

Chapter 13 Study Guide

Vocabulary

1. **Rain Forest**- an area near the equator that has many trees and heavy rainfall.
2. **Animism**- the belief that natural objects have spirits.
3. **Sahel**- Between the Sahara and the savannah.
4. **Sundaita**- Mali's first ruler who helped Mali rise to power..
5. **Oral History**- spoken record of the past
6. **Griot**- west African storyteller.
7. **Mansa Musa**- the Muslim leader of Mali, who supported education, spread Islam, and made a famous pilgrimage to Mecca.
8. **Kente**- brightly colored fabric women in many African societies wore.

Comprehension Questions

Section 1

1. **Along what river did great civilization develop in early West Africa?**

Niger River

2. **Today salt is not nearly as valuable as gold. Why do you think salt was so important in West Africa?**

People needed it to survive and preserve food.

3. **How might West Africans have benefit from living in extended families?**

West African families would benefit by working together and extra help at home.

Section 2

4. **What were two major trade goods that made Ghana rich? Where did each come from?**

Gold from the south and salt from the Sahara in the North.

5. **Why did merchants in Ghana not want other traders to know where their gold came from?**

The traders might mine the gold for themselves, Ghana would lose its position of power and control.

6. **Who do you think was more responsible for the collapse of Ghana, the people of Ghana or the outsiders? Why?**

Insiders: people of Ghana rebelled, taking over but also weakening Ghana, then invaders took over.

OR

Outsiders: invaders called Almoravids attacked and weakened Ghana and overgrazed their lands.

Section 3

7. How did Islam influence society in Mali?

Arabic became a major language, many mosques were built, schools were built to teach Muslims to read the Qur'an.

8. How were Sundiata and Mansa Musa similar, how were they different?

Sundiata	Mansa Musa
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Not Muslim• His rule marked the beginning of the empire	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Muslim• Stressed Islam and importance of learning
Similar	
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Both increased the wealth of the country	

9. Which group do you think played a more important roles in Songhai society, warriors or traders.

Warriors: the warriors or professional army kept the peace.

OR

Traders: helped keep the nation's economy strong.

Section 4

10. What different types of information did griots pass on their listeners?

History and the actions of people's ancestors

11. Why are the writings of visitors to west Africa so important to our understanding of the region?

Visitors give details in their writings about political and cultural lives of West Africans, unlike oral histories, writings cannot change over time.

12. Which of the various arts of West Africa do you think is most important Why?

THIS IS JUST ONE EXAMPLE, YOU CAN SAY SCULPTURE OR MASKS/CLOTHING, JUST GIVE A REASON WHY

Music and dance helped people celebrate their history and many were important to religious celebrations.