the ancient S\_\_\_\_\_ and N\_\_\_\_\_ Americans.

Answer in complete sentences

Use your study sheet to find the correct answers.

1. Why did West African leaders tend to be conciliators rather than warriors?

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\*2. Explain why the ancient Africans valued salt more than gold.

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3. Who introduced the Muslim faith to sub-Saharan Africa?

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\*4. Why do you think most of the common people of ancient Africa kept their traditional religious faith?

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**Fill in the Blanks**

*Use your study sheet to find the correct answers.*

**MERCHANTS AND TRADERS IN WEST AFRICA  
SAW MANY ADVANTAGES IN CONVERTING TO ISLAM**

Many m\_\_\_\_\_ and t\_\_\_\_\_ in West Africa found it advantageous to c\_\_\_\_\_ to I\_\_\_\_\_. Belief in Islam requires that you learn the Q\_\_\_\_\_, so the merchants and traders learned to r\_\_\_\_\_ and w\_\_\_\_\_. Further, the Q\_\_\_\_\_ is written in A\_\_\_\_\_, so all M\_\_\_\_\_ traders knew the same language. Conversion to Islam also opened up m\_\_\_\_\_ across N\_\_\_\_\_ Africa an A\_\_\_\_\_. Finally, all M\_\_\_\_\_ follow Islamic l\_\_\_\_\_. It is e\_\_\_\_\_ to solve d\_\_\_\_\_ when both parties a\_\_\_\_\_ on the l\_\_\_\_\_. Many of the common people of West Africa kept their t\_\_\_\_\_ beliefs, but conversion to I\_\_\_\_\_ has many e\_\_\_\_\_ advantages as well as spiritual benefits for m\_\_\_\_\_ and t\_\_\_\_\_ in the region.

**Answer in complete sentences**

*Use your study sheet to find the correct answers.*

\*5. Write a paragraph that describes why many merchants and traders converted to Islam.

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### Fill in the Blanks

*Use your study sheet to find the correct answers.*

#### GHANA

Ghana flourished for hundreds of years between the S\_\_\_\_\_ and N\_\_\_\_\_ Rivers in W\_\_\_\_\_ Africa. G\_\_\_\_\_ became w\_\_\_\_\_ by collecting t\_\_\_\_\_ from the t\_\_\_\_\_ who passed through their k\_\_\_\_\_. Ghana managed the g\_\_\_\_\_ trade despite having few natural r\_\_\_\_\_ of their own. Ghana's strength was in superior skill in working i\_\_\_\_\_. The iron tipped s\_\_\_\_\_ of the \*G\_\_\_\_\_ army were no match for weapons made of stone, b\_\_\_\_\_ or w\_\_\_\_\_.

The A\_\_\_\_\_ were Muslim w\_\_\_\_\_ who succeeded in weakening Ghana about AD1100. The Almoravids called a j\_\_\_\_\_, or holy w\_\_\_\_\_ against G\_\_\_\_\_ because the people of Ghana kept their t\_\_\_\_\_ beliefs. The Almoravids were unsuccessful in changing the b\_\_\_\_\_ of the West A\_\_\_\_\_, but they did end Ghana's period of glory.

### Answer in complete sentences

*Use your study sheet to find the correct answers.*

1. What did the people of Ghana call their nation? Why do we call it Ghana?

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2. Trace and identify the approximate route of the Senegal and Niger Rivers on the outline of Africa on the right. Draw a circle that indicates where Ghana existed.

3. How did Ghana become a wealthy nation?

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\*4. Is it likely that Ghana had a great army? Why?

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5. Why did the Almoravids attack Ghana?

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6. What happened to West Africa after the fall of Ghana as a mighty empire?

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**EXTRA CREDIT:** earn ten extra points if you can identify the West African nation whose capital city is pronounced "wag-ah-doo-goo." Please write the capital city and the nation at the top of the page. Hint: the spelling of the city is different from the pronunciation.

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#### SUNDIATA

Once G\_\_\_\_\_ had fallen as a mighty power, many w\_\_\_\_\_ managed to conquer small parts of the region. Samanguru was a hostile w\_\_\_\_\_ who mistreated the local M\_\_\_\_\_ people and f\_\_\_\_\_ to maintain l\_\_\_\_\_ and o\_\_\_\_\_ along West Africa's t\_\_\_\_\_ routes.

Sundiata was the warrior who defeated S\_\_\_\_\_. S\_\_\_\_\_ was born a s\_\_\_\_\_ child. Samanguru k\_\_\_\_\_ his t\_\_\_\_\_ brothers, but spared Sundiata because he believed he would soon d\_\_\_\_\_ anyway. The child r\_\_\_\_\_, and assembled an a\_\_\_\_\_ to confront the \*k\_\_\_\_\_ of his \*b\_\_\_\_\_. Sundiata killed Samanguru \_\_\_\_\_ years ago in the B\_\_\_\_\_ of K\_\_\_\_\_.

Sundiata then became the king, or m\_\_\_\_\_ of a new empire we know today as M\_\_\_\_\_. Sundiata ensured that Mali was a s\_\_\_\_\_ place to t\_\_\_\_\_ and t\_\_\_\_\_. He converted to I\_\_\_\_\_, but presented himself as a champion of t\_\_\_\_\_ West African religion to the common people of M\_\_\_\_\_.

### Answer in complete sentences

Use your study sheet to find the correct answers.

6. Who was Samanguru?

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\*7. How do we know about the legend of Sundiata? How was it passed down from 1235 to 2000?

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8. What happened at the Battle of Kirina?

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9. What does *mansa* mean?

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10. What does *Mali* mean?

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11. What was Sundiata's primary interest as the mansa of Mali?

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\*12. Why do you think it was important for Sundiata to both convert to Islam and to profess his belief in traditional African religion?

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### MANSA MUSA

Mansa Musa was a M\_\_\_\_\_ (language group) m\_\_\_\_\_ (another word for king, but not mansa) from M\_\_\_\_\_ (kingdom). He made a pilgrimage to M\_\_\_\_\_ (Islamic holy city) because he was a M\_\_\_\_\_ (religious faith).

Mansa M\_\_\_\_\_ was both rich and generous. The legends say he took more than \_\_\_\_\_ people with him, each carrying a s\_\_\_\_\_ of sold g\_\_\_\_\_. When M\_\_\_\_\_ Musa passed through the \*E\_\_\_\_\_ city of Cairo, he gave away so much gold that the p\_\_\_\_\_ fell and the e\_\_\_\_\_ was effected for more than t\_\_\_\_\_ years. The w\_\_\_\_\_ of Mansa M\_\_\_\_\_ caught the attention of the rest of the world. Soon, M\_\_\_\_\_ began to appear on m\_\_\_\_\_ throughout the Middle E\_\_\_\_\_ and E\_\_\_\_\_.

M\_\_\_\_\_ Musa's successors were less able, and in time, M\_\_\_\_\_ was replaced by another k\_\_\_\_\_ named S\_\_\_\_\_. Songhai flourished until fighting a bloody war with M\_\_\_\_\_. Three thousand Moroccan s\_\_\_\_\_ crossed the d\_\_\_\_\_ in 15\_\_\_\_. They were badly outnumbered, but the s\_\_\_\_\_ and l\_\_\_\_\_ of the S\_\_\_\_\_ warriors were no match for the c\_\_\_\_\_ and m\_\_\_\_\_ of the Moroccan army. The two sides fought for more than t\_\_\_\_\_ years, until the S\_\_\_\_\_ lost I\_\_\_\_\_ and a \_\_\_\_\_ his a\_\_\_\_\_ in S\_\_\_\_\_. The Moroccan I\_\_\_\_\_ was unsuccessful, but it destroyed S\_\_\_\_\_, and with it the t\_\_\_\_\_ routes that brought p\_\_\_\_\_ to West Africa for hundreds of years.

**NOTE:** Many of the responses in this paragraph begin with the letter M, so I provided you with an extra clue in parenthesis.

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## Answer in complete sentences

*Use your study sheet to find the correct answers.*

### MANSA MUSA

1. How was Mansa Musa's religious faith different from that of Sundiata?

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\*2. Explain why the price of gold fell after Mansa Musa passed through Cairo?

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\*3. Some scholars believe that Mansa Musa's journey to Mecca was a factor in the eventual European colonization of Africa. What connection can be drawn between Mansa Musa and colonialism?

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4. What kingdom replaced Mali in West Africa?

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5. How was Songhai destroyed?

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6. Why were the warriors of Songhai outmatched despite having a larger army than Morocco?

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\*7. Why didn't another kingdom develop in West Africa after the fall of Songhai?

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#### TIMBUKTU

Today Timbuktu is a small t\_\_\_\_\_ on the e\_\_\_\_\_ of the S\_\_\_\_\_ Desert, but it was the greatest t\_\_\_\_\_ city in sub-Saharan Africa for more than four h\_\_\_\_\_ years. Timbuktu was l\_\_\_\_\_ on a b\_\_\_\_\_ in the N\_\_\_\_\_ River. Traders would mine s\_\_\_\_\_ in the d\_\_\_\_\_ and carry it to T\_\_\_\_\_. Merchants in the city would then t\_\_\_\_\_ the salt to far away places.

Timbuktu was also known as a r\_\_\_\_\_ and e\_\_\_\_\_ site. Mansa Musa built a great m\_\_\_\_\_ in the city. Timbuktu's influence began to d\_\_\_\_\_ when the P\_\_\_\_\_ showed that it was easier to s\_\_\_\_\_ around the c\_\_\_\_\_ of Africa than to t\_\_\_\_\_ through the d\_\_\_\_\_. The city was also damaged in the w\_\_\_\_\_ between M\_\_\_\_\_ and S\_\_\_\_\_.

**1% BONUS QUESTION:** Local legends indicate that Timbuktu was named for an old woman who lived in the eleventh century. Her name is said to have meant "mother with the \_\_\_\_\_". A web search will help you complete this phrase. Write your response under today's date.

### Answer in complete sentences

Use your study sheet to find the correct answers.

#### TIMBUKTU

1. Where was Timbuktu located? Why was its location an important factor in its development?

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2. What was Timbuktu known for in addition to trade?

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3. Why did Timbuktu decline in influence?

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### Fill in the Blanks

*Use your study sheet to find the correct answers.*

#### ZIMBABWE

The K\_\_\_\_\_ people were great t\_\_\_\_\_ who exchanged g\_\_\_\_\_ for goods from many far away places. E\_\_\_\_\_ explorers discovered the stone r\_\_\_\_\_ of the Karanga in 18\_\_\_\_. The site was called Z\_\_\_\_\_, which was a B\_\_\_\_\_ term that means “s\_\_\_\_\_ d\_\_\_\_\_.”

The Europeans did not believe that the people of sub-S\_\_\_\_\_ Africa built Z\_\_\_\_\_, but e\_\_\_\_\_ in 19\_\_\_\_ proved the site was created by the I\_\_\_\_\_ people of the region. The white c\_\_\_\_\_ government of R\_\_\_\_\_ tried to convince the world that the land was devoid of p\_\_\_\_\_ and c\_\_\_\_\_ when they arrived. Rhodesia allowed all adults to vote in 1980, and soon after, the black m\_\_\_\_\_ of the nation discarded their 6c\_\_\_\_\_ name and chose Z\_\_\_\_\_, the name of the great s\_\_\_\_\_ ruins.

### Answer in complete sentences

*Use your study sheet to find the correct answers.*

#### ZIMBABWE

\*4. How do you think we know the Karanga smelted gold and traded with China?

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\*5. Why did the Europeans refuse to believe that sub-Saharan Africans could have built Zimbabwe?

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\*6. Why did the Rhodesian government continue to deny that Africans built Zimbabwe even after it was proven that it was?

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7. What is the current name of the former colony of Rhodesia?

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\*8. How did Gertrude Caton-Thompson and Richard Hall differ in their explanation of the Zimbabwe ruins?

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\*A higher order learning question. Any reasonable answer will be accepted.