



# Empires of West Africa

## Tertiary Source:

<b>100–200 CE</b>	<b>Camels introduced</b> Camels are introduced and the use of these pack animals revolutionizes trade across the Sahara desert.
<b>300 CE</b>	<b>Rise of Wagadu (popularly known as Ghana)</b> Origins of the kingdom that many know as Ghana.
<b>c. 600–700</b>	<b>Islam introduced to West Africa</b> The Islamic faith moves from the present day Middle East into East Africa and in less than a century arrives in the western regions of the continent.
<b>c. 1000</b>	<b>The height of Wagadu's (Ghana's) power</b> This complex societies based control of the trans-Saharan trade for salt and gold dominated West Africa militarily and politically.
<b>c. 1100s</b>	<b>Decline of the Kingdom of Wagadu (Ghana)</b> Due to limited sources it is difficult to determine exactly when and how Wagadu (Ghana) declined and fell. However, according to some the Kingdom began to fall when it was sacked by the Almoravid movement in 1076–77. Over the following 100 years the Kingdom converted to Islam and was gradually replaced by the Kingdom of Mali.
<b>c. 1200:</b>	<b>The rise of Mali</b> The empire of Mali, created by the Malinke people when they broke free from the rule of Ghana. The rulers of Mali would use traditional kinship relations combined with Islamic rules to reinforce control of people living in the empire's domain.
<b>1307</b>	<b>Mansa Musa becomes king of Mali</b> Mansa Musa, whose father converted to Islam was a devout Muslim. When he becomes king of Mali, conversions to Islam greatly increased.
<b>1300s</b>	<b>Timbuktu</b> Timbuktu becomes the intellectual and economic center of West Africa.
<b>1450</b>	<b>Benin begins</b> Ewuare, establishes the forest kingdom of Benin.
<b>1464–1491</b>	<b>Songhai expands</b> Under the ruler Sunni Ali, Songhai in conquers territory and expands control over the region.
<b>1518</b>	<b>The Transatlantic Slave Trade</b> The mass forced transfer of enslaved Africans begins as Africans are transported across the Atlantic by Europeans
<b>c. 1480</b>	<b>Songhai replaces Mali as the regional power in West Africa</b> Changes in trade patterns and political relations benefit Songhai and its capital Gao.
<b>c. 1570</b>	<b>Rise of Ashanti Kingdom</b> The Ashanti kingdom gains power in West Africa partly as a result of the development of the Transatlantic Slave Trade.
<b>1581–1591</b>	<b>1581–1591: The Saadi Dynasty of Morocco victories over Songhai</b> The Moroccans begin to expand across the Sahara in 1590 they capture Timbuktu. In 1591, at the Battle of Tondibi, The Moroccans destroy the Empire of Songhai.

# Africa 1200–1600

