


**MORE
TO
KNOW**

- Works of fiction, such as novels and short stories, often contain clue words or time clues to indicate sequence.
- Works of nonfiction, such as articles and directions, often contain steps or time lines to indicate sequence.

Read this passage from a history of West Africa. Then answer the questions.

Kingdoms of Salt and Gold

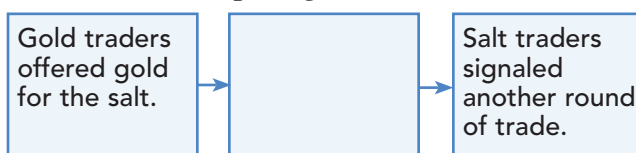
From about 300 to 1600 A.D., many small kingdoms rose and fell in West Africa on grasslands between the Sahara and the southern forests. This region is called the Western Sudan. Three kingdoms—Ancient Ghana, Mali, and Songhay—became large empires. The unique geography of the Western Sudan provided sources of salt and gold and gave these kingdoms great wealth and power.

To the south of the grasslands, in the forests, were rich gold mines. But the South lacked salt, which was as valuable as gold. To the north, in the Sahara, were vast salt mines. As a result, prosperous trade arose between gold merchants and salt merchants. Numerous trade routes sprang up across the Sahara, through the grasslands and into the forests.

Camel caravans of Muslim traders from the North picked up salt. They next traveled for months to reach a centrally located market town, such as Timbuktu, in the Western Sudan. West African gold merchants traveled south to trade with the miners for gold, and then north to the market town. Traders met there and exchanged gold and salt.

In some cases, trading was conducted without words. Salt traders laid out their salt, beat drums to announce the trading, and then withdrew. Gold traders came forward, checked the salt, and set out the amount of gold they would pay. Salt traders returned to see if the price was right. If not, they beat drums again to signal a second round of trade.

5. The boxes show some of the things described in the passage.



What belongs in the empty box?

- (A) Salt traders beat drums to announce trading.
 (B) Gold traders made another offer.
 (C) Salt traders decided whether to accept the offer.
 (D) Gold traders checked the salt.
6. From which direction had Muslim traders originally traveled on their way to centrally located market towns?
- (A) south (C) east
 (B) north (D) west
7. Before they traded with the salt traders, gold merchants traded with
- (A) Muslim traders of the North.
 (B) gold miners of the South.
 (C) merchants of Timbuktu.
 (D) nomads of the Sahara.
8. Which clue word tells what Muslim traders did after they picked up their salt?
- (A) before
 (B) after
 (C) finally
 (D) next