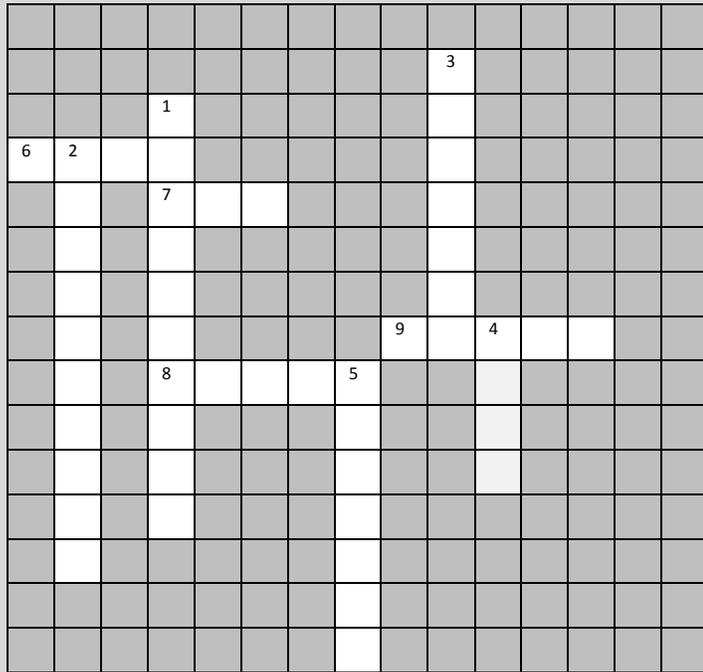


Fill in the Blank

The Empire of Songhai was built by the _____ traders, the local _____ tribesmen, and the B_____. The empire developed along the _____ . Songhai became a rich and powerful empire by trading _____, _____, and slaves. Songhai and _____ were rivals and Songhai eventually captured the two largest cities in Mali, T_____ and J_____. The leader of Songhai was _____ . He was responsible for spreading I_____ and the _____ throughout Africa. Askia and his government supported m_____, d_____, m_____, r_____ and m_____. Askia's government ran very smoothly because he had a professional _____ to enforce the _____ and _____ the empire. In addition, he had _____ in every village that worked for him. The Songhai empire finally declined because M_____, a country to the north succeeded in conquering Songhai's salt mines. It was able to do this by using a _____ w _____ Songhai did not have. In addition, the method of t _____ began to change. S _____ were now being used rather than _____.



Crossword

Down

1. Songhai developed along the _____ .
2. Powerful leader of Songhai
3. Askia's government had one in each village that worked for him.
4. Askia created a professional _____ to protect the empire and enforce the laws.
5. The country that defeated Songhai.

Across

6. Songhai's rival in the area.
7. City in Songhai.
8. Religion in Songhai.
9. Songhai depended on _____ to stay rich and powerful.

Multiple Choice

1. This was Songhai's rival in Western Africa.

- a. Ghana c. Egypt
b. Mali d. Timbuktu

2. The city of Timbuktu was famous for

- a. gold and silver c. schools
b. slave trade d. manufacturing

3. What did Askia's government develop to maintain justice?

- a. Army c. officers
b. tax collectors d. courts

4. This country defeated Songhai?

- a. Ghana c. Morocco
b. Mali d. Egypt

Short Answer

1. What enabled Morocco to defeat Songhai?

2. In every village, Askia had an officer that worked for him. Why do you think that was important?

Ancient Songhai

Songhai: Building an Empire

Songhai was started by three different groups of people. One group was Muslim traders. Another was the local Songhai tribesmen. And finally, the nomadic Berber people were the last. These different cultures settled in an important trade and commercial center along the banks of the Niger River. The three groups of people blended into a single culture. This became the city of Gao. Songhai traded salt, gold, and slaves just like Ghana and Mali and became rich from it.

The Songhai Empire and Mali Empire were both rivals in the area. At first, Songhai struggled against attacks from Mali. But soon as Mali's power decreased and Songhai's increased, Songhai grew in wealth and power.

How did Songhai become powerful?

Peak of Power

Eventually, Songhai was able to capture the important city of Timbuktu, which was famous for its schools and trading systems. Caravans of trade would cross the Sahara to exchange salt, slaves, and gold. Songhai was also able to conquer the city of Jenne, which was also a center of learning and research.

Askia Toure became the king that made Songhai truly great. His advisors were doctors, lawyers, religious leaders, soldiers, and students to help him rule. He spread Islam and Songhai culture across Africa. He conquered new lands in the east. Unifying his empire, he created an effective government.

How did Songhai become "great?"

Askia's Government

Songhai was a busy place with people playing music, dancing, doing gymnastics, writing, studying math, researching medicine, reading history, playing chess, and reciting poetry. Askia do much to organize and promote such a culture.

Askia created several provinces to help him govern his empire. He created a professional army to enforce his laws and protect the empire. He established a court system to maintain justice. His had ministers of the army, navy, tax collectors, foresters, and fishermen, all to make sure his kingdom was run wisely. In every village there was an officer that worked for him. This made Askia's government run smooth and wisely.

Why was Askia's government so well run?

Songhai is conquered

Songhai depended on trade to stay rich and powerful. A country to the north of Songhai was able to conquer its salt mines. This country, called Morocco, was able to beat the once powerful Songhai army because it used advanced weapons. These weapons were guns which had been recently invented and the Songhai did not have them yet. Soon Timbuktu and Gao were both destroyed.

Another cause was changing trade routes. No longer did caravans use the Trans-Saharan trade routes. Europeans and their advanced ships traveled by water across the oceans and traded goods. It was easier and cheaper to trade at port cities by the ocean, so Songhai lost power and wealth.

What caused the fall of Songhai?