

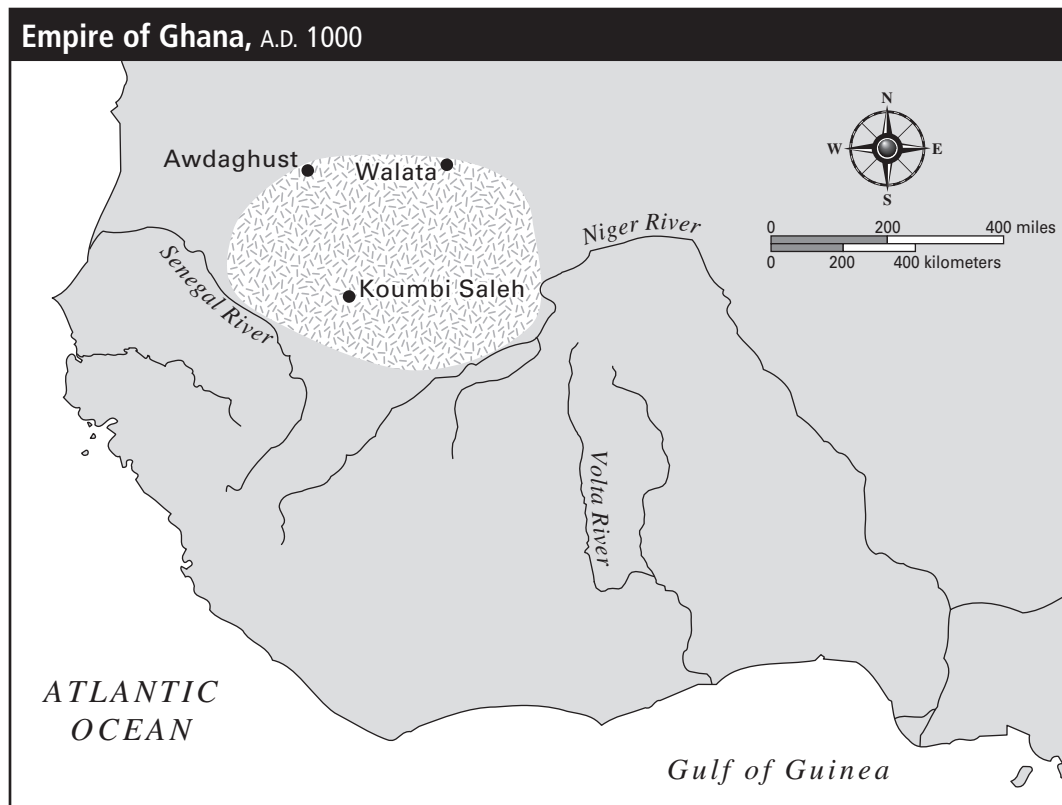
Geography Practice

The Empire of Ghana

The Empire of Ghana was a powerful West African empire from about the A.D. 300s to the early 1000s. It was the first of three major empires to control the profitable gold and salt trade of West Africa. However, Ghana started as a local trade center for food, livestock, and metal goods.

Ghana began to regulate trade through their territory. Berber and Arab traders brought goods from the north, in particular salt. Salt, in proper amounts, is an essential part of a healthy diet and it was scarce in West Africa. Gold miners to the south of Ghana brought their treasure north to trade for goods they needed. By taxing this trade in their territory, Ghana became very wealthy.

The Empire of Ghana finally collapsed as war with northern Berbers called Almoravids disrupted their trading network. In 1076, the Almoravids captured Ghana's capital, ending the empire of Ghana.



GEOGRAPHY PRACTICE CONTINUED

PRACTICE

Use the map to do these activities and answer these questions.

1. How far was it from Koumbi Saleh to Awdaghost?

2. Highlight the Niger River.

3. What is the location of Walata relative to Awdaghost?

4. Draw a circle around the capital of the Empire of Ghana: Koumbi Saleh.

5. Which river is Koumbi Saleh closest to?

APPLY

6. With a partner, research the empires that came after Ghana and draw their borders over Ghana's. Write the names of the two major empires on the lines below.
