

Read and study the sources about West African Kingdoms. Then use the two sources and your knowledge of social studies to answer the questions.

Source 1

Medieval West African Kingdoms



Source: National Park Service.

Source 2

Equestrian Figure

This clay sculpture of an equestrian¹ figure was discovered in the Inland Niger Delta region of Mali and is dated between the 13th and 15th centuries.



Source: National Museum of African Art.

¹**equestrian**: relating to riding horses

1. Which characteristic of the Mali Empire is **most closely** associated with Source 2?

- A. trade with North Africa
- B. powerful military
- C. wealth obtained from gold mines
- D. training wild animals for celebrations

2. What do Source 1 and Source 2 suggest about the development of West African kingdoms?

Select the **two** correct answers.

- A. People specialized in different jobs as a result of the growth in trading cities.
- B. People often used camels for transportation.
- C. The armies of each kingdom used a wide variety of weapons in war.
- D. People had leisure time to develop arts.
- E. The kingdoms had powerful and rich leaders.

3. Physical and human geography influenced the medieval West African kingdoms of Ghana, Mali, and Songhai. Based on the sources and your knowledge of social studies, identify the geographic factors that **most** influenced the medieval West African kingdoms.

Drag the correct answers from the list to chart titled Geographic Factors Influencing Medieval West African Kingdoms. Fill every space in the chart. All options will not be used from the list.

Plentiful salt deposits

Location near the Atlas Mountains

Inland port cities on rivers

Nearness to the Silk Road

Abundance of gold

Taxes collected from merchants

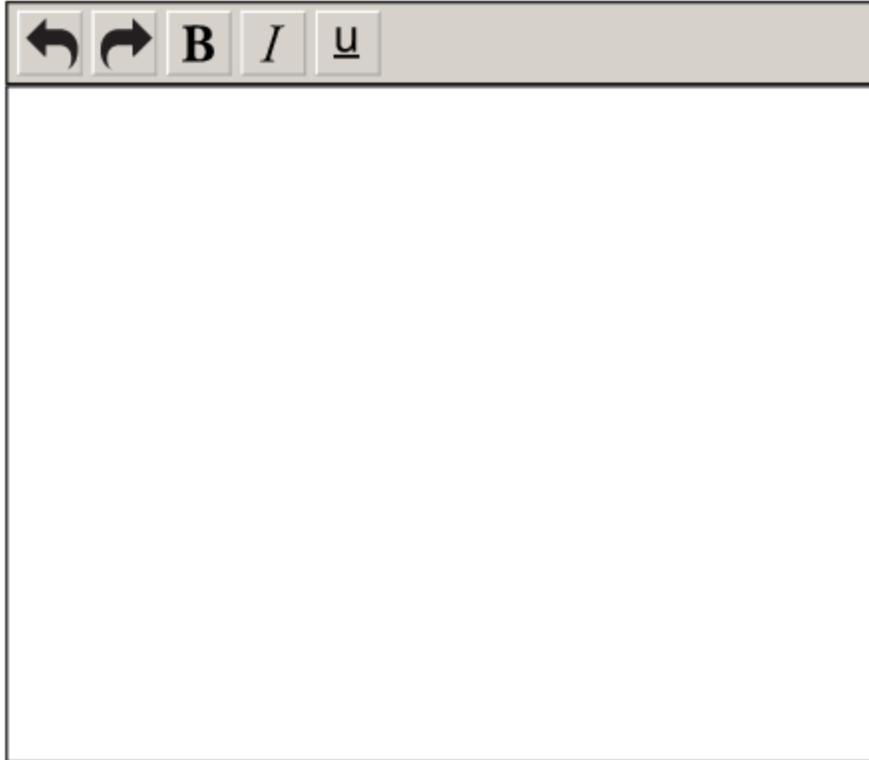
Trans-Atlantic trade routes

Nearness to trans-Saharan caravan routes

**Geographic Factors Influencing
Medieval West African Kingdoms**

OK

4. Based on the sources and your knowledge of social studies, explain **two** reasons medieval West African kingdoms were successful.



A text entry box with a toolbar at the top. The toolbar contains five icons: a left-pointing arrow (undo), a right-pointing arrow (redo), a bold letter 'B', an italic letter 'I', and an underlined letter 'u'. The main area of the box is empty, intended for the student's response.

Answer Key

Item Number	Item Type	Key	Primary Alignment
1	Multiple Choice (MC)	B	6.2.7
2	Multiple Select (MS)	A, D	6.2.7
3	Technology-Enhanced Item (TEI)	<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px;"> <p style="text-align: center; margin: 0;">Geographic Factors Influencing Medieval West African Kingdoms</p> <p>Plentiful salt deposits</p> <p>Inland port cities on rivers</p> <p>Abundance of gold</p> <p>Nearness to trans-Saharan caravan routes</p> </div>	6.4.3
4	Constructed Response (CR)	See Rubric and Scoring Notes	6.2.7

Constructed-Response Rubric and Scoring Notes

Scoring Information	
Score Points	Description
2	Student's response correctly explains two reasons that medieval West African kingdoms were successful.
1	Student's response correctly explains one reason that medieval West African kingdoms were successful.
0	Student's response does not correctly explain reasons that medieval West African kingdoms were successful. OR Student's response is blank, irrelevant, or too brief to evaluate.

Reasons that medieval West African kingdoms were successful may include:

- The land held natural resources and minerals that could be traded with other groups for a profit.
- Powerful militaries were used to expand and protect the kingdoms.
- Wealth was increased by collecting taxes from merchants traveling on trade routes through the kingdoms.

Accept any other reasonable responses.