Chapter 6.3
III. Empire of Songhai

- The Songhai Empire strengthened Islam in West Africa.
A. The Songhai built a new empire in West Africa.

1. Once a part of Mali, Songhai rose up against it and regained its freedom.

2. Songhai grew in many ways, mostly due to the work of Sunni Ali.
   - Worked constantly to unify, strengthen, and enlarge it
   - Conquered the wealthy trade cities of Timbuktu and Djenné

3. He participated in both Islam and local religions and brought peace and stability as a result.
B. Askia the Great ruled Songhai as an Islamic empire.

| 1. Muhammad Ture overthrew Sunni Baru because he did not support Islam. |
| 2. He took the title of askia, a title of the highest military rank, and eventually became known as Askia the Great. |
1. Askia the Great worked to support education and especially supported learning about medicine.
   - Doctors discovered that mosquitoes spread malaria.
   - They also performed surgery on the human eye.

2. To help maintain order, Askia set up five provinces within Songhai.
   - He removed local leaders and appointed new governors who were loyal to him.
   - He created special departments to oversee certain tasks.
   - He created a standing professional army.
D. Songhai fell to Moroccan invaders, ending the great era of West African empires.

1. Because Morocco wanted to control the Saharan salt mines, it invaded Songhai.

2. The Moroccans brought with them a terrible new weapon, the arquebus, an early form of gun.

3. The Moroccans’ guns and cannons brought disaster to Songhai.
   - Cities were taken over and looted.

4. Changes in trade patterns completed Songhai’s fall.
Visual Summary

Use the visual summary below to help you review the main ideas of the chapter.

The Ghana Empire developed in West Africa and controlled the trade in salt and gold.

Mali's kings built an empire and spread Islam in West Africa.

The Songhai Empire continued to spread Islam.

The history of West Africa has been preserved through storytelling, writing, music, and art.