



# Mali Empire

By: Kendalyn Kilby and Kelli Kost



# Where is Mali?



The Mali Empire  
was in West  
Africa, the  
capital was  
Niani.

# The beginning of Mali

- Founded around 1235-1400 A.D.
- Their wealth was built on Gold.
- Miners found new gold deposits farther east.
- The new deposits caused important trade routes to shift eastwards.
- Mali means “where the kings live”



# Mali's growth & accomplishments

- Mali was very wealthy.
- Sundiata conquered the Empire of Ghana, along with trading cities of Kumbi and Walata.
- Mansa Musa expanded Mali twice the size of Ghana.



# Mali emperors

- Sundiata Keita replaced a cruel, unpopular leader, he ruled from 1235 A.D. to 1255 A.D.
- Mansa Musa rose to power after the death of Sundiata Keita and ruled from 1280 A.D.- 1337 A.D.

## Sundiata Keita

- ~First emperor of Mali
- ~Promoted agriculture and established gold-salt trade.
- ~ Made Mande the official language.

## Mansa Musa

- ~ Sundiata's great nephew.
- ~Skilled military leader.
- ~divided empire and has governors



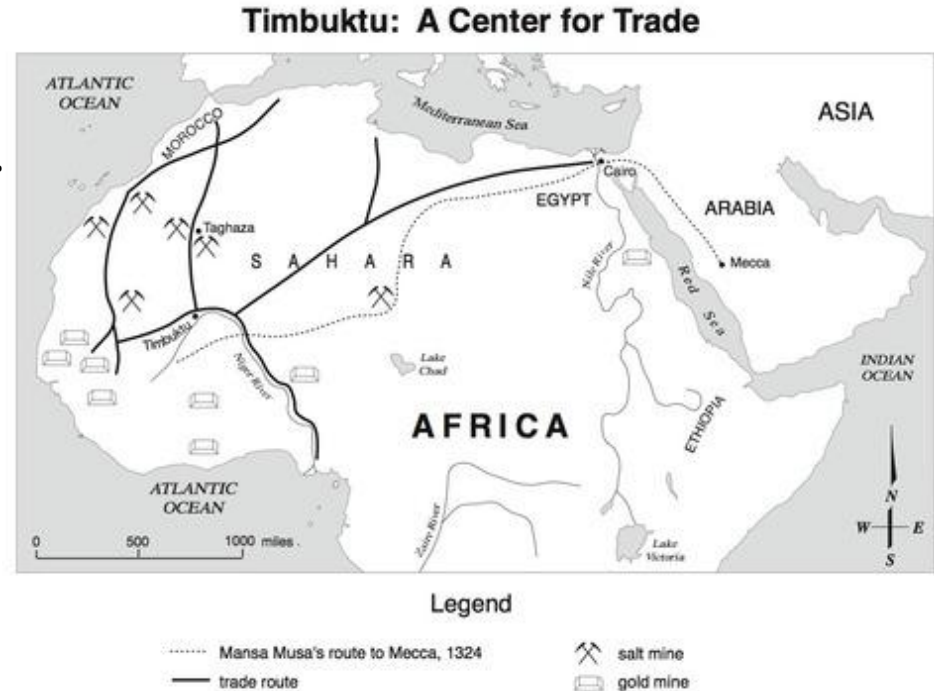
# Mansa Musa pilgrimage to Mecca

- Traveled from 1324-1325 A.D.
- When he returned he ordered building of new mosques at trading cities of Timbuktu and Gao.



# Trade of the Mali

- They traded gold, salt, and copper.
- They used the Niger River for trade.
- They traded for
  - Cloth
  - Gold
  - Slaves
  - And other goods



# Belief of the Mali & its relation to Islam and Christianity

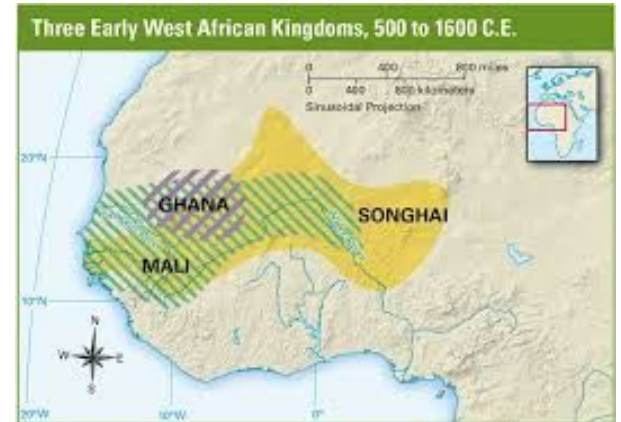


- The Mali is 95% Islam
- They believed that Muslim represented a higher standard of living
- 5% Christian
- Most of Mali followed Islam standard
- Islam swept the territory and primarily only small islands continued to follow Christian practice



# Mali's connection with outside groups

- Mali's empire worked well with other groups as they could trade to them using the Niger river
- Well known for gold, which other groups searched for
- Had political power over the Sahara



# Sudanic kingdoms and Mali

- The 3 Sudanic kingdoms are Ghana, Mali, and Songhai
- The Mali is  $\frac{1}{3}$  of the Sudanic kingdoms
- Sundiata took over the remnants of Ghana and founded the empire of Mali
- In the late 1300s, Mali lost its political influence over the Sahara



# The fall of Mali

- Mansa Musa died.
- Mansa Musa sons weren't able to govern well.
- The gold trade shifted eastward and developed elsewhere.



# How well do you know Mali?

- 1) Who was the first great leader?
  - a. Mansa Musa
  - b. Ghana
  - c. Sundiata
  - d. Niani
- 2) What was the main religion?
  - a. Buddhism
  - b. Christianity
  - c. Islam
  - d. Judaism
- 3) What was the main trade item?
  - a. Salt
  - b. Gold
  - c. Copper
  - d. All of the above



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