

Name _____

Date _____

Class _____

Historical Significance

Importing and Exporting



The kingdoms of Africa grew wealthy through trade, especially through trading gold in the kingdoms of Ghana, Mali and Songhai. Trade was vital for these kingdoms to obtain what they did not have themselves. It resulted in links with the rest of the world as far away as China. Today, African nations still carry out much trade. Africa is an important source of natural resources such as gold, diamonds, oil, uranium, cocoa, coffee, and lumber. Look at the charts below showing the imports and exports of three modern African nations that exist near to where ancient African civilizations existed. Study the charts, then answer the questions that follow on a separate sheet of paper.

GHANA	MALI	TANZANIA
<p>Chief exports: cocoa, man-wood, gold, diamonds, man-ganese</p> <p>Exports mainly go to: United Kingdom, United States, Germany, France</p> <p>Chief imports: textiles, manufactured goods, food-stuffs, fuels</p> <p>Imports mainly come from: United Kingdom, United States, other European Union countries</p>	<p>Chief exports: livestock, peanuts, dried fish, cotton, animal skins</p> <p>Exports mainly go to: European Union, western Africa</p> <p>Chief imports: textiles, vehicles, petroleum prod-ucts, machinery</p> <p>Imports mainly come from: European Union countries</p>	<p>Chief exports: coffee, cot-ton, sisal, cashew nuts, meat, cloves</p> <p>Exports mainly go to: Germany, United Kingdom, United States</p> <p>Chief imports: manufac-tured goods, machinery, transport equipment, tex-tiles, crude oil, foodstuffs</p> <p>Imports mainly come from: Germany, United Kingdom, United States, Iran (formerly Persia)</p>

1. Who were the early African kingdoms' major trading partners?
2. Who are the major trading partners of modern African nations?
3. Take a look at the products exported. Would you characterize them as natural and agricultural products or finished products and manufactured goods?
4. How would you characterize the imports?
5. Write a short essay comparing Africa's ancient trade patterns with those of today. Are the products the same? The trading partners? Explain why they are or are not different.