**WEST AFRICAN CIVILIZATIONS/EMPIRES**

Directions- Use the Holt-McDougal textbook (the paperback), pages 9-12, to answer the following questions.

**GHANA**

1. What is the main reason why Ghana was able to become famous as a trading center?
2. Complete a chart like the one shown below :

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| **GHANA ‘S TRADE WITH NORTHERN AFRICA** |
| **IMPORTED**  |  |
| **EXPORTED**  |  |

1. Explain how Ghana was able to become wealthy and what they did with the wealth they obtained.
2. DO THE MATH. How long was Ghana at its peak of power?
3. Explain why Europeans and the Middle East respected Ghana. What specific material thing did they have an abundance of?
4. Explain WHY the empire of Ghana fell.

**MALI**

1. Explain what Mali gained which made them powerful and wealthy?

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| MANSA MUSA |
| How long did he rule? |  |
| Known for doing what? |  |
| What was his religion? |  |
| How he showed his generosity |  |
| How he showed his devotion to God. |  |

**SONGHAI**

1. Explain how Songhai came into power.

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| **SUNNI ALI BER** |
| One of the first to do what?  |  |
| How did he show his skills in politics? |  |
| Total # of people in the 3 main cities he ruled over. |  |
| When did he begin is rule?  |  |
| RESEARCH what his name actually means. ( Use the internet for this one) |  |

1. Explain how Songhai was weakened and eventually lost control.
2. Explain what Portuguese explorers did on the West African coast.
3. Explain what the people of Benin didn’t have- which ultimately led to Europeans to take control of Africa.