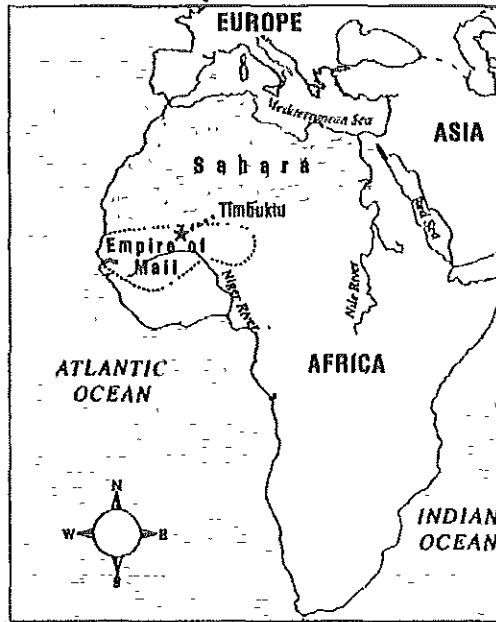




The student will study the early West African empire of Mali by describing its oral tradition (storytelling), government (kings), and economic development (trade).

Building a Great Empire

Read the paragraphs and then answer the questions below.



The early West African empire of Mali lay across trade routes between the sources of salt in the Sahara desert and the gold mines of West Africa. The empire became wealthy by trading goods such as salt, gold, nuts, and ivory.

For the people of the desert, salt was a natural resource. In the cities, salt was valuable. People used salt for their health and for preserving foods. Long

lines of camels, called caravans, carried salt to Mali from the Sahara in the north and east. Miners found gold in Western Africa.

Timbuktu was an important city in the empire of Mali. It had a famous university with a large library containing Greek and Roman books. There were many schools and universities in Timbuktu.

1. How did the empire of Mali become wealthy?

2. What were some of the goods that were traded by the empire of Mali?

Teaching Notes/Directions: Explain how the empire of Mali became wealthy by trading. Ask the students to describe what happens when someone trades something with someone else. Have the students describe items they have traded with a friend or relative. Then ask the students to answer the questions at the bottom.

3.2

The student will study the early West African empire of Mali by describing its oral tradition (storytelling), government (kings), and economic development (trade).

Kings of Mali

Read the paragraphs and then answer the questions below.

Africa was home to several great empires. One of the most prosperous was the early West African empire of Mali. The kings of Mali were rich and powerful men who controlled much of the trade in West Africa. In about 1235, Sundiata became the first ruler of Mali. Sundiata helped make Mali one of the wealthiest empires in the region. He conquered many lands that had great wealth.

The kings, or mansas, that followed Sundiata made the empire even larger. During Mansa Musa's rule from 1313 to

1337, the empire grew to include important trade centers such as Timbuktu. The West African empire of Mali soon became an important trade center.

Mansa Musa stopped in Cairo, Egypt, during a long journey. With him were thousands of his followers and about 100 camels. Each camel carried hundreds of pounds of gold. Mansa Musa handed out handfuls of gold dust to beggars. He showed off the wealth and generosity of the empire of Mali.

1. In what part of Africa was the empire of Mali located?

2. Who was the first ruler of the empire of Mali?

3. What was an important trade center in the empire of Mali?

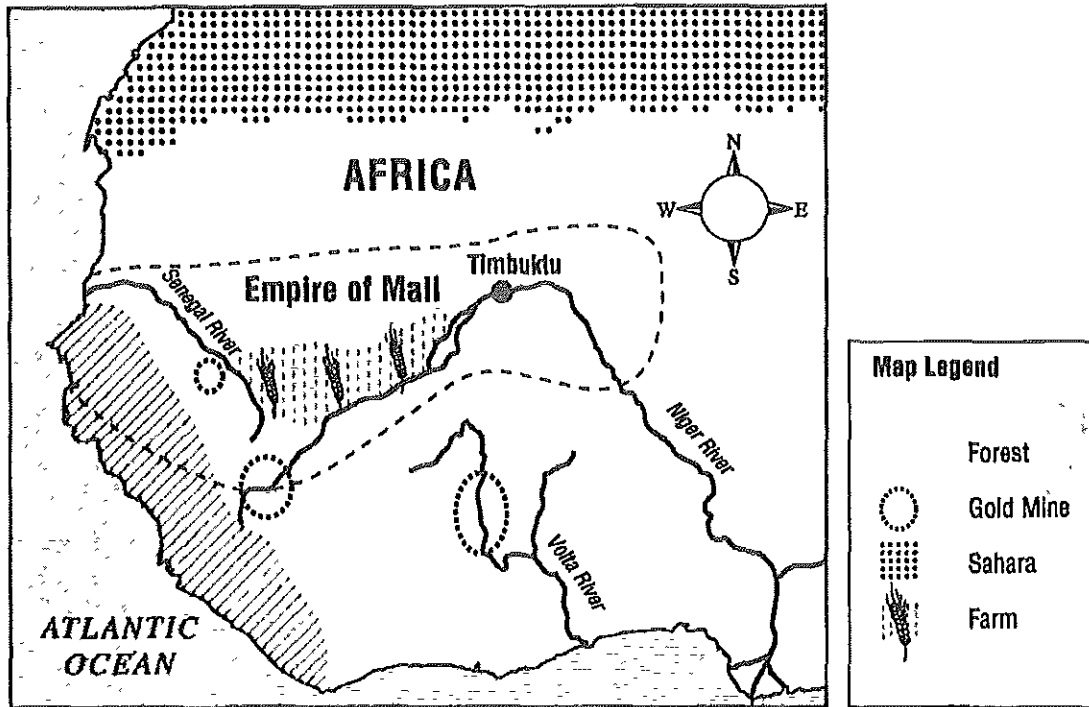
4. Why could Mansa Musa be considered a generous ruler?

Teaching Notes/Directions: Have the students read the paragraphs about the kings of the early West African empire of Mali. Tell the students that the kings, or mansas, of the empire of Mali were rich and powerful. The kings expanded the empire and controlled much of the trade in West Africa. Then have the students answer the questions at the bottom of the page.



The student will develop map skills by describing the physical and human characteristics of Greece, Rome, and West Africa.

The Land and People of the Early West African Empire of Mali



Use the map to complete sentences 1–3.

1. The early empire of Mali was located in _____ Africa.
2. The climate in the empire of Mali was like living in a desert. Is this a physical or human characteristic? _____
3. _____ from the mines allowed the empire of Mali to get the things it needed.

Answer the question.

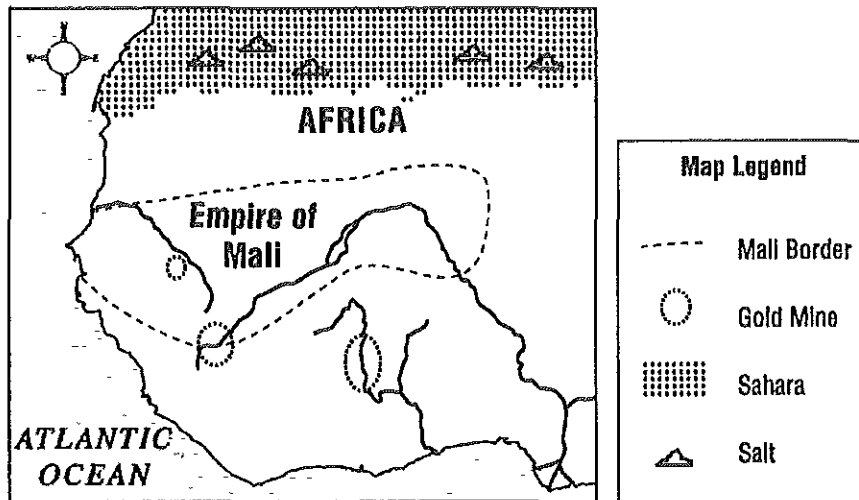
4. Besides farmers and traders, name one other human characteristic of the empire of Mali.

Teaching Notes/Directions: Have the students study the map of western Africa and complete the sentences. Invite the students to make comparisons of this map with those of ancient Greece and Rome. Remind the students that the empire of Mali became wealthy through trade. Then have the students answer the last question.



The student will develop map skills by explaining how the people of Greece, Rome, and West Africa adapted to and/or changed their environment to meet their needs.

Life in the Early West African Empire of Mali



Use the map to answer the questions. Circle the correct letter.

- The people in the empire of Mali had to adapt to a(n) _____ environment.
 - tropical
 - desert
 - arctic
- The empire of Mali grew wealthy by trade. There were mines in Mali, and _____ was traded for salt.
 - clothes
 - money
 - gold
- _____ was a natural resource in the desert. The people of Mali used it to preserve their food.
 - Gold
 - Salt
 - Water
- One reason Mali was an important trade center is because _____.
 - it was near rivers
 - it sold rain water
 - it offered land to settlers

Teaching Notes/Directions: Ask the students to use the map to answer the questions. Explain that *trading* is a method by which people exchange one resource or good for another. If necessary, guide the students through the map. Reinforce students' use of the Compass Rose and Map Legend.