

Across the Atlantic

Trace connections from West Africa to colonial Virginia.

USI.4 “The student will apply history and social science skills to understand how the Western Hemisphere impacted West Africa by identifying the location and characteristics of West African societies of Ghana, Mali...”

NAME _____

DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK _____ Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline one detail about the location or strengths of the West African societies. Circle two details that show an effect of the Transatlantic Slave Trade, then number 1 beside a cultural connection and 2 beside a shared value in the last paragraph.

West Africa and the Western Hemisphere

- ① Before European exploration, powerful societies grew in West Africa, south of the Sahara Desert. Ghana, Mali, and Songhai were located near trade routes across the desert and along the Niger River. Traders exchanged gold, salt, and other goods. These societies developed cities, rulers, learning centers, and skilled workers. Their wealth and connections made West Africa an important part of world trade.
- ② In 1619, a ship carrying captive Africans arrived at Old Point Comfort, now part of Fort Monroe in Virginia. This event marked the arrival of the first Africans recorded in English colonial Virginia. European traders and colonists forced millions of Africans onto ships during the Transatlantic Slave Trade. The ocean crossing was dangerous and cruel, and many people died. This trade harmed African coastal communities by taking people away.
- ③ In the Western Hemisphere, this trade forced enslaved people to work on plantations, farms, and in homes. They faced family separation, violence, little control over their work, and laws that denied freedom. Yet they kept cultural connections through music, stories, foodways, faith, and family traditions. Enslaved people valued family, community, dignity, and freedom. They also resisted in different ways, including preserving traditions and seeking freedom.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE Use the passage

1 Where were Ghana, Mali, and Songhai located, and what helped them become important in trade?

2 What happened at Old Point Comfort in 1619, and why was this event important?

3 What was the Transatlantic Slave Trade? Give one impact it had on African coastal communities.

4 Name one cultural connection, one shared value, and one hardship of enslaved people in the Western Hemisphere.

3 YOUR TURN Your own words

Write a four-sentence exhibit caption called *Connections Across the Atlantic*. Include one fact about Mali before European exploration, one effect of the Transatlantic Slave Trade, one cultural connection, and one hardship or shared value of enslaved people.

PART 1 • READ AND MARK

Underline one detail about the location or strengths of the West African societies. Circle two details that show an effect of the Transatlantic Slave Trade, then number 1 beside a cultural connection and 2 beside a shared value in the last paragraph. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 • ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	Where were Ghana, Mali, and Songhai located, and what helped them become important in trade?	They were in West Africa, near desert trade routes and the Niger River. Trade in gold, salt, and other goods helped make them important.
2	What happened at Old Point Comfort in 1619, and why was this event important?	A ship carrying captive Africans arrived at Old Point Comfort, now part of Fort Monroe in Virginia. It marked the arrival of the first Africans recorded in English colonial Virginia.
3	What was the Transatlantic Slave Trade? Give one impact it had on African coastal communities.	It was the forced movement of millions of Africans on ships by European traders and colonists. It harmed African coastal communities by taking people away.
4	Name one cultural connection, one shared value, and one hardship of enslaved people in the Western Hemisphere.	Answers may include music, stories, foodways, faith, or family traditions; family, community, dignity, or freedom; and family separation, violence, forced work, little control over work, or laws denying freedom.

PART 3 • YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

Mali had trade routes, skilled workers, and learning centers before European exploration. During the Transatlantic Slave Trade, Africans were forced onto dangerous ships, which harmed coastal communities by taking people away. In the Western Hemisphere, enslaved people kept stories and family traditions. They faced family separation but continued to value family and freedom.

Accept accurate details from the passage and equivalent wording. For the exhibit caption, check that all four required ideas appear in four sentences and that the trade effect and hardship are described accurately.