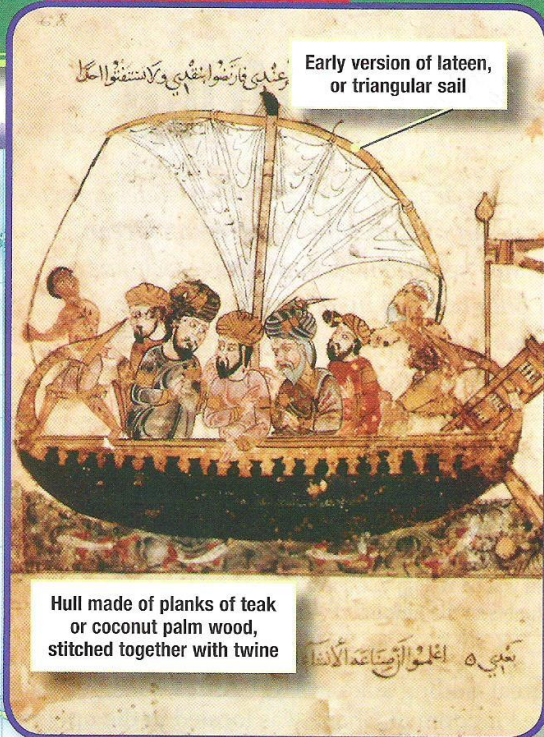


## PRIMARY SOURCE



Early version of lateen, or triangular sail

Hull made of planks of teak or coconut palm wood, stitched together with twine

▲ Manuscript showing 13th-century sailing ship, called a dhow, used by Arab traders to travel the Indian Ocean trade routes.

# TRADE NETWORKS FROM EAST AFRICA TO ASIA

**Crossing the Indian Ocean** For over one thousand years Arab traders controlled the sea routes from East Africa to Asia. They began to sail these routes as early as A.D. 500 and kept their hold on the valuable Indian Ocean trade until 1500.

As they sailed back and forth across the Indian Ocean, Arab traders and sailors took advantage of the seasonal Indian Ocean wind patterns known as the monsoons. Formed as a result of air warming or cooling over the Asian continent, these winds blow in a northeasterly direction in the spring and summer and in a southwesterly direction in the fall and winter. Traders relied on the seasonal monsoon winds to help them cross the Indian Ocean to Asia in the late spring and summer and return speedily to East Africa in the late fall or winter.

**Inland Networks** Swahili traders built regional trade links between inland African kingdoms and states and coastal cities to obtain local trade goods for trade with Asia. These goods included natural resources such as ivory, copper, and iron, as well as rhinoceros horn. Gold came to Sofalo from the area near Great Zimbabwe.

**Portuguese Take Control** In the early 1500s, Arab traders lost control of trade with Asia. In 1498 Portuguese explorer Vasco da Gama established a sea route to Asia across the Indian Ocean. The Portuguese moved quickly to take control of trading at the East African ports. Lacking large armies, weapons, or forts for protection, the traders were no match for their Portuguese attackers. The disruption of the long-established networks ended East African trading.

## Geography SKILLS

1. **Place** How did the location of the East African cities contribute to their success as trading ports?
2. **Movement** How did the movement of goods along the Indian Ocean trade networks contribute to the spread of ideas?



◀ Arab merchants brought Chinese porcelains to East Africa in the early 1400s.



# Kingdoms and States of Africa

## GUIDE TO READING

### The BIG Idea

**Order and Security** The expansion of trade enabled the kingdoms and states of Africa to protect their people and to prosper.

### Content Vocabulary

- subsistence farming (p. 247)
- stateless society (p. 249)
- Swahili (p. 248)

### Academic Vocabulary

- factor (p. 243)
- security (p. 245)
- administrative (p. 244)

### People and Places

- Ghana (p. 242)
- Berbers (p. 243)
- Sundiata Keita (p. 244)
- Mali (p. 244)
- Timbuktu (p. 244)
- Mansa Mūsā (p. 244)
- Sunni Ali (p. 245)
- Muhammad Ture (p. 245)
- Bantu (p. 247)
- Mogadishu (p. 247)
- Mombasa (p. 247)
- Kilwa (p. 247)
- Ibn Battuta (p. 247)
- Zimbabwe (p. 249)

### Reading Strategy

**Categorizing Information** As you read, create a chart like the one below describing the rulers, government, and economy of each kingdom.

Ghana	Mali	Songhai

### NORTH CAROLINA STANDARDS Ninth Grade World History

**2.07** Describe the rise and achievements of African civilizations, including but not limited to Axum, Ghana, Kush, Mali, Nubia, and Songhai.

**8.03** Classify within the broad patterns of history those events that may be viewed as turning points.

*As African civilizations developed, great trading states arose. Traveling across the desert and over the wide Indian Ocean, traders from these states helped make their people rich and powerful. Trade not only resulted in a transfer of ivory, gold, and other valuable merchandise, but also in a transfer of cultures, spreading religion, languages, and new ideas.*

## The Kingdom of Ghana

**MAIN IDEA** Trade in gold helped create a strong economy in Ghana, bringing wealth to its merchants and its kings.

**HISTORY & YOU** Would you be willing to trade a lump of gold for a pile of salt? Read why salt was so valuable to the Africans.

**Ghana**, the first great trading state in West Africa, emerged as early as A.D. 500. The kingdom of Ghana was located in the upper Niger River valley, a grassland region between the Sahara and the tropical forests along the West African coast. (The modern state of Ghana takes its name from this early state, but is located in the forest region to the south.) Most of the people in the area were farmers living in villages under the authority of a local ruler. Together, the villages formed the kingdom of Ghana.

The kings of Ghana were strong rulers who governed without any laws. They played active roles in running the kingdom, and their wealth was vast. Al-Bakri, an eleventh-century Muslim traveler, wrote of the Ghanaian king's court:

### PRIMARY SOURCE

"The king sits in audience or to hear grievances against officials in a domed pavilion around which stand ten horses covered with gold-embroidered materials. Behind the king stand ten pages holding shields and swords decorated with gold, and on his right are the sons of subordinate kings of his country wearing splendid garments and their hair mixed with gold."

—Al-Bakri

To protect their kingdom and enforce their wishes, Ghanaian kings relied on a well-trained regular army of thousands of men.

The people of Ghana had lived off the land for centuries. In addition they prospered from their possession of both iron and gold. The region had an abundant supply of iron ore. The skilled blacksmiths of Ghana were highly valued because of their ability to turn this ore into tools and weapons.



## The Economy of the Kingdom of Ghana

### Iron Ore

- created agricultural tools for use and trade
- created weapons for use and trade

### Gold Mining

- its location near one of Africa's richest gold-producing areas increased Ghana's wealth

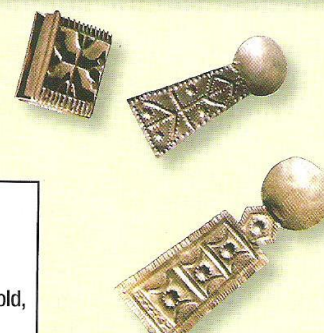
### Kingdom of Ghana's Economy

### Agriculture

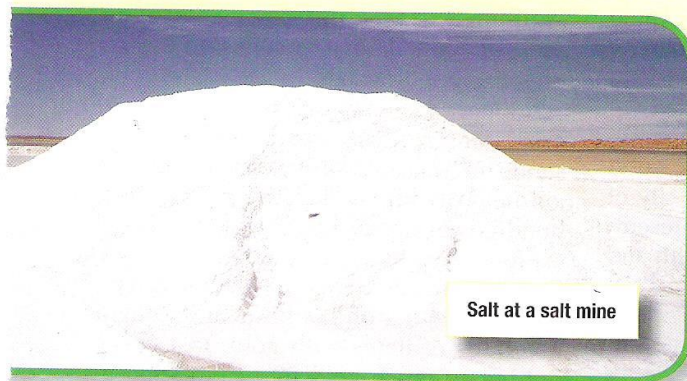
- fertile soil and iron tools helped farmers produce a surplus of food allowing other parts of the economy to grow

### Trade

- traded with Muslim merchants
- exchanged iron goods and gold for salt, metal goods, textiles, and horses
- increased demand by Muslim merchants for gold, as currency increased Ghana's trading power



Spoons and weights for weighing gold dust



Salt at a salt mine

### CRITICAL THINKING SKILLS

1. **Determining Cause and Effect** How might the economy of the Kingdom of Ghana have been different if it did not have fertile soil?
2. **Describing** Describe the way Ghana used its natural resources to build its economy.

Ghana also had an abundance of gold. The heartland of the state was located near one of the richest gold-producing areas in all of Africa. Ghana's gold made it the center of an enormous trade empire.

Ghanaians traded their abundant gold for products brought from North Africa. Muslim merchants from North Africa exchanged metal goods, textiles, horses, and salt with the Ghanaians. Salt, a highly desired item, was used to preserve food and to improve food's taste. It was also important because people needed extra salt to replace what their bodies lost in the hot climate. Other Ghanaian exports, including ivory, hides, and slaves, were carried to the markets of the Mediterranean and beyond.

Trade across the desert was carried by the **Berbers**, nomadic peoples whose camel caravans became known as the "fleets of the desert." Camels became a crucial **factor**

in trade across the Sahara, since they were well-adapted to desert conditions.

As many as a hundred camels would be loaded with goods and supplies for the journey across the desert. The caravan moved at a rate of about three miles (4.8 km) per hour. A caravan might take 40 to 60 days to reach its destination.

The trading merchants of Ghana often became wealthy. Kings also prospered because they imposed taxes on goods that entered or left the kingdom. By the eighth and ninth centuries, however, much of this trade was carried by Muslim merchants. They bought the goods from local traders, using iron or copper or items from as far away as Southwest Asia. They then sold them to Berbers, who carried them across the desert.

**✓ Reading Check** **Examining** What role did the Berbers play in African trade?



## The Kingdom of Mali

**MAIN IDEA** Powerful leadership helped Mali thrive.

**HISTORY & YOU** Why do some empires and countries expand more easily than others? Read how West African rulers were able to expand their empires.

Ghana flourished for several hundred years. Eventually weakened by wars, it collapsed during the 1100s. In its place rose new trading states in West Africa. The greatest was **Mali**, established in the mid-thirteenth century by **Sundiata Keita**.

### Founding and Economy

Like George Washington in the United States, Sundiata is considered the founder of his nation. Sundiata defeated Ghana and captured its capital in 1240. He united the people of Mali and created a strong government. Extending from the Atlantic coast inland as far as the famous trading city of **Timbuktu** (TIHM•BUHK•TOO), present-day Tombouctou, Mali built its wealth and

power on the gold and salt trade. Most of its people, however, were farmers who grew grains such as sorghum, millet, and rice. The farmers lived in villages with local rulers, who served as both religious and **administrative** leaders. The ruler sent tax revenues from the village to the king.

### Reign of Mansa Musa

One of the richest and most powerful kings was **Mansa Mūsā**, who ruled from 1312 to 1337 (*mansa* means “king”). Mansa Mūsā doubled the size of the kingdom of Mali. He created a strong central government and divided the kingdom into provinces ruled by governors whom he appointed. Once he felt secure, he decided—as a devout Muslim—to make a pilgrimage to Makkah.

A king, of course, was no ordinary pilgrim. Mansa Mūsā was joined by thousands of servants and soldiers on this journey. Accompanying the people were hundreds of camels carrying gold, as well as food, clothing, and other supplies. Everywhere he went, Mansa Mūsā lavished gold gifts on his hosts and bought hundreds of items with gold. In fact, by putting so much gold into circulation in such a short time, he caused its value to fall.

Mansa Mūsā’s pilgrimage demonstrated his wealth and power. His journey also had another legacy. Mansa Mūsā was inspired to make Timbuktu a center of Islamic learning and culture. In Timbuktu, he built mosques and libraries. He brought scholars to the city to study the Quran.

Timbuktu became recognized as one of the intellectual capitals of the Muslim world. The city attracted religious leaders, scholars, and artists from all over the Middle East and Africa. As many as 20,000 students may have attended the famous Sankore mosque.

Mansa Mūsā proved to be the last powerful ruler of Mali. By 1359, civil war divided Mali. Within another hundred years a new kingdom—that of Songhai—was beginning to surpass Mali.

**✓ Reading Check** **Summarizing** What were Mansa Mūsā’s accomplishments?

## PEOPLE *in* HISTORY

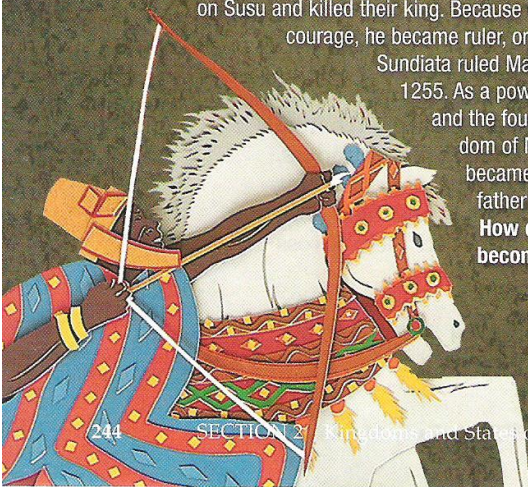
### Sundiata Keita

c. 1210–1255 Malian ruler

Sundiata belonged to a family that had ruled in Mali for about two centuries. Born with a disability, he was still unable to walk at seven years old. Eventually, a blacksmith made braces for Sundiata’s legs and he gradually and painfully learned to walk. When his half-brother became ruler, Sundiata and his mother fled. While in exile, he became headman of a village and raised a personal army. After the kingdom of Susu conquered Mali and killed Sundiata’s brothers, Sundiata marched on Susu and killed their king. Because of bravery and courage, he became ruler, or *mansa*, of Mali.

Sundiata ruled Mali from 1230 to 1255. As a powerful warrior-king and the founder of the kingdom of Mali, Sundiata Keita became revered as the father of his country.

**How did Sundiata become ruler of Mali?**





## The Kingdom of Songhai

**MAIN IDEA** Situated along the Niger River, the Songhai became powerful traders.

**HISTORY & YOU** How do rivers promote trade? Read how the Niger River helped the development of Songhai.

Like the Nile, the Niger River floods, providing a rich soil for raising crops and taking care of cattle. East of Timbuktu, the Niger makes a wide bend. Along the river, south of that bend, a people known as the Songhai established themselves there.

In 1009, a ruler named Kossi converted to Islam and established the Dia dynasty. This first Songhai state benefited from the Muslim trade routes linking Arabia, North Africa, and West Africa. An era of prosperity ensued with Gao as the chief trade center.

Under **Sunni Ali**, who created a new dynasty—the Sunni—in 1464, Songhai began to expand. Sunni Ali spent much of his reign on horseback and on the march as he led his army in one military campaign after another. His armies both defended Songhai territory from attacks by outsiders and conquered new territories.

Two of Sunni Ali's conquests, Timbuktu and Djenné, were especially important. They gave Songhai control of the trading empire—especially trade in salt and gold—that had made Ghana and Mali so prosperous. Sunni Ali not only controlled the military, but the government of Songhai.

Among his most important administrative accomplishments was uniting rural and city dwellers, who often had differing interests, under a single government.

The Songhai Empire reached the height of its power during the reign of **Muhammad Ture**. A military commander and devout Muslim, Muhammad Ture overthrew the son of Sunni Ali and seized power in 1493, thus creating a new dynasty, the Askia. *Askia* means “usurper.”

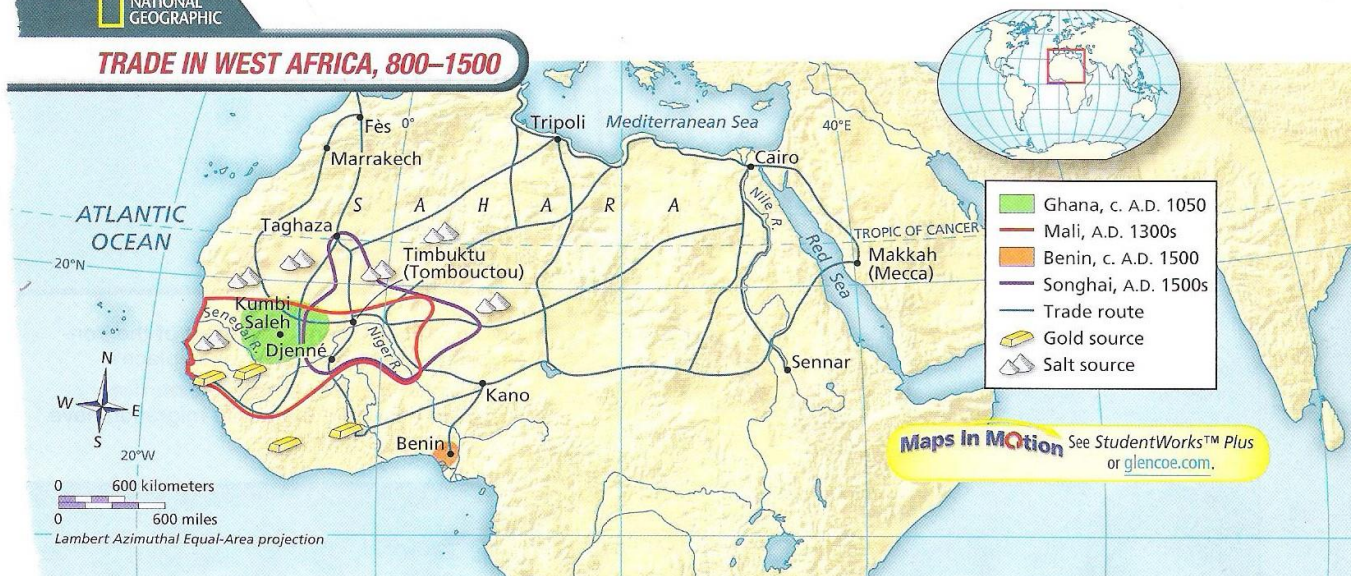
Muhammad Ture continued Sunni Ali's policy of expansion, creating an empire that stretched a thousand miles along the Niger River. He was an able administrator who divided Songhai into provinces. Muhammad Ture maintained the peace and **security** of his kingdom with a navy and soldiers on horseback. The chief cities of the empire prospered as never before from the expanding salt and gold trade.

After Muhammad Ture's reign, Songhai entered a period of slow decline. Near the end of the sixteenth century, that decline quickened when the forces of the sultan of Morocco occupied much of Songhai. One observer wrote, “From that moment on, everything changed. Danger took the place of security, poverty [took the place] of wealth. Peace gave way to distress, disasters, and violence.” By 1600, the Songhai Empire was little more than a remnant of its former glorious self.

**✓ Reading Check Summarizing** What were the key factors in Songhai's rise to power?



### TRADE IN WEST AFRICA, 800–1500





# TURNING POINT

## THE BANTUS SPREAD IRONWORKING

Through migration, the Bantus spread ironworking through eastern and southern Africa. Early uses for iron likely included small personal items like razors, needles, and knives. Advances in iron-smelting eventually led to the development of agricultural implements such as

axes and hoes. Africans replaced their stone and wooden tools with these more effective, iron versions that aided in agricultural advances and the rise of village life. Ironworking was the key component in the rise of many African kingdoms.

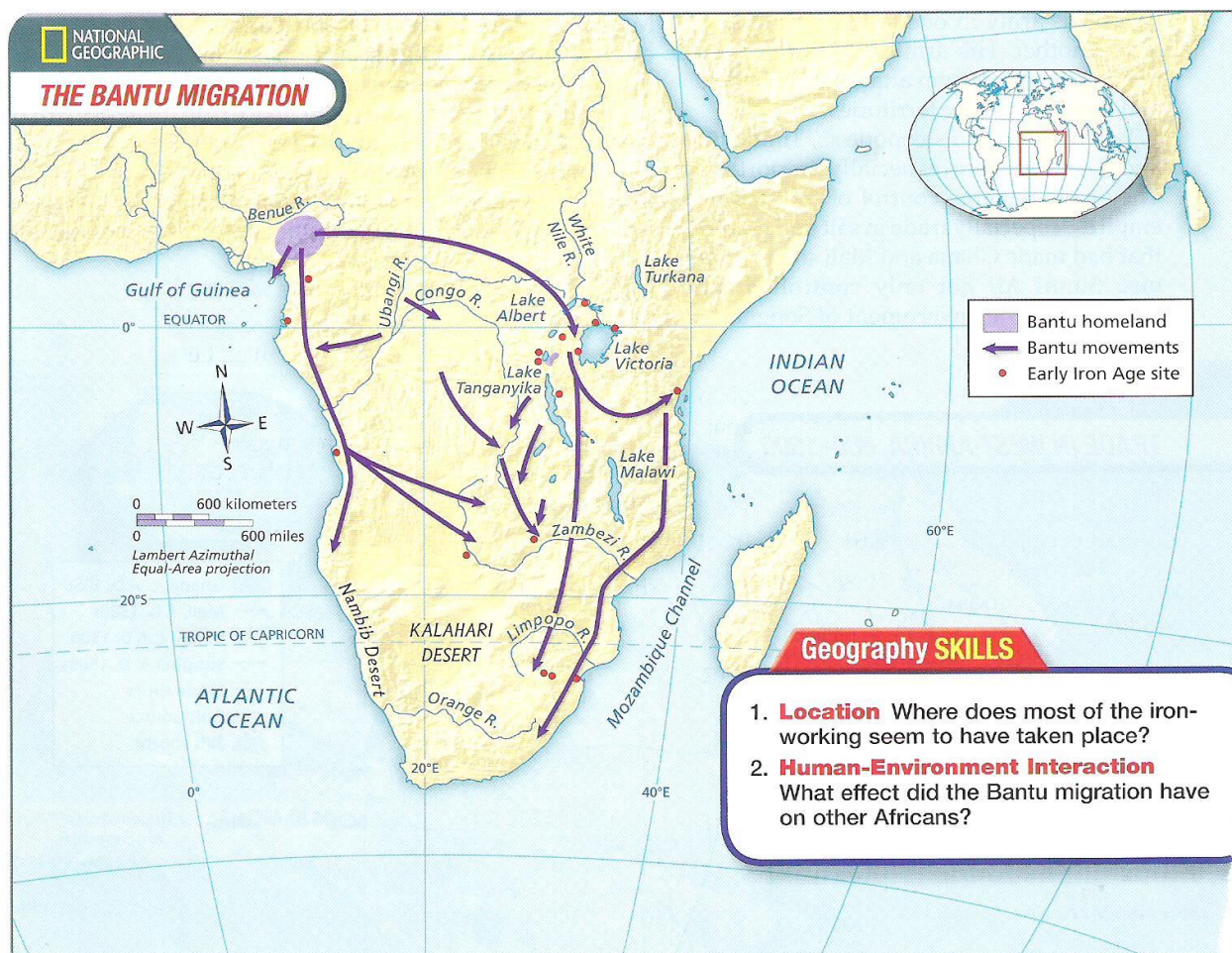
**Bantu migration**

**Transfer of ironworking technology**

**Development of better tools**

**Growth of agriculture**

**Growth of villages**





## Societies in East Africa

**MAIN IDEA** The migration of the Bantu and Indian Ocean trade changed East Africa.

**HISTORY & YOU** Why do people migrate to new regions? Read how the Bantus spread their culture.

In eastern Africa, a variety of states and societies took root. Islam strongly influenced many of them. Some became extremely wealthy through trade.

### Migration of the Bantus

South of Axum, along the shores of the Indian Ocean and inland from the mountains of Ethiopia, lived a mixture of peoples. Some lived by hunting and food gathering, while others raised livestock.

In the first millennium B.C., farming peoples who spoke dialects of the **Bantu** (BAN•TOO) family of languages began to move from the Niger River region into East Africa. They moved slowly, not as invading hordes, but as small communities.

Recent archaeological work has provided many insights into Bantu society. Their communities were based on **subsistence farming**—growing crops for personal use, not for sale. Grains like millet and sorghum were the primary crops, along with yams, melons, and beans. Iron and stone tools were used to farm the land. Men hunted or conducted local trade in salt, copper, and iron ore, while women tilled the fields and cared for the children.

The Bantus spread iron-smelting techniques across Africa and the knowledge of high-yield crops like yams and bananas. Sometime after A.D. 1000, descendants of a Bantu group established the prosperous city of Great Zimbabwe. The center of a thriving state, Great Zimbabwe dominated the trade route to the coast.

### Indian Ocean Trade and Ports

On the eastern fringe of the continent, the Bantu-speaking peoples began to take part in the regional sea trade up and down the East African coast.

With the growth in regional trade following the rise of Islam during the seventh

and eighth centuries A.D., the eastern coast of Africa became a part of the trading network along the Indian Ocean. Beginning in the eighth century, Muslims from the Arabian Peninsula and the Persian Gulf began to settle at ports along the coast.

The result was the formation of a string of trading ports that included **Mogadishu** (MOH•guh•DEE•shoo), **Mombasa**, and **Kilwa** in the south. Merchants in these cities grew very wealthy. One of the most magnificent cities was Kilwa, which was located in what is now Tanzania.

In the fourteenth century, two monumental buildings were constructed in Kilwa of coral cut from the cliffs along the shore. One was the Great Mosque of Kilwa. Even grander was the Husuni Kubwa palace, an enormous cliff-top building that contained more than a hundred rooms.

Members of Kilwa's wealthy elite built their houses near the palace and the Great Mosque. With imported Chinese porcelain and indoor plumbing, these homes provided a luxurious lifestyle.

Arab traveler **Ibn Battuta**, who lived in the fourteenth century, was among those who visited the cities of Kilwa, Mogadishu, and Mombasa. One of the most widely traveled people of his time period, Battuta traveled as many as 75,000 miles, visiting almost all Muslim countries and even reaching China. As Battuta traveled, he recorded his impressions about the places he visited.

No stranger to the architectural wonders of his time, Battuta called Kilwa, which he visited in 1331, "one of the most beautiful towns in the world." Kilwa's splendor did not last long, however. Kilwa began to decline, and the Portuguese finished the job in 1505 by sacking the city and destroying its major buildings.

Located just north of the Equator, Mogadishu was also founded by Arab traders. Arising in the tenth century, this trading port enjoyed hundreds of years of prosperity, but declined in the sixteenth century.

Arab traders settled Mombasa, which is located on the coast of present-day Kenya, in the eleventh century. Like Mogadishu and Kilwa, Mombasa played a key role in trade across the Indian Ocean.



# Indian Ocean Trade



As time passed, a mixed African-Arabian culture, eventually known as **Swahili** (swah•HEE•lee), began to emerge throughout the coastal area. Intermarriage was common among the ruling groups. Gradually, the Muslim religion and Arabic architectural styles became part of a society that was still largely African.

The term *Swahili* (from *sahel*, meaning “coast” in Arabic, and thus “peoples of the coast”) was also applied to the major language used in the area. The Swahili language

arose as a result of trade between people from Arab lands and the Bantu people who lived along Africa’s eastern coast. The language incorporated words from both Bantu and Arabic. It enabled these two groups of people without a common language to communicate and trade. As Arab trade in ivory and slaves spread north and west, the Swahili language spread there, too.

**✓ Reading Check** **Describing** How did the arrival of Arab traders influence life in eastern Africa?