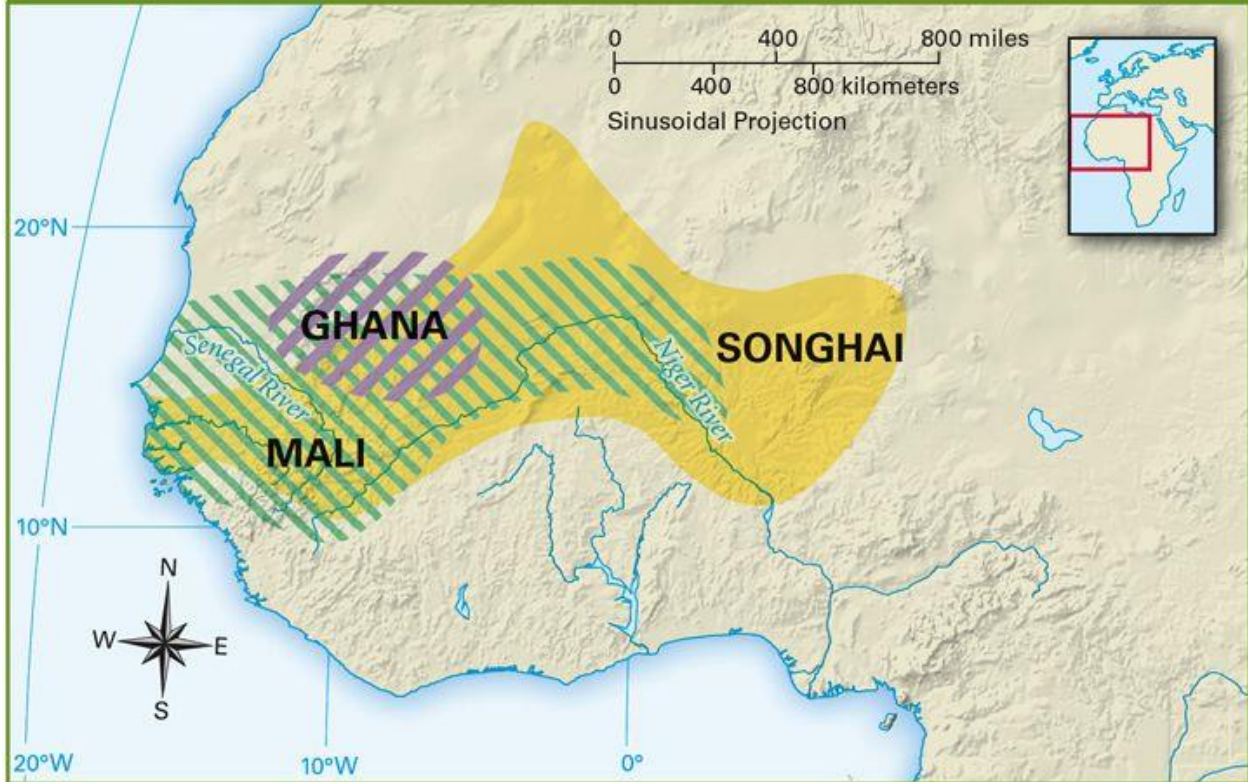


Three Early West African Kingdoms, 500 to 1600 C.E.



West African Trading Kingdoms

TRADING EMPIRES OF WEST AFRICA

QUICK
FACTS

EMPIRE	KEY FACTS
GHANA (800s–1070s)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Location: Near Niger and Senegal rivers • Key cities: Koumbi Saleh (capital) • Trade: Controlled gold-salt trade routes • Beliefs: Local beliefs; some Muslim influences
MALI (1230s–1430s)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Location: Along upper Niger River • Key Cities: Niani (capital), Timbuktu • Key Rulers: Sundiata; Mansa Musa • Trade: Controlled gold-salt trade routes • Beliefs: Islam; local beliefs
SONGHAI (1460s–1591)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Location: Near Niger River • Key Cities: Gao (capital), Timbuktu • Key Rulers: Sunni Ali; Askia Muhammad • Trade: Trans-Saharan trade • Beliefs: Islam; local beliefs