

Early and Medieval African Kingdoms

Timeline Cards



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Subject Matter Expert

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Chapter 7, Card 1	Canoes on the Niger River (engraving), English School, (19th century) / Private Collection / Bridgeman Images
Chapter 7, Card 2	The tomb of Askia Mohammed, ruler of the Songhai empire from 1493 to 1528, at Gao / Werner Forman Archive / Bridgeman Images

Chapter 1 Early Egyptians using a system of weights and poles called shadoofs to get water from the Nile, Jackson, Peter (1922–2003) / Private Collection / © Look and Learn / Bridgeman Images

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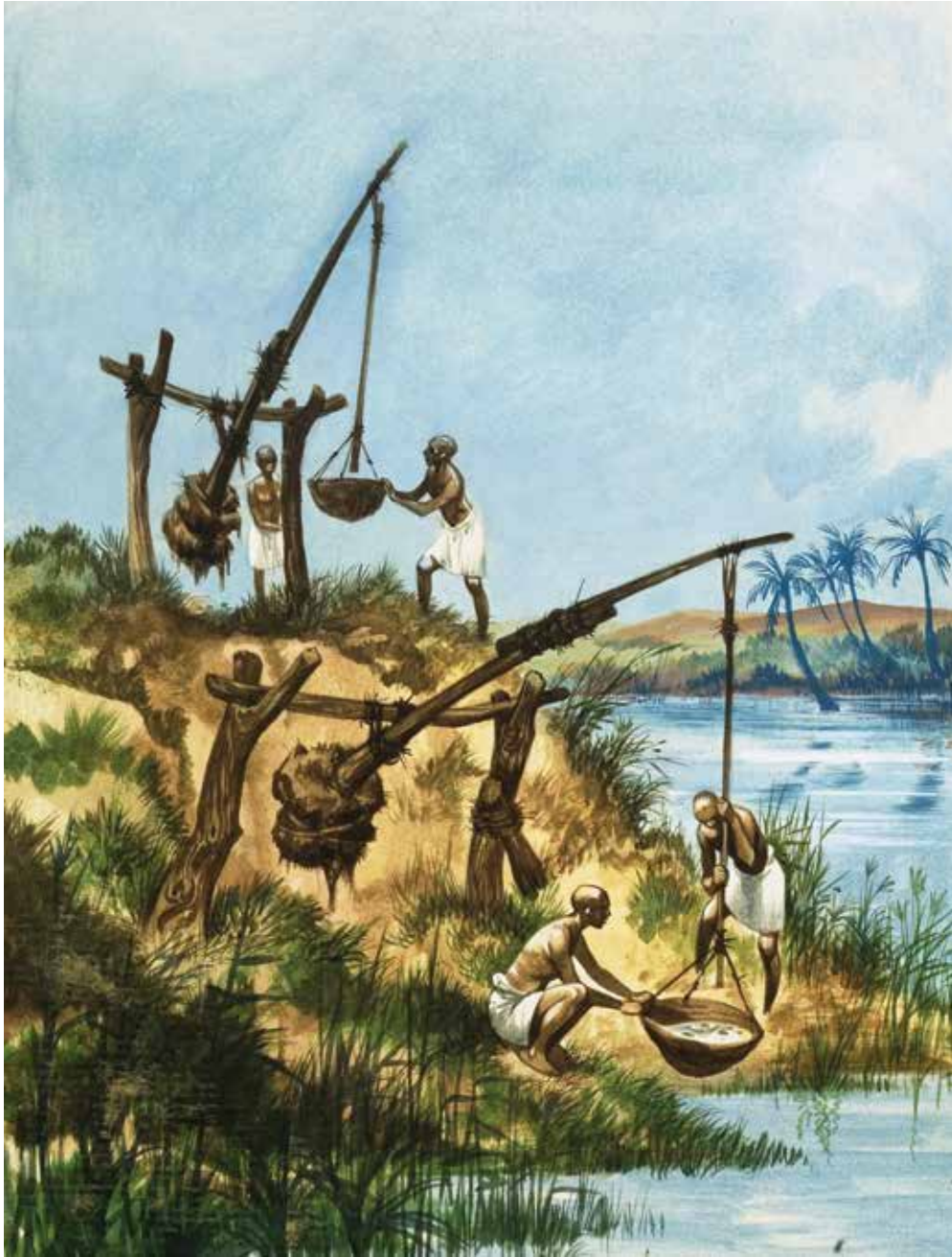
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CHAPTER 1: The Geographic Setting



The ancient Egyptian civilization began around 3150 BCE and lasted thousands of years, thanks to the fertile land of the Nile River.

Big Question: How might the geography of Africa have influenced the development of early African kingdoms and empires?

CHAPTER 2 (Introduction): The Kingdoms of Kush and Aksum



1500–1000 BCE: The Egyptian Empire spread to include the rich trading center of Kush.

Big Question: How did trade contribute to the rise of the Kush and Aksum kingdoms?

CHAPTER 2: The Kingdoms of Kush and Aksum

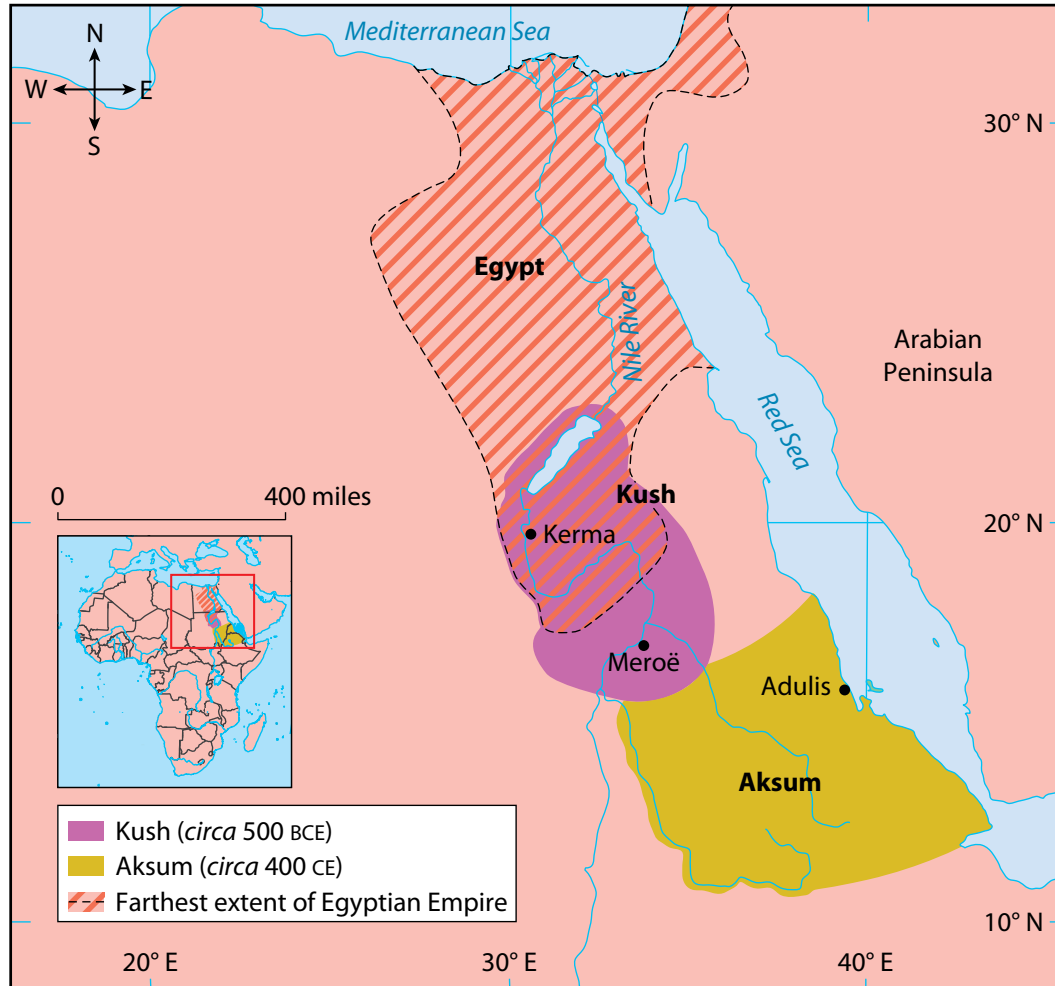


730–591 BCE: The Kushites defeated and ruled the Egyptians for 150 years. In 591, after another defeat by the Egyptians, the Kushites moved their capital to Meroë. Kushite kings were buried in these pyramids.

Big Question: How did trade contribute to the rise of the Kush and Aksum kingdoms?

CHAPTER 2: The Kingdoms of Kush and Aksum

The Kingdoms of Egypt, Kush, and Aksum



350 CE: The kingdom of Kush ended when it was attacked by its southern neighbor, Aksum.

Big Question: How did trade contribute to the rise of the Kush and Aksum kingdoms?

CHAPTER 3: Trans-Saharan Trade



700s CE: In the 700s, when Arabs of the eastern Mediterranean conquered North Africa and Spain, trade routes were extended even farther. The caravans also helped to transport both goods and new ideas from the East to Spain, and beyond.

Big Question: How did trade help spread ideas?

CHAPTER 4: Ghana, Land of Gold



300–1200s CE:
Ghana became
very rich and
powerful by
controlling the
gold-salt trade.

Big Question: Why was salt almost as valuable as gold during this time?

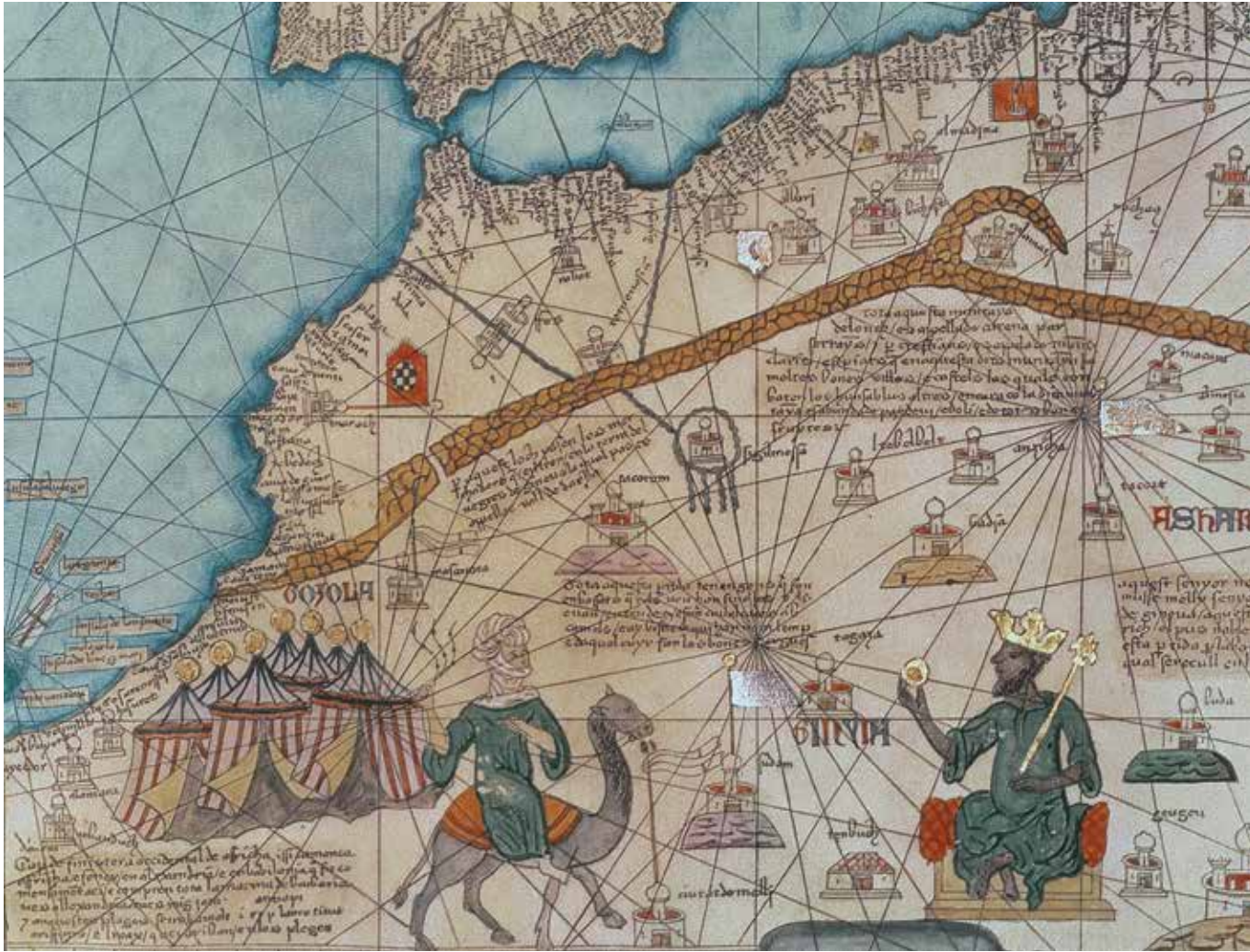
CHAPTER 5: Mali and Sundiata Keita



1230–1255: Sundiata became a powerful leader in the empire of Mali.

Big Question: Why might legendary stories have sprung up around Sundiata?

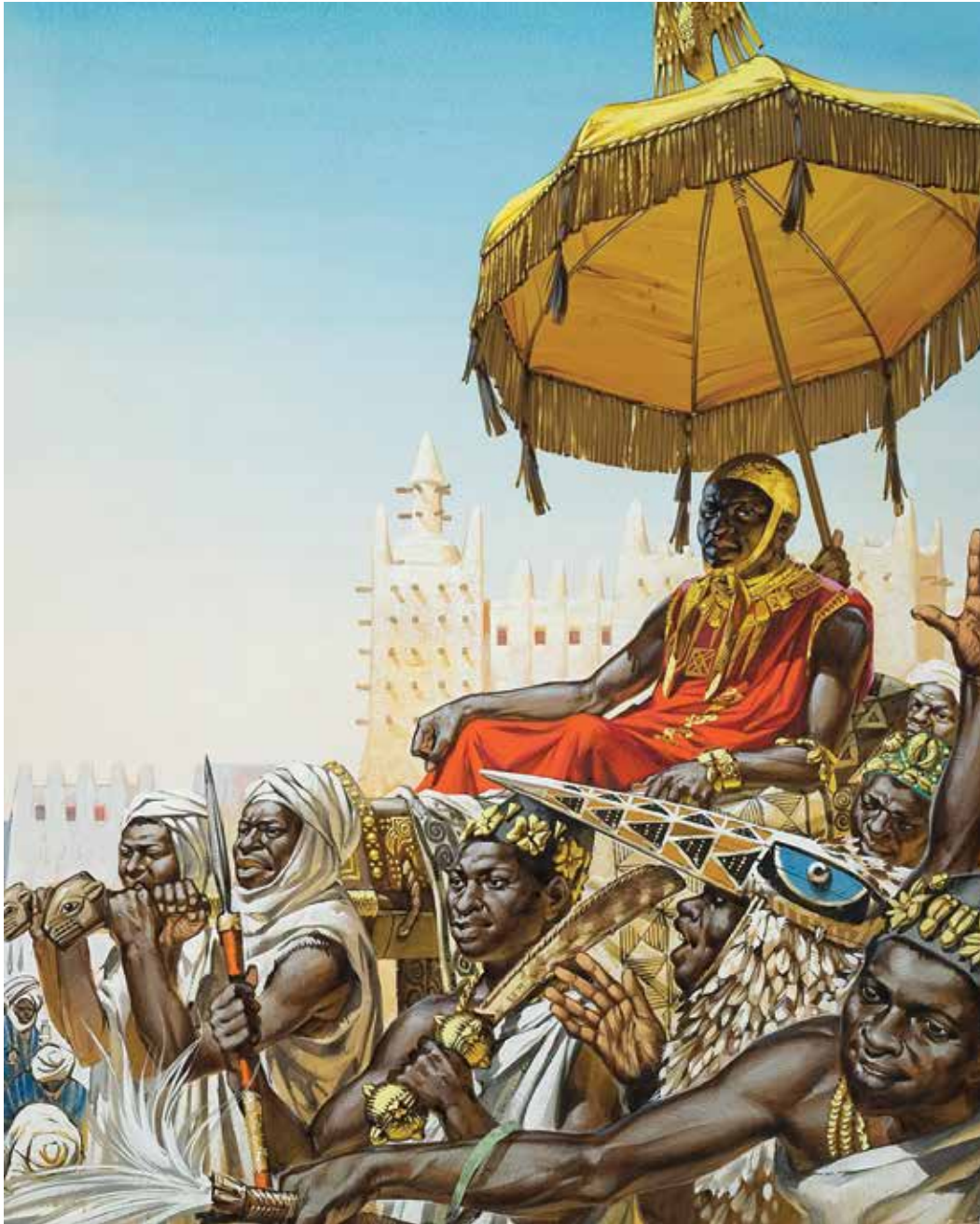
CHAPTER 6: Mansa Musa and His Pilgrimage



1307–1332: During his rule, Mansa Musa expanded the empire of Mali and made it even more powerful.

Big Question: What was so extraordinary about Mansa Musa's pilgrimage to Mecca?

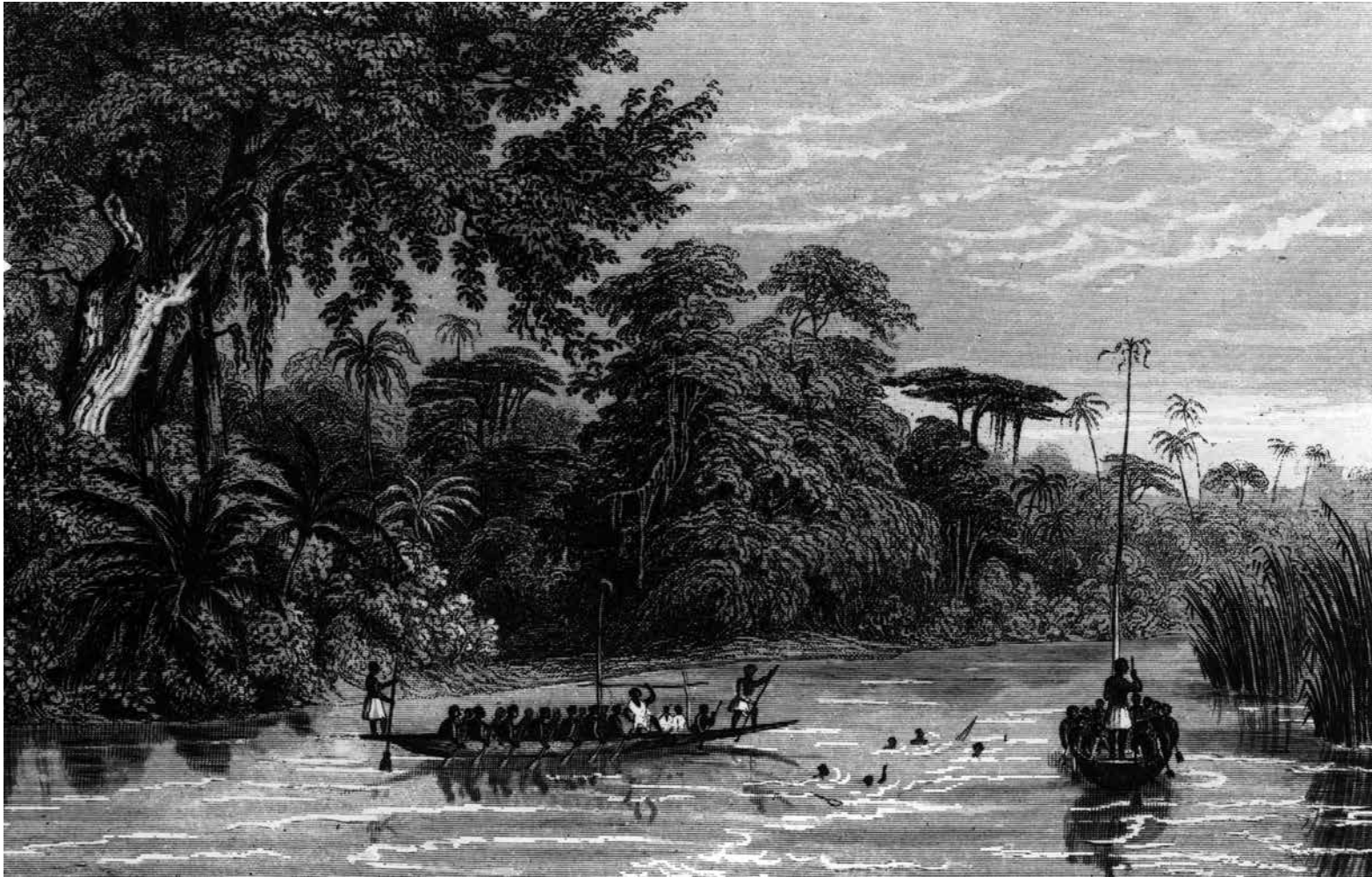
CHAPTER 6: Mansa Musa and His Pilgrimage



1324: During his pilgrimage to and from Mecca, Mansa Musa lavished gold upon many people.

Big Question: What was so extraordinary about Mansa Musa's pilgrimage to Mecca?

CHAPTER 7: Songhai and Askia Muhammad



1461–Early 1600s:
The Songhai
Empire was
centered
around the
Niger River.

Big Question: As Askia Muhammad expanded his empire, how did Islam grow within it?

CHAPTER 7: Songhai and Askia Muhammad

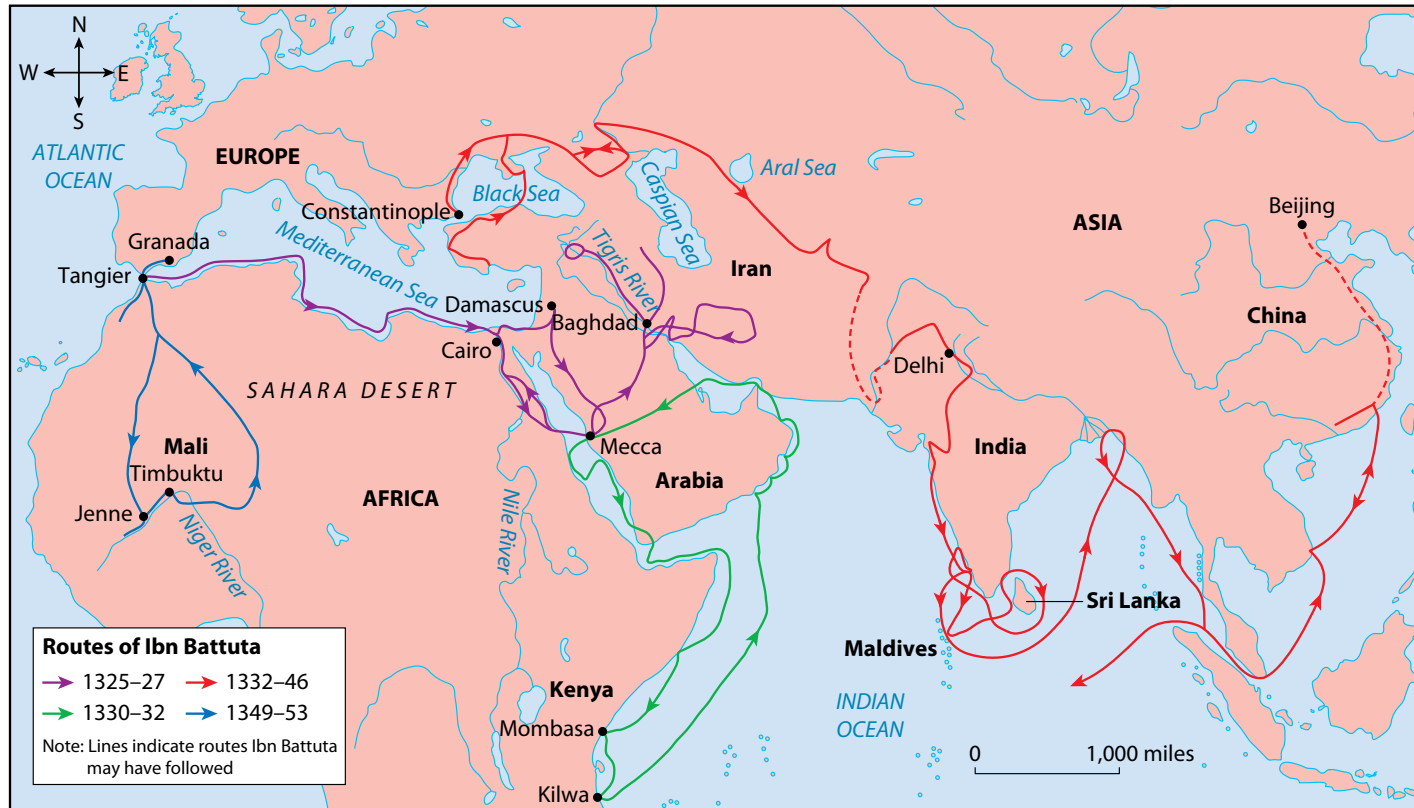


1493–1538: During the rule of Askia Muhammad, Islam spread throughout the Songhai Empire. Askia Muhammad's tomb is still an important historical site today.

Big Question: As Askia Muhammad expanded his empire, how did Islam grow within it?

CHAPTER 8: The Travels of Ibn Battuta

Ibn Battuta's Travels



1320s–1350s: Ibn Battuta traveled extensively throughout the medieval Muslim world. He published a book of his travels called *Rihlah*.

Big Question: Why were the travels of Ibn Battuta so extraordinary for the time in which he lived?