Axum: 4th Century CE
- Located in the Ethiopian Highlands
- It was a great trading center near the Red Sea and converted to Christianity in the 4th century CE

Great Zimbabwe
- Built between 800 and 1500 CE, Probably for gold trade
- Located in south-eastern Africa

Ghana (CE 800-1200)
- Was great trading center
- Traded for gold from the south and Salt and textiles from the west.

Mali (CE. 1200-1500)
- Took over the control of trade routes from Ghana
- Converted to Islam in the 11th century
- Capital of Timbuktu became a thriving African Muslim cultural center.

Songhai (CE 1350-1600)
- Conquered Timbuktu and maintained control over West Africa trade.
- Traded in gold, ivory, and slaves
- Prince Henry of Portugal begins the Age of Discovery
- Went to Africa to get items to trade with India because Suez canal didn’t exist.
- 1441 - The Portuguese began exploration of Africa and capture slaves off the coast of modern Mauritania
- 1452 - Portugal began to use slaves to grow sugar cane on islands off the coast of Africa
- 1452 - The Pope grants the Portuguese the authority to declare any non-Christian a slave.
- 1454 - The Pope granted Portugal exclusive rights to carry the slave trade in Africa. (Spain ignored the Pope and began its own slave trade.)
- 1461- Portugal began to build fortified trading posts to carry on slave trade.
- 1481 - The English agreed not to participate in the slave trade
- 1483 - The Portuguese discovered the Congo River in Africa, which became a great source for slaves.
- 1502 - The Spanish send the first known slaves to the New World.
- 1518 - The Spanish began the large-scale of shipment of slaves from Africa to their New World (Middle Passage)
- 1562 - John Hawkins was the first Englishman who began to trade slaves to the New World
- 1619 - The first Black servants were introduced to Jamestown
- 1660 - Slavery became a legal institution in the English Colonies of North America.