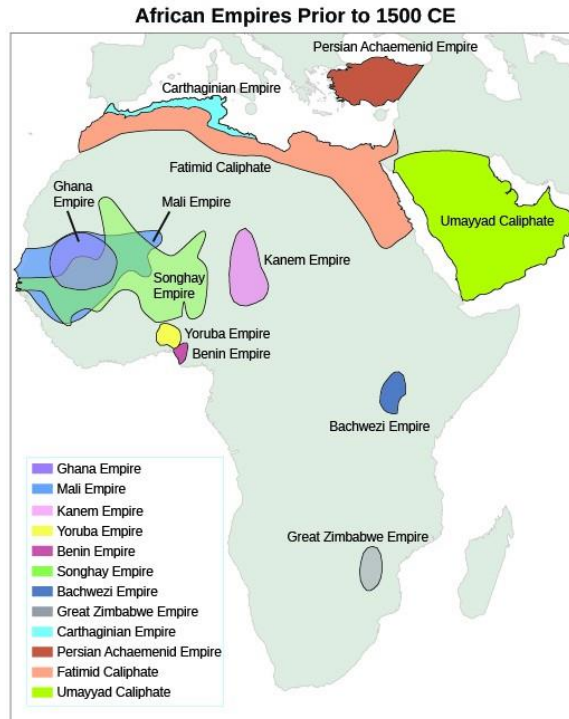


# AFRICAN EMPIRES



**Task 1:** Read the information below and summarise it in three bullet points, using specific terms and evidence.

**Task 2:** Use the below information to annotate the map with:

- The various trade routes and what was sold, including trade links with other countries and continents
- Mali Empire
- Benin

## Trade and Empire

From the earliest times, people have traded with each other on behalf of themselves or their communities. In Africa, this trade started with the exchange of raw materials. Records from c.1100 BCE show that trading in sale (used to preserve food) and metal (used in farming, hunting and bartering) was especially important.

Trade routes opened up across the Sahara desert, linking the Muslim-Arab north with the sub-Saharan African communities further south. The trade route even connected Africa to India. This in turn led to growth of African empires, each competing to take control of the valuable trading routes.

From the 15<sup>th</sup> century, as Europeans arrived on the coasts of Africa, stronger trade routes were opened up with Europe, India and the Far East. While much of this trade was in gold, ivory, salt, pepper and other spices, the trade in human beings (slaves) also dramatically increased. This was helped by the creation of the trans-Atlantic slave trade.

### Summarise trade and empire in African Empires in three bullet points:

- Trade began with the exchange of materials like metal and sale.
- There was a trade route across the Sahara which connected...
- 

## Religion and Empire

The early influence of Islam, particularly in the north of Africa in the 7<sup>th</sup> century, was later matched by the introduction of Christianity from Europeans. Religious influences were both positive and negative. Islamic scholars flocked to the great cities, such as Timbuktu in Mali, and set up important centres of learning. Christian missionaries set up schools which educated thousands.

But both Muslims and Christians took active roles in the African slave trade. African emperors such as Mansa Musa, who ruled over the Empire of Mali from 1312 to 1337, were so strongly influenced by religion that they spent all their wealth following their beliefs.

Others used religion to get support for their governments and maintain good trading relationships. Priests were even used to recruit soldiers for a country's army.

### Summarise religion and empire in African Empires in three bullet points:

- Many African nations followed Islam in the 7<sup>th</sup> century. Later on, many nations followed (converted to) Christianity.
  - Islamic scholars set up...
- Whereas, Christian missionaries set up...

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