

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

## The Rise of the Kushite Empire

1070 BCE - 300 CE

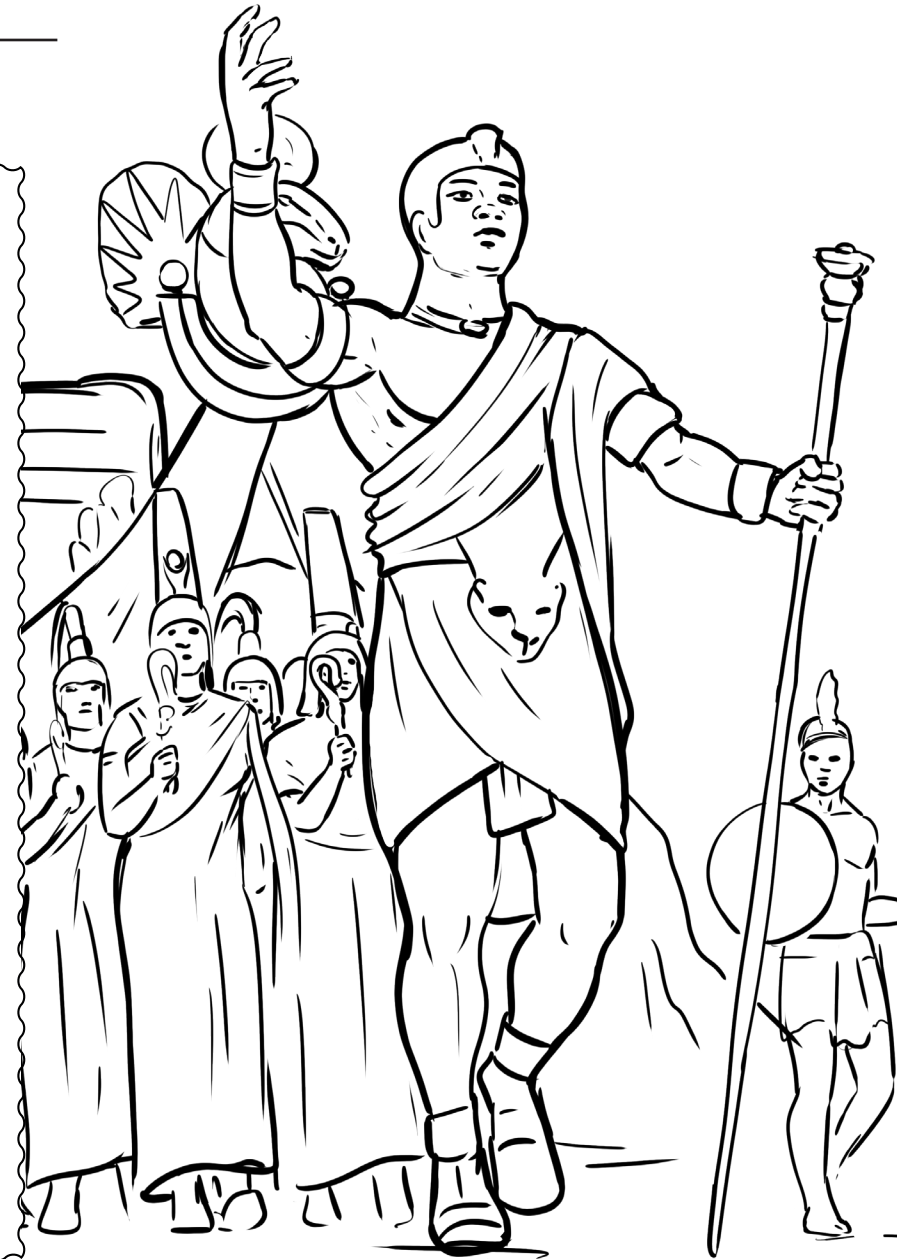
The empire of Kush was created in around 1070 BCE after the breakdown of the kingdom of Egypt. This Empire, situated in the northeast of Africa, had major cities located along white and Blue Nile Rivers. Napata and Meroe were the two capital cities. Napata was the capital when Kush was at its highest level of power. Meroe was later established to better fight against Egypt. Meroe was also the centre for ironwork, a significant industry in Kush. The Ksu Empire covered what is now North and South Sudan.

### Culture of Kush

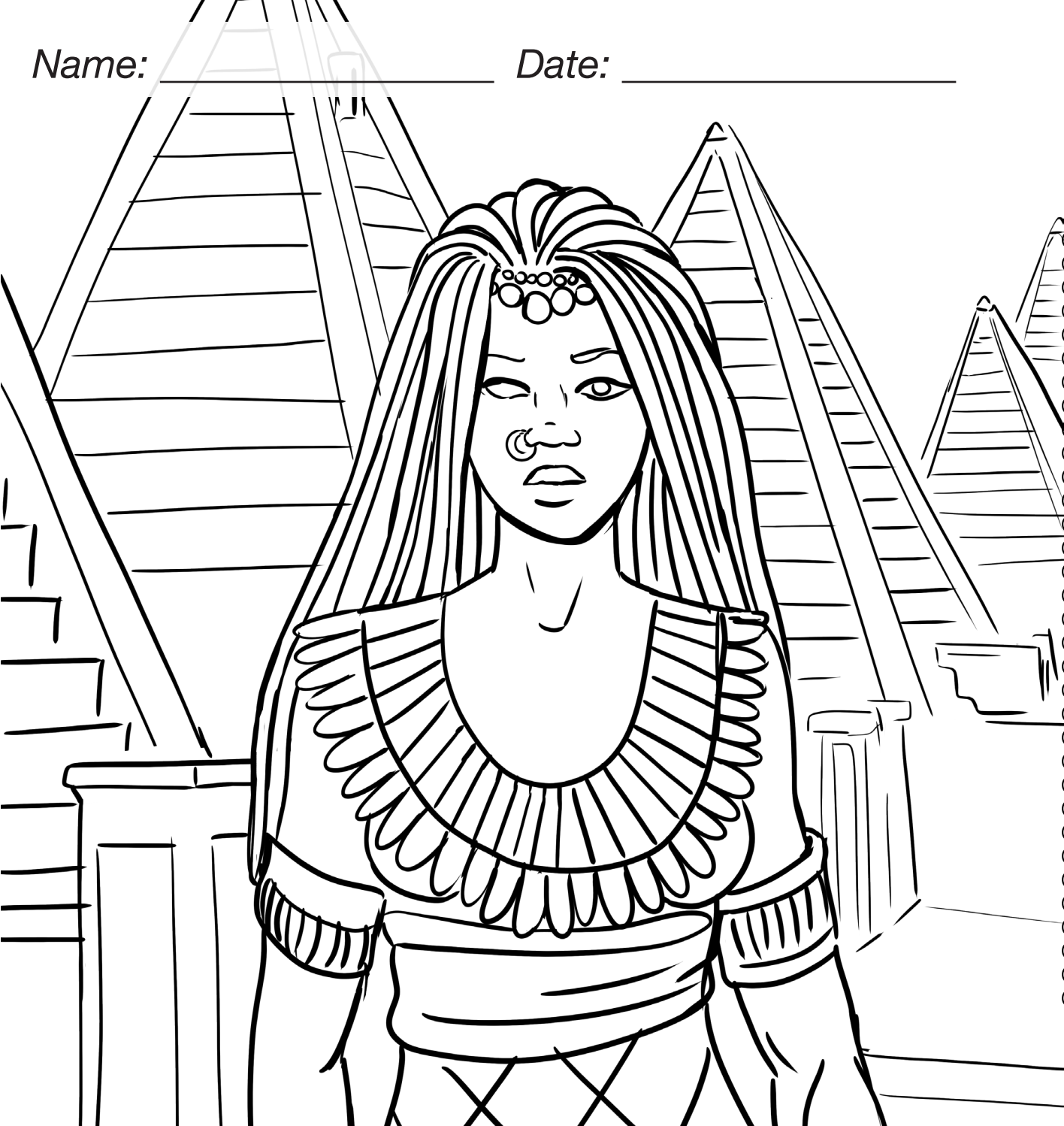
After the ruling class, priests were the second most respected members of society. They created laws and acted as links between people and gods. Artisans came next. They worked on iron which was the primary driver of the Kushite economy. Farmers also were respected because of their role in supplying food. Unlike other kingdoms, women played a crucial role in this empire. Many of the leaders were queens.

### The fall of the Kush Empire

There are many theories to explain the fall of the Kush Empire. The most popular is that the Empire was invaded by the Assyrians and Egypt, by the Roman army. Other theories suggest that a depletion of natural resources caused a decline in food supply. The empire of Kush lasted for more than 1400 years and ended in 300s CE.



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## Amanirenas

40 BC - 10 AD

- She was Warrior Queen of the Nubian region of Kush.
- She is also known as “Candace” in some literature.
- She fought alongside her husband and son in a war against the powerful rival, the Roman Empire.
- She took part in a strike against Rome and led a counterattack after Rome destroyed the capital of Kush.
- She lost an eye in battle, making her even more courageous.
- Amanirenas and her army used gruesome tactics against the enemy.
- She reached a peace treaty with Rome because of her successful military attacks. This led to 400 years of peace and prosperity for Kush.

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## The Rise of the Mali Empire

1235 CE - 1610 CE

The Mali Empire was established in 1235CE when leader Sundiata Keita gathered Malinke tribes to overthrow the leadership of Soso. After succeeding, this powerful empire took over other surrounding empires. Ghana was one. The Mali Empire once stood where current West African countries, like Guinea, Mauritania, Gambia, Niger, Senegal, and Mali are now located.

### Government

The empire was governed by provinces. Each province had its own governor, referred to as Ferba. The Ferbas all reported to the emperor or Mansa. Although Muslims were at the center of almost all operations, nobody was forced to convert to Islam in order to serve in the government.

### Mansa Musa

Mansa Musa was the most powerful of all the Mali emperors. His power and fame came as a result of his lavish lifestyle. When travelling to Mecca for religious activities, he could carry around sixty thousand people with him. He would also bring loads of gold. When returning from Saudi Arabia, Mansa Musa usually brought back scholars, such as architects, to help him improve the state of his empire.

### The final days of the Mali Empire

The empire of Mali weakened after the death of Mansa Musa in 1337. A few years after his death ( around 1400s), the empire lost its powerful control. The Songhai Empire gained dominance in the same region. The Mali Empire ended in 1610, after the demise of Mansa Mahmud IV.



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## Mansa Musa I

1312 CE - 1337 CE

- Mansa Musa was known as the richest man in history.
- He was born into the Keita Dynasty in the 1280s as Musa Keita.
- In 1312 he became emperor. He was given the name Mansa, meaning king. He was said to be knowledgeable in Arabic and a Muslim traditionalist.
- Mali's Empire flourished thanks to the abundance of natural resources like gold and salt.
- His kingdom originally consisted of what is today Ghana, Mauritania, and Mali.
- It is believed he conquered 24 cities and their neighboring villages during his reign.
- He established diplomatic ties with North Africa. This facilitated trading and brought prosperity to his kingdom.
- Musa-Keita became the first Muslim ruler in West Africa to make a pilgrimage to Mecca.
- In 1324 Musa began his journey with thousands of servants.
- Upon his return from Mecca, Musa brought scholars, government bureaucrats, and architects to help his Empire. He promoted Islamic education on his pilgrimage.
- He was married and had two sons. One son succeeded him. His exact date of death is not recorded but historians believe he died around 1337. He reigned for 25 years.