

Unit 4--Test Prep

West Africa

Chapters 12-15



1. How did geography affected the lives of people in West Africa? What is a vegetation zone? What was one economic effect of the four vegetation zones in West Africa?
2. Who made up the earliest farming communities of West Africa? What led them to band together to form villages?
3. What technological development made West African farming more efficient? Who were the people of West Africa who developed this technology?
4. What is a savannah?
5. Why was oral history important in West Africa?
6. How did the Niger River affect the economy of West Africa?
7. What did Jenne-jeno's location made it ideal for? Why did people in different parts of West Africa trade with each other?
8. Who made up the earliest farming communities in West Africa?
9. What was the sequence of changes that started when farming became more productive?
10. As trade in West Africa grew, what else expanded and grew there?
11. How did kingdoms develop in West Africa? What were the three major trade kingdoms of West Africa?
12. How did Ghana make money on trade? What expression did Arab scholars use to describe Ghana? What is one way the king of Ghana preserved his power?
13. What was the great trade city and capital of Ghana?
14. What were the two main items of trade in the West African trade kingdoms? What were some of the other items? Why was salt more precious than gold to West Africans?
15. Because of its location, what role did Ghana play in North African trade? What enabled Ghana to become wealthy from trade?
16. What limited trade between West Africa and the northern regions in Africa's early history? What role did camels play in North African trade? What impact did their introduction have on trade?
17. Who were the Berbers?
18. What was unique about how Wangarans traded? Why did they trade in this fashion?
19. Who were the Almoravids? What led to the decline and fall of Ghana? The rise of what new great kingdom did this lead to?
20. What religion spread to West Africa and had a lasting impact on its culture? What first brought Islam to West Africa? How did Ghana's common people react to Islamic beliefs? What happened when Islam came to West Africa?
21. Why did Islam spread fairly easily in Mali? What was the most important feature of education in Muslim West Africa?

22. Mali first appeared on a European map in 1339. What does its appearance there reflect?
23. Who was the great leader of Mali whose pilgrimage (hajj) to Mecca gained widespread attention and put Mali on the map? What did Mansa Musa bring back to Mali from his pilgrimage?
24. What was the last of the great trade empires which broke away from Mali and eventually went on to conquer it? Who were the people of this new empire?
25. What was the great trade city on the Niger River that became famous for its universities and community of Islamic scholars?
26. Who are the scholars who ran Islamic schools?
27. What became the language of religion, learning, trade, and government in West Africa? What language was used for everyday speech?
28. How did people of West Africa maintain their native languages?
29. West Africans built mosques that blended Islamic architectural style with their own traditional religious art. What did this show?
30. What is one artistic form that both West Africans and Muslims valued even before their cultures met? What type of house did Islamic architects introduce in Mali?
31. What West African city was known for its universities?
32. How did griots pass on history and values? Griots maintained what type of tradition?
33. What did folktales and proverbs have in common? What was one important function of the oral tradition in Africa?
34. What is one purpose music serves in West African society? What effect did the music of African slaves have on the Americas?
35. What forms of visual art did West Africans create? The painter Pablo Picasso was influenced by what form of West African art?