

# **MEDIEVAL AFRICA**

**Caravan Routes**

# 1. OBJECTIVE:

**Students will  
examine the  
Medieval  
Caravan  
Routes  
across the  
Sahara  
Desert.**



# CREATE A MAP OF WEST AFRICA

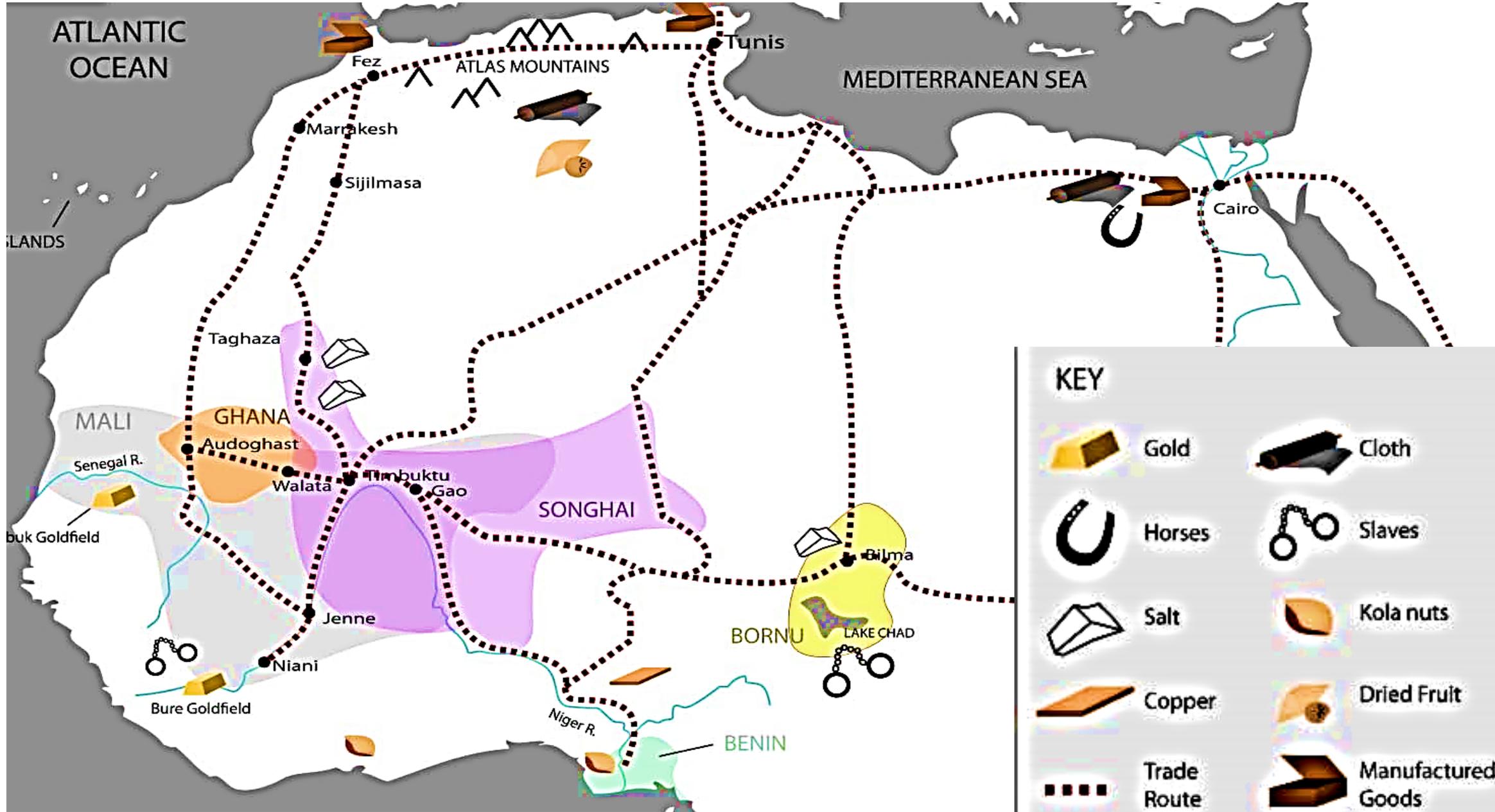
West Africa produced many great empires during the Medieval period, some of them you may have never heard of. In order to become familiar with these empires, and the trade routes across the Sahara which brought them great wealth, draw the map on the next slide on the MAP QUEST handout.

**Instructions:** On the following slide, there is a map of the great Medieval West African kingdoms. Find the handout labelled MAP QUEST. Read the instructions on the Map Quest handout.

Using the map below to create a map of West Africa on the blank Map Quest handout map. The handout will tell you what features to identify on this map and draw on your blank map.

# CREATE A MAP OF WEST AFRICA

Get the **MAP QUEST** handout. Use this map as a reference.



# AFRICA IS REALLY, REALLY BIG

Notice all the countries that would fit into the continent of Africa.

The Sahara Desert is bigger than the United States. Caravans would cross the Sahara Desert on the backs of camels. Imagine crossing the United States on the back of the camel.



# THE SAHARA DESERT

**Where is the Sahara Desert? INSTRUCTIONS: Use a printed map or an online map to identify the Sahara Desert in Africa.**



# FACTS ABOUT THE SAHARA DESERT

**INSTRUCTIONS:** In the Student Response Worksheet, find the essay labeled, “Interesting Facts about the Sahara.”

- 1.** Read the essay.
- 2.** Answer the questions at the end of the essay.

## **2. CAMELS ON THE SAHARAN CARAVAN ROUTES**

**Answer the following question on your handout:**

**1. List three qualities that help camels survive in the desert.**

# 3. IBN BATTUTA

Ibn Battuta, like Marco Polo, was one of the great travelers of history. He travelled along the great caravan routes at the height of their importance during the Medieval Period and wrote about what they were like. We are going to read about his journey in Google Classroom, but first let's learn a few more facts about Ibn Battuta.



# 3. FACTS ABOUT IBN BATTUTA

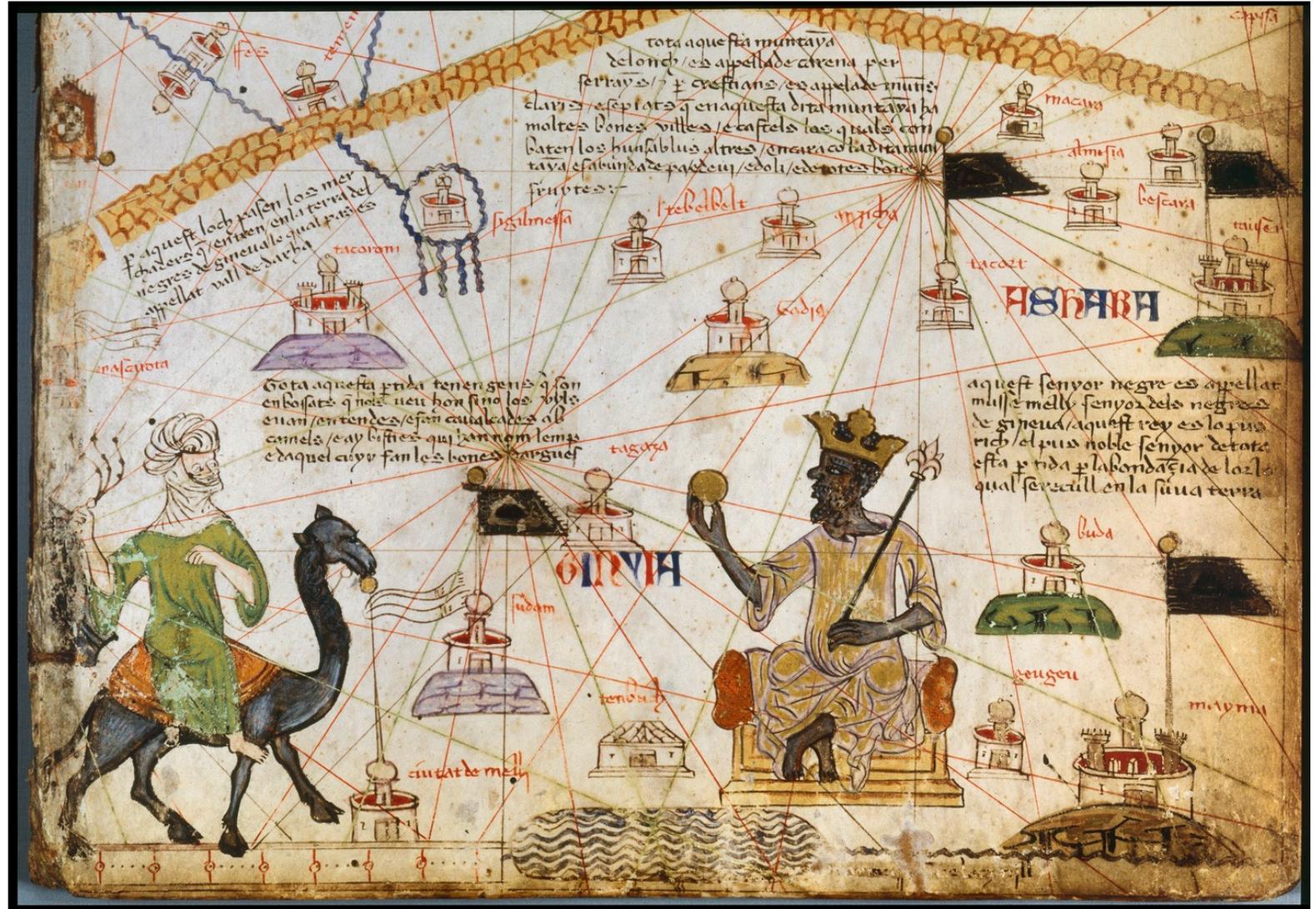


The dotted lines on this map show all the journeys that he took throughout his life.

1. He was from Morocco
2. He was the “Greatest” Traveler of the Medieval Period
3. At 21 years old, he went on pilgrimage to Mecca and liked it so much that he kept traveling for 30 years
4. Along the way he wrote about his travels so now we can read first hand accounts of what it was like

# IBN BATTUTA'S JOURNEY ACROSS THE SAHARA

Log onto Google Classroom and read his first-hand account from the 1300s. You will find it in the activity labelled "Ibn Battuta's Journey Across the Sahara." Complete the activity.



# EXIT TICKET — CARAVAN ROUTES

COMPLETE ONE OF THE FOLLOWING ACTIVITIES

**1. On the back of your handout, write down three facts about Caravan Routes in Medieval Africa AND write a sentence explaining what was most interesting about the them.**

**OR**

**2. DRAW a picture about something you learned about Caravans (no stick figures).**

# BONUS:

**If you want to learn about how the Sahara affects people even today, follow the links below and watch the short videos.**

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mLR0-K2Wpb0>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jEo-ykjmHgg>