

UNTOLD STORIES – Stories of African Empires

Teachers notes

Slide 1	Learning in context to previous lesson. Discuss where this lesson falls within context of timeline. Children to understand where this falls within history.
Slide 2	To show the Map of West Africa in 1600 and compare to modern day west Africa. Discuss what is different what is the same.
Slide 3	Context of invasion of West Africa for trade and colonization of West African countries for gold, oil and slaves.
Slide 4	Children to understand Ashanti Empire. Ghanaian children may have prior knowledge of this tribe, encourage children to share.
Slide 5	Children to watch YouTube Video, pause at intervals to check for understanding and any questions.
Slide 6	Further detail about Nana Yaa Asantewaa
Slide 7	Children to write in role as Nana Yass Asantewaa after being sent to Seychelles. To use video as stimulus for writing. Second video will give children a quote to use within their own writing.

African Empires



1500



1600

1700



1800



1900

West Africa in 1600 before European Invasion

The historical kingdom of Benin (part of what is now Nigeria) was already in the process of extending its influence from the Niger delta into Lagos. Over the next hundred years, the independent African states - including the group of Hausa states (shown in dark green on the map) and the Mossi states around the upper reaches of the White Volta - would be able to maintain or expand their territories. The kingdom of Dahomey (now southern Benin) and the Asante (now the southern part of Ghana) had yet to begin their respective expansions over the Slave Coast and Gold Coast.



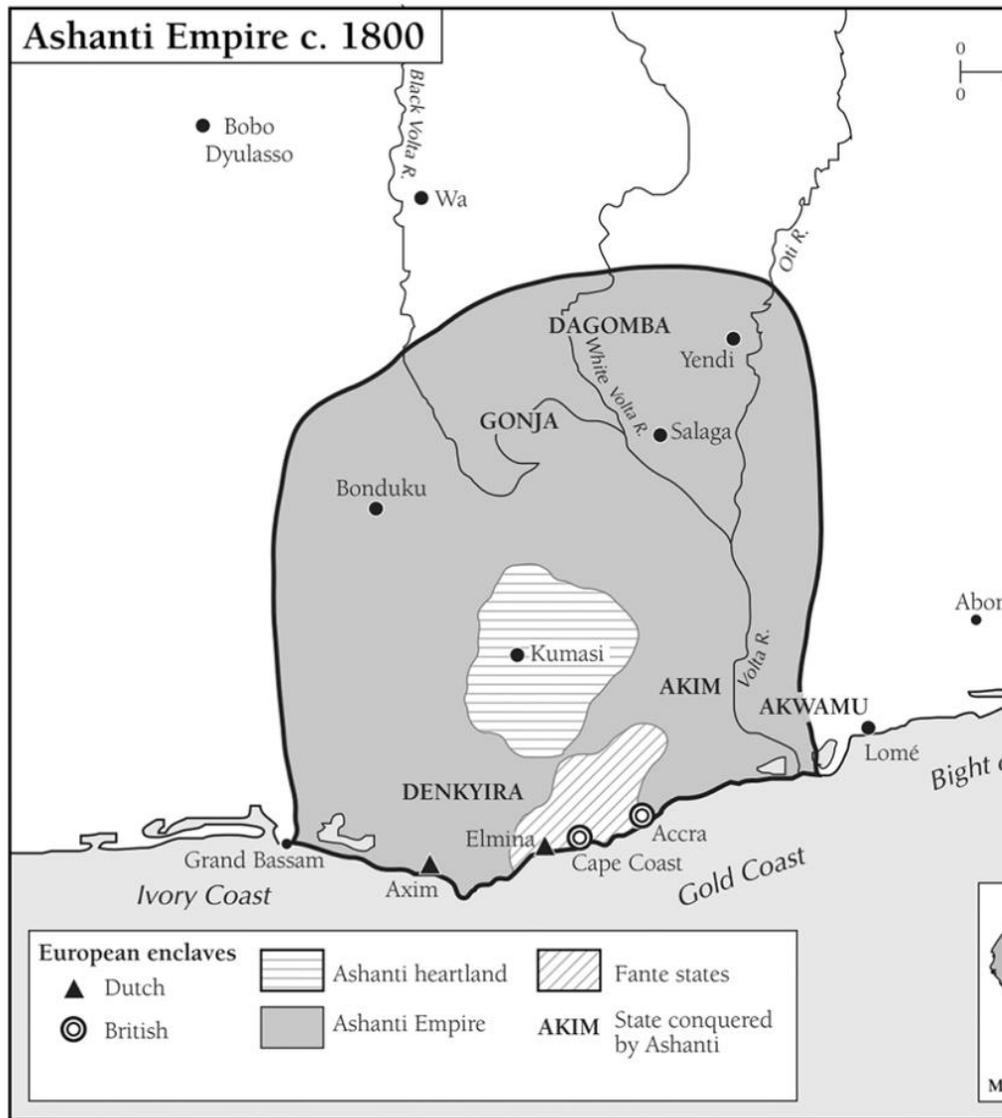
Ashanti Kingdom

The Ashanti Empire was a pre-colonial West African state that emerged in the 17th century in what is now Ghana. The Ashanti or Asante were an ethnic subgroup of the Akan-speaking people, and were composed of small chiefdoms.

The Ashanti established their state around Kumasi in the late 1600s, shortly after their first encounter with Europeans. In some ways the Empire grew out of the wars and dislocations caused by Europeans who sought the famous gold deposits which gave this region its name, the Gold Coast.

Osei Tutu, the Asantehene (paramount chief) of Ashanti from 1701 to 1717, and his priest Komfo Anokye, unified the independent chiefdoms into the most powerful political and military state in the coastal region.

Most importantly, he created the Golden Stool, which he argued represented the ancestors of all the Ashanti.





But ignorant of this fact, British Governor Sir Frederick Hodgson made a crucial mistake.

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3JqEL2_YFy0



Nana Yaa Asantewaa

- Nana Yaa Asantewaa was born in the 1840s as Asona royalty from the Besease clan in central Ghana and was of the Edweso stool line. Her brother was Kwasi Afrane and their parents were from the village of Ampabame in Kumasi, the ancestral home of the Asante people.
- As expected, to further entrench their authority, the British Governor-General of Ghana (then known as the Gold Coast) Frederick Hodgson, demanded the Golden Stool. The Golden stool was the symbol of the Asante kingdom. This prompted a conference of the elders. Yaa Asantewaa was highly disgusted at the behaviour of her male counterparts and insisted that if the men would not fight, she would gather the women to fight for the land.
- Yaa Asantewaa led the famous war known as the War of the Golden Stool in 1900 against the British. She was captured and sent on exile to the Seychelles. Yaa Asantewa died in exile on the 17th of October 1921. Yaa Asantewa's War was the last major war led by an African woman. To date, she is honoured in Africa as one of the greatest African women.

too was exiled to the Seychelles.



Nana Yaa
Asantewaa

You are going to write a letter as if you were Nana Yaa Asantewaa after being sent to the Seychelles. She has just lead the rebellion and is going to address her people and her family. What would she say? How could she motivate her people to never give up? What values are important to the Ashanti people? As a challenge can you include a quote?

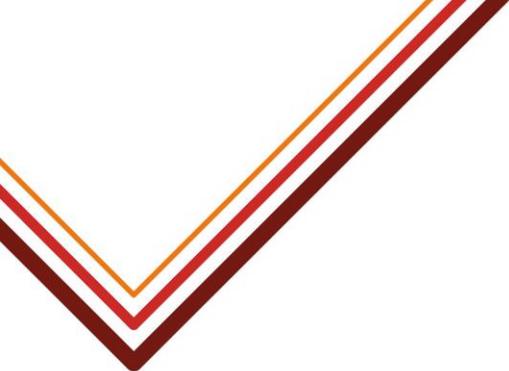
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=sLtvfeYGcxk>

Her legacy lives on!

Can you discuss in partners, what would the equivalent of the Golden stool be today?

What reasons have countries gone to war for in recent history?





Further research

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=sLtvfeYGcxk>

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3JqEL2_YFy0

<https://www.blackpast.org/global-african-history/ashanti-empire-asante-kingdom-18th-late-19th-century/>