Name: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Period: \_\_\_\_\_\_

**Rulers of West African Empires**

**Directions: Below are three short reading passages about three of the most well-known leaders of the West African Kingdoms. Each leader helped their kingdom and was unique.**

**Read about each leader and answer questions that follow. Then create a Facebook profile for one leader of your choice on the back.**

**Tenkamenin**

**King of Ghana 1037-1075 A.D.**

The country of Ghana reached the height of its greatness during the reign of Tenkamenin.

Through his careful management of the gold trade across the Sahara Desert into West Africa,

Tenkamenin’s empire flourished economically and grew extremely wealthy. But his greatest strength was in government.

Each day he would ride out on horseback and listen to the problems and concerns of his

people. He insisted that no one be denied an audience and that they be allowed to remain in

his presence until satisfied that justice had been done.

His principles of democracy and religious tolerance made Tenkamenin’s time of leadership one

of the greatest examples of African rule.

**Mansa Musa**

**King of Mali 1306 – 1332 A.D.**

An impressive leader and world figure, Mansa Musa was a man who did

everything on a large scale. An accomplished businessman, he managed many resources to

benefit his entire kingdom. He was also a scholar, and imported noteworthy artists to

increase the cultural awareness of his people.

In 1324 he led his people on the *hajj*, a holy pilgrimage from Timbuktu to Mecca. His

caravan consisted of 60,000 people whom he led safely across the Sahara Desert and back, a

total distance of 6,496 miles. So spectacular was this event that Mansa Musa gained the

respect of scholars and traders throughout Europe, and won international fame for Mali as

one of the world’s largest and wealthiest kingdoms.

**Askia Muhammad**

**King of Songhay 1493-1529**

A devout Muslim, Askia “the Great” ruled and led Songhay strictly according to

Muslim law. He divided his country into areas called provinces, each with a professional administrator as governor. He made such that each ruled fairly and uniformly through a staff of famous legal experts and judges. At times he fought long standing traditions to rule in the best interests of his people and adjusted the taxes to reduce the burden on the commoners.

Askia Muhammad united the entire central region of the Western Sudan, and

organized a government that is still respected today for its effectiveness.

**Answer the questions below**:

1. Which leader took his people on the Hajj? \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_
2. Which leader seems to be the most caring towards his people? \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_
3. Which leader led his kingdom according to Muslim law? \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_
4. Which leader led his kingdom to be known for as the wealthiest and largest? \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_
5. Which leader carefully managed the gold and salt trade? \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Instructions: Choose one African leader who you think is the most interesting or impressive. Be creative and use your imagination to create a Facebook profile for that leader. Some information should be factual such as the about me, also you want to create hobbies that the person would really do based on the time period and the reading passage about them.

African Leader Facebook Page

*Hobbies and Activities*

1. *\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_*
2. *\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_*
3. *\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_*
4. *\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_*
5. *\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_*

Profile Picture

*Favorite Movie:*

*Favorite Meal:*

*Favorite Quote:*

About Me (write a full paragraph here, must be factual information):