**TRAVEL BACK IN TIME**

**to the Ancient African Empires of Ghana, Mali, Songhai (Songhay)**

The Roman Empire has collapsed. Between 300-1750 AD when the West African empires of Ghana, Mali and Songhai were ruling west Africa, some important world happenings were: the Chinese dynasties were growing strong, Marco Polo was traveling to China (remember the game you used to play named after him?), and Christopher Columbus was sailing from Spain. You are going to be journeying back to that ancient time to discover:

* how and why trade routes developed throughout North and West Africa, the locations of these routes, and what was traded along these routes
* how and why the empires of Ghana, Mali, and Songhai rose, succeeded, and declined  facts about the landscape of West Africa
* information about West African culture

CLICK ON THE INTERNET ADDRESS NEXT TO THE TIME TRAVEL MACHINE TO GO TO THE LINKS YOU NEED IN YOUR TRAVELS

Whenever you see this time machine, there will be an Internet link to aid you in your travels as you answer questions. Click on the link to get to the site.

* Questions you will answer will be numbered.
* Be sure to write the answers on your sheet of paper with your partner’s name on it

Now you are going to visit each African empire to find out why each was so important.

You are traveling to the ancient African empire of Ghana

<http://www.ducksters.com/history/africa/empire_of_ancient_ghana.php>

1. You are entering Ghana just as it is being founded. What year have you traveled to?
2. What does the name “Ghana” mean?
3. How did Ghana become rich? Explain in detail. Be sure to include the types of goods being traded.

Take another trip further into Ghana by going to the site below.

<http://africa.mrdonn.org/ghana.html>

1. Do the people you see in ancient Ghana appear to be happy? How do you know?
2. Do they have adequate housing and food? Explain in detail.

You have already read how the empire became rich. Now visit this site, and find why it declined:

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/worldservice/africa/features/storyofafrica/4chapter1.shtml>

1. What brought about the end of the empire of Ghana ? (scroll to the bottom of the link page)

Your travels will now take you to the African empire of Mali.

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/worldservice/africa/features/storyofafrica/4chapter3.shtml>

1. How did the empire of Mali begin? Include how trade and agriculture helped the empire grow.
2. Who was Mali’s first king, and what was his contribution to the empire?
3. What brought about the end of the empire of Mali?

Last stop on your travels is the African empire of Songhai.

<http://africa.mrdonn.org/songhay.html>

1. Explain how Songhai was able to take over West Africa.

<http://www.ducksters.com/history/africa/songhai_empire.php>

1. How was the government set up in the Songhai empire?
2. What was the Songhai culture like?
3. How were slaves used in the empire, and how did one become a slave?
4. How did the Songhai empire fall?