

Name: _____
Spread of Islam and New Empires

Medieval Africa
4/22/2025

1. What brought Islam to regions of Africa?
2. How did the arrival of Islam impact Africa? How did Africans become “Arabized,” and how did Islam become “Africanized?”
3. What was the significance of the rule of Okba Ibn Nafi in North Africa?

Sourcing: Islam in Africa According to Ibn Battuta

What does Battuta say about Islam in Africa? How does he describe the people and customs he encounters?	How does Battuta’s perspective impact the way he views/describes Islam in Africa? What must we consider if we want to use Ibn Battuta as a source to understand the societies he visited?

The Almoravids & Almohads

1. What was Marrakesh like under the Almoravids? Why was it such an important city?
2. What allowed the Almoravids to flourish?
3. What legacy did the Almohads leave in North Africa? How did they differ from the Almoravids?

The Kingdom of Ghana

What do [Al-Bakri's accounts of Ghana](#) tell us about Ghana's...

Religion/Society	Military & Government	Economy

West Africa and Trade

1. What was so important about Ghana's location? What did the rulers of Ghana do to further promote trade?
2. What was the role of gold and salt in the Trans-Saharan trade on which Ghana flourished?
3. How did Islam impact West Africa? How did the introduction of the camel revolutionize trans-Saharan trade?

[The Swahili Coast](#)

1. How did the arrival of Islam impact the Swahili Coast?
2. Why was Kilwa such a well known city not only in Africa, but throughout much of the world? How did Kilwa rise to power and wealth?