

Routes to Power

Trace how environments and trade shaped four powerful societies.

9.8a "Complex societies and civilizations continued to develop in Africa and the Americas. The environment, the availability of resources, and the use of trade networks shaped the growth of the Aztec, Inca..."

NAME _____

DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK _____ Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline environments or resources. Circle details explaining effects on farming, trade, or relationships with others.

Resources, Networks, and Rule

- ① Tenochtitlan, the Aztec capital, stood on an island in central Mexico's lake system. Farmers used chinampas, raised fields in shallow freshwater areas, to grow food. Canals carried canoes with people and goods; causeways linked the city to land. Markets received cotton, cacao, obsidian, and other products. Rulers also demanded tribute from conquered communities. Tribute strengthened the capital, but these demands and warfare could create resentment among subject peoples.
- ② In the Andes, the Inca adapted to steep slopes and separated valleys. Terraces created level fields and helped control erosion. Roads and rope bridges crossed difficult terrain. Llamas carried loads, and storehouses held supplies for workers and armies. Communities owed labor through the mita system. Roads helped officials organize labor and move armies, strengthening imperial control. They also connected regions producing different crops and materials.
- ③ Songhai grew along the Niger River in West Africa. River travel and links to gold-producing regions supported commerce. Cities connected trans-Saharan routes carrying gold, salt, and other goods. Muslim merchants and scholars strengthened ties with North Africa, while Islam influenced government and learning. On Africa's eastern coast, cities such as Kilwa used seasonal monsoon winds for Indian Ocean trade. Merchants exported gold and ivory from regional networks and imported cloth and ceramics. Muslim communities helped sustain overseas connections. Trade and competition shaped relationships with nearby and distant peoples.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE _____ Use the passage

1 How did the lake environment support Tenochtitlan's food supply and transport?

2 Explain how Inca roads affected both control of the empire and exchange within it.

3 What role did Islam play in Songhai's relationships beyond West Africa?

4 Give one similarity and one difference between Songhai trade and East African city-state trade.

3 YOUR TURN _____ Your own words

Write exactly four sentences comparing the Inca with East African city-states. State one claim, use one passage detail about each society, and explain how their transportation or trade affected relationships with other people.

PART 1 • READ AND MARK

Underline environments or resources. Circle details explaining effects on farming, trade, or relationships with others. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 • ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	How did the lake environment support Tenochtitlan's food supply and transport?	Raised fields in shallow freshwater areas produced food, and canals carried people and goods by canoe.
2	Explain how Inca roads affected both control of the empire and exchange within it.	Roads helped officials collect labor and move armies, increasing control over conquered peoples. They also connected regions with different crops and materials, supporting exchange.
3	What role did Islam play in Songhai's relationships beyond West Africa?	Muslim merchants and scholars strengthened Songhai's ties with North Africa, and Islam influenced its government and learning.
4	Give one similarity and one difference between Songhai trade and East African city-state trade.	Both connected African states to distant partners and moved valuable goods. Songhai used trans-Saharan routes for goods such as gold and salt, while East African city-states used Indian Ocean routes and monsoon winds to export gold and ivory and import cloth and ceramics.

PART 3 • YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

The Inca and East African city-states both used transportation systems to connect valuable resources with other people. Inca roads and bridges allowed officials to collect labor and move armies across the Andes. East African sailors used monsoon winds to export gold and ivory and import cloth and ceramics. As a result, Inca transportation increased control over conquered peoples, while Indian Ocean trade linked East African states to distant partners.

Accept accurate cause-and-effect explanations and comparisons supported by the passage. For the final response, look for a claim, evidence about each society, and an explanation of relationships or power.