

Africa and Europe

- A. During the Renaissance, new African kingdoms arose as a result of trading.
 - 1. Europeans started showing an interest in Africa.
 - 2. Africans viewed the Europeans as trading partners and profit; however, they would soon learn they were mistaken.

African Societies

- A. The Songhay empire were defeated in 1591 and a new empire known as Kanem-Bornu gained control of trade in the Sahara.
 - 1. Kanem grew wealthy and strong through trade with North Africa.
 - 2. By the early 1600s Kanem-Bornu was a massive and powerful empire
 - 3. Idris Aloma provided the greatest improvement of the empire under his rule.
 - a. He brought in improved weapons and hired military advisors to teach and train the soldiers.
 - b. He was also Muslim and converted the old laws with Islamic law
 - c. After Idris future leaders allowed Kanem-Bornu to weaken.
- B. In the West African forests, Benin was formed in the 1500s.
 - 1. Benin grew rich by trading cloth, ivory, spices, tools and slaves.
 - 2. A ruler of Benin was called Oba.
- C. Oyo was also eventually formed. An alafin, or king, ruled but a council of advisors existed in case the alafin didn't rule appropriately.
- D. In the kingdom of Dahomey the king ruled without fear of being removed.
- E. In the kingdom of the Ashanti the king made decisions only after he spoke to a council of advisors.
 - 1. Women also served on this council.
- F. In the South the kingdom of Kongo believed their king was a god and grew in power through trade.

The Slave Trade

- A. Previous slavery was popular in the earliest of civilizations.
 - 1. The Sumerians, Greeks and Egyptians enslaved captured warriors.
 - 2. Slaves were forced to work under Romans.