

Name: _____ Date: _____

The Rise of the Kushite Empire

1070 BCE - 300 CE

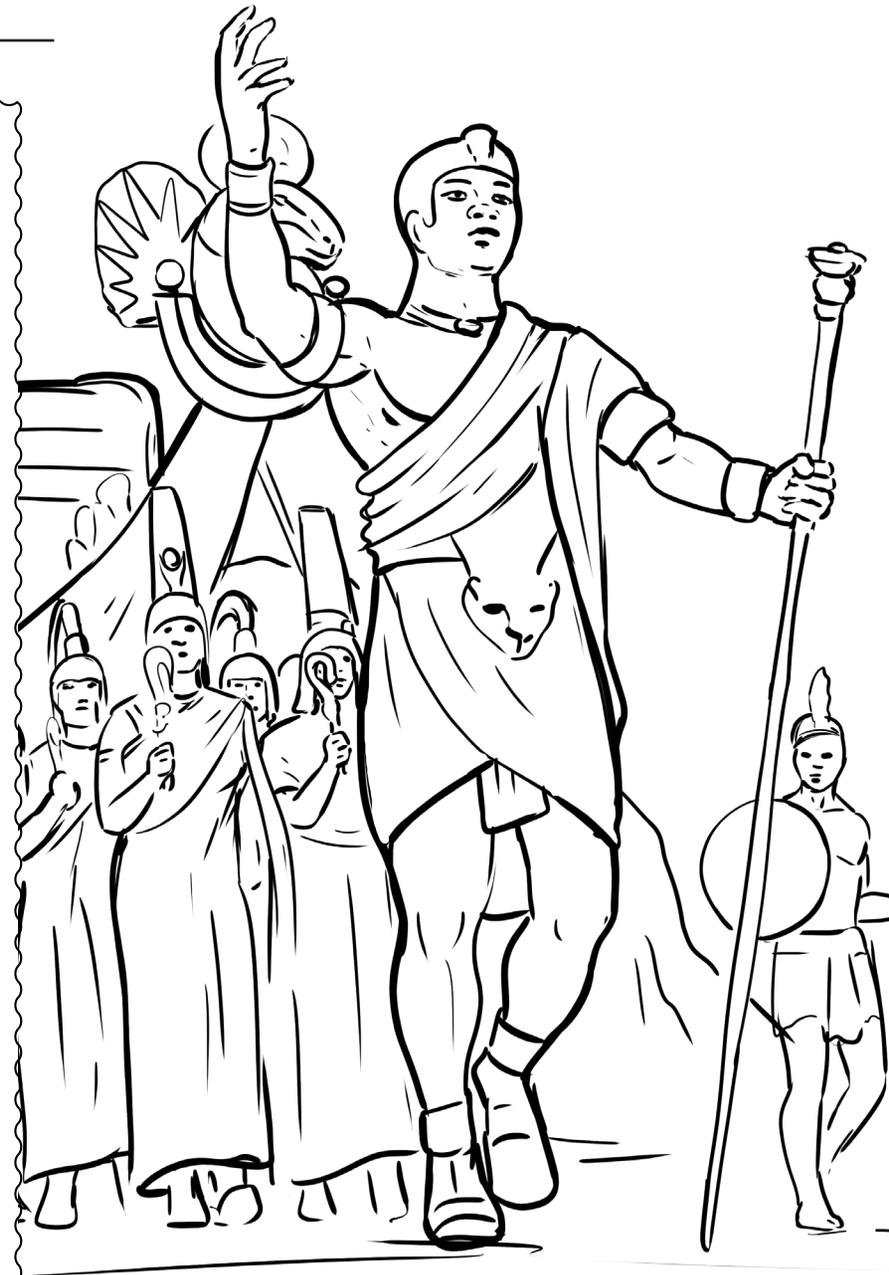
The empire of Kush came into being around 1070 BCE after the breakdown of the new kingdom of Egypt. This Kush Empire was situated in the northeast of Africa with its major cities being located along white and Blue Nile Rivers. Napata and Meroe were the two capital cities of this empire with the former being the capital when Kush was at the optimal level of power while the latter was established to enhance better fighting with Egypt. Meroe was also the center of ironwork which was a significant economic activity of this empire. The area of jurisdiction covered by this kingdom is the new north and southern Sudan.

Culture of Kush

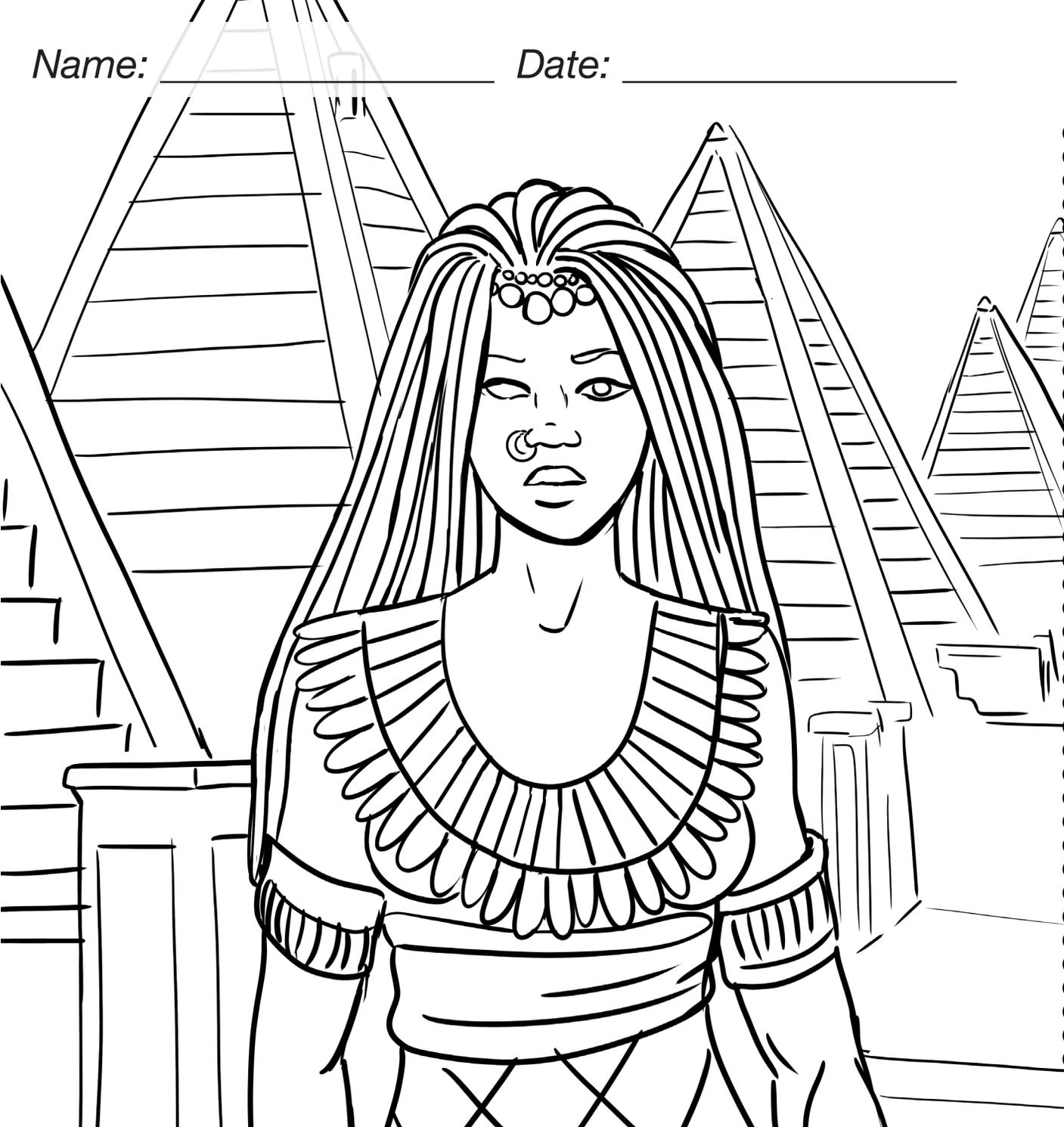
Apart from the ruling class, the priests were the second most respected members of the society as they formulated laws and acted as a link between people and gods. Below them were the artisans who worked on iron which was the primary driver of the Kushite economy. Farmers also gained a lot of respect due to their role of providing food for the empire. Unlike many kingdoms of the time, women played a crucial role in leadership positions as many of the leaders in this empire were queens.

The fall of the Kush Empire

Many theories have been put forward to explain the fall of the Kush Empire. The main one has been the attack by the Assyrians and the defeat as well as the takeover of Egypt by the Roman army. Other theories suggest that there was depletion of natural resources such as forests and grazing areas resulting in a decline in food supply. The trading routes which the kingdom controlled also became closed as the merchants started to use other new avenues which were going around the Kush Empire. However, all the theories agree that the empire of Kush lasted for more than 1400 years and ended in 300s CE.



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Amanirenas

40 BC - 10 AD

- **Warrior Queen of the powerful Nubian region of Kush which is present-day Sudan.**
- **Referred to as “Candace” in some European literature.**
- **Fought alongside her husband and son in a war against Kush’s larger and more powerful rival, the Roman Empire.**
- **Took part in a pre-emptive strike against Rome and led a counterattack after Rome destroyed the capital of Kush and took thousands into slavery.**
- **Lost an eye during battle, which made her even more courageous as a warrior.**
- **Amanirenas and her army used gruesome tactics against the enemy, including attacking with war elephants and feeding captives to her pet lion.**
- **Reached a peace treaty with Rome because of her successful military attacks, which led to 400 years of peace and prosperity for Kush.**

Name: _____ Date: _____

The Rise of the Mali Empire

1235 CE - 1610 CE

The Mali Empire was established in the year 1235CE after the leader Sundiata Keita brought the Malinke tribes together to overthrow the leadership of Soso. After the removal of this leader, this empire took a solid operation ground and started to take over the surrounding empires such as the one of Ghana. The area initially covered by this kingdom is currently occupied by Guinea, Mauritania, Gambia, Niger, Senegal, and Mali all of which are countries in western Africa

Government

The empire was governed on the basis of provinces whereby each province had a governor who was referred to as Ferba. These governors usually reported to the overall leader of the empire (emperor) whose title was Mansa. In this government, the Muslims were at the center of almost all operations since they held the majority of administrative posts. However, nobody was forced to convert to Islam to serve in the government.

Mansa Musa

Mansa Musa was the most powerful of all the Mali emperors. His power and fame came about as a result of his lavish lifestyle, especially when travelling to Mecca for religious activities. The records of history show that Musa could carry around sixty thousand people from his empire to accompany him to Mecca while carrying loads of gold along with them. When returning from Saudi Arabia, Mansa Musa usually brought scholars such as the architects and many others who could help him in improving the state of the empire.

The final days of the Mali Empire

The empire of Mali began to weaken soon after the death of Mansa Musa in 1337. A few years after his death (around 1400s), the empire started to lose its powerful control on its various borders as the Songhai Empire began to gain dominance in the same region. The empire of Mali became officially dead in 1610 after the demise of the last Mansa Mahmud IV.



Name: _____ Date: _____



Mansa Musa I

1312 CE - 1337 CE

- Mansa Musa known as the richest man in history was born into the Keita Dynasty in the 1280s in Mali as Musa Keita.
- In 1312 he became emperor due to the suspected death of his predecessor, Abu-Bakr II. He was given the name Mansa meaning king when he was crowned and 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 to stretch his kingdom over 2000 miles covering parts of Nigeria, Ethiopia, Chad, and Gambia.
- He established diplomatic ties with North Africa that facilitated trading which brought further prosperity to his kingdom.
- Musa-Keita became the first Muslim ruler in West Africa to make a four thousand mile pilgrimage to Mecca.
- In 1324 Musa began his journey with an entourage of thousands of servants. He traveled with considerable amounts of gold, some of which was distributed along the journey causing inflation in Cairo as a result.
- Upon his return from Mecca, Musa brought scholars, government bureaucrats, and architects and due to his pilgrimage, it promoted Islamic education in Mali.
- He was married to Inari Kunate and had two sons one of which succeeded him, however the exact date of death of Mansa Musa is not recorded but as per calculations made by historians, he died around the year 1337, after reigning for 25 years.