

# ANCIENT MALI

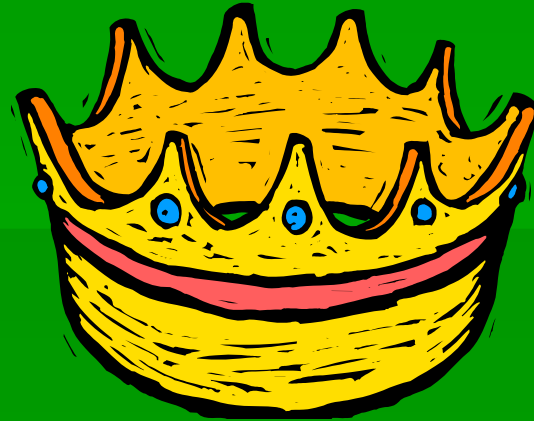
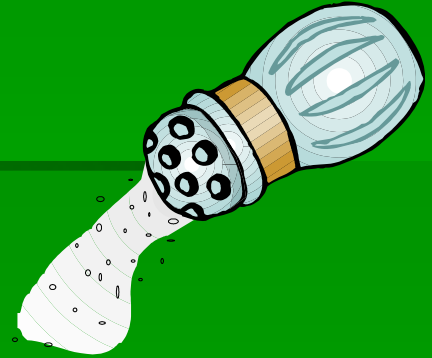
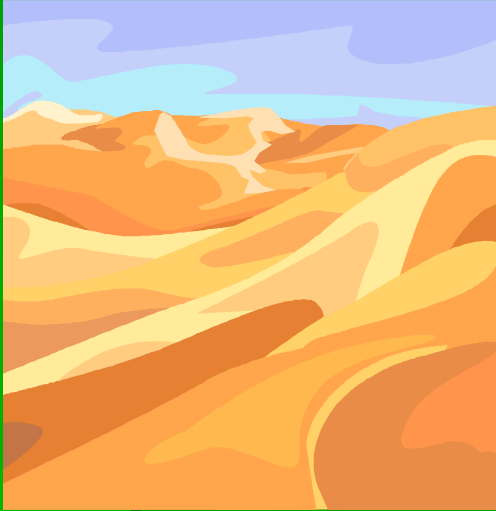
3<sup>rd</sup> Grade

Created by:

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# The Mali Rap



Chorus:

A long time ago in history

There was a mighty kingdom called (clap) Mali!

Salt and gold and Griots and kings (clap) \_\_\_\_\_

These are the Mali of which we sing.

Come along with me to this magical land.

First we'll cross the Sahara, it's the Sea of Sand.

The great Sahara is so deep and wide that

The whole United States could fit inside.

Once we're out of the desert, we'll spy with a shiver

The cool, black waters of the Niger River!

Chorus:

A long time ago in history

There was a mighty kingdom called (clap) Mali!

Salt and gold and Griots and kings (clap)

These are the Mali of which we sing.

Yes, we'll sail down the river with smiles on our faces

And that's how we'll reach Mali's marketplaces

In the marketplace where things are bought and sold,

A pound of salt gets you a pound of gold.

Yes, in the marketplace where things are sold and  
bought, if you want a pound of gold, you better bring  
a pound of salt.



Chorus:

A long time ago in history

There was a mighty kingdom called (clap) Mali!

Salt and gold and Griots and kings (clap)

These are the Mali of which we sing.

Sundita made Mali strong, rich, and large.

That's how it goes when the lion is in charge!

And Mansa Musa- how much was he worth?

The Spanish said he was the richest man on Earth!

Mansa Musa knew all about the value of knowledge

And in Timbuktu, he built a world- famous college.

Chorus:

A long time ago in history

There was a mighty kingdom called (clap) Mali!

Salt and gold and Griots and kings (clap)

These are the Mali of which we sing.

---

The Griot is a great storytelling musician.

When the Griot takes the stage, everybody better listen.

The Griot is the right-hand man of the king

But instead of making speeches, the Griot likes to sing.

The Griot's songs celebrate history

Of the mighty, mighty kingdom called (clap) Mali!

<http://mal.sbo.hampton.k12.va.us/mali/sub/rap.htm>

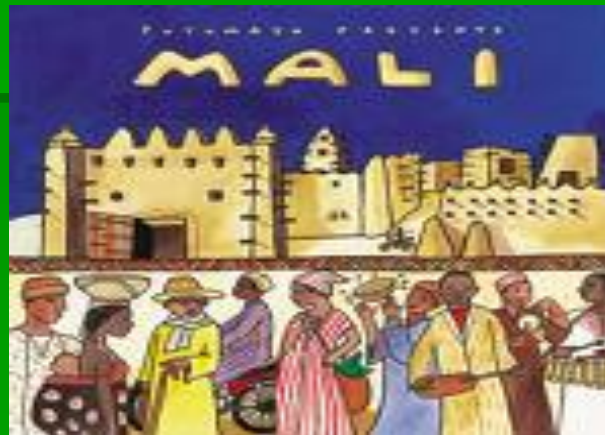
# AFRICA

- Africa was the home to several great empires. One of the most prosperous was the empire of Mali.



## SOL 3.2

Students will study the early West African empire of Mali describing its oral tradition of storytelling, government through kings, and economic development by using trade.



# MALIAN STORYTELLING

Storytellers in Mali passed on **traditions and stories** from one generation to the next.

Malian storytellers were called Griots. Griots told stories through song using instruments similar to our guitar.



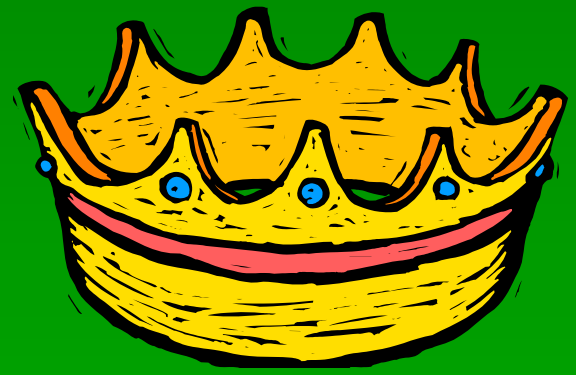


# Malian Griots

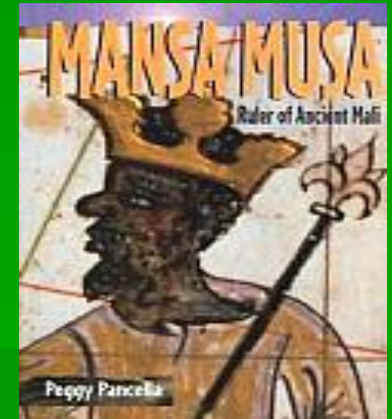


- Griots were historians and musical entertainers. In the time of Sundiata the king, griots tutored princes and gave council to kings. They were educated and wise. A Griot would speak for hours, even days, drawing upon a practiced and memorized history, that had been passed on from Griot to Griot for generations.

# MALIAN KINGS CONTROLLED TRADE



- Mali was ruled by rich and powerful kings like Sundiata (The Lion King) and Mansa Musa.
- Mansa Musa built beautiful Mosques and was responsible For spreading the religion of Islam.



**\*Interdependence!**  
**Mali Trade**

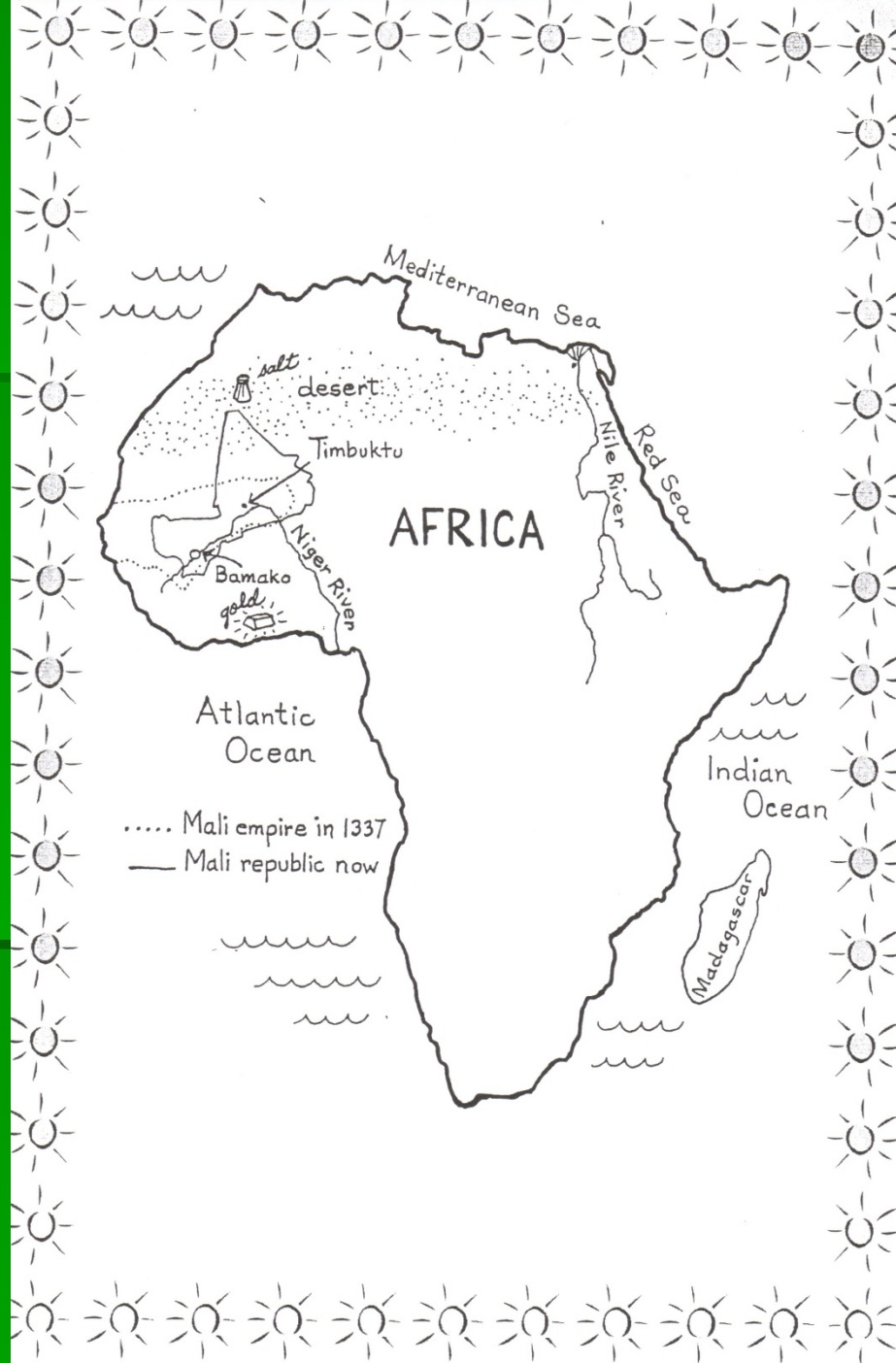


# REVIEW

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1. Each member of the table group will need to write their name on the back of the map.
2. Within your table group, follow the color directions to complete the map of Africa.
3. When your group is finished, write one interesting fact about Ancient Mali on the back of your map.

1. Trace Africa in pink
2. Trace Ancient Mali in red
3. Shade the Sahara Desert in brown
4. Draw an orange square around the salt shaker
5. Put a yellow circle around the gold bar
6. Underline the word Timbuktu in green



# WHY SALT?

- Today you will learn that salt was an \_\_\_\_\_ important natural resource for the Ancient Malian people.
- The next 6 Power Point slides include several blank (\_\_\_\_\_) spaces which will need to be filled in. Each table will work to fill in these blanks. For each blank filled in correctly, that table will receive a salt packet. The table with the most salt packets at the end of the lesson will be the winners.

# \*WHO'S IN CHARGE

- The (1) \_\_\_\_\_ or kings of Mali were rich and powerful men who controlled trade in West Africa. Mali became one of the (2) \_\_\_\_\_ and wealthiest (3) \_\_\_\_\_ in the region and was an important (4) \_\_\_\_\_ center.



# \*MALIAN TRADE

- Mali was located on the trade routes between the sources of SALT in the (5) \_\_\_\_\_ Desert and the GOLD (6) \_\_\_\_\_ of West Africa.



# \*WHAT IS TRADE?

- Trade is the exchange of one thing for another.
- (7) \_\_\_\_\_ are people who sell and trade things.
- The West African people (8) \_\_\_\_\_ on one another for items that they needed. This is also known as (9) \_\_\_\_\_.
- Mali marketplaces were busy with merchants buying and selling all day long. Both men and women would sell and trade.

# \*TAX TIME!

- Everything that was (10) \_\_\_\_\_ in Mali was taxed.
- (11) \_\_\_\_\_ is an extra fee  
(12) \_\_\_\_\_ to the price of an item.
- Because of this tax, Mali and its kings became very rich and  
(13) \_\_\_\_\_ !





# \*TRADING SALT FOR GOLD!

■ (14)

Merchants brought:  
precious **SALT** from the  
Sahara desert, copper,  
cloth, pearls, and books.



■ (15)

Merchants brought:  
**GOLD**, nuts, ivory,  
leather, and slaves.



■ **The most common  
trade was salt for  
gold.**



# \*WHY WAS SALT SO IMPORTANT?



- Salt is a very important mineral for human life.
- Salt was sometimes (16) \_\_\_\_\_ more than gold in ancient Mali. Twenty salt coins were worth 2 gold nuggets.
- Salt was an important (17) \_\_\_\_\_ resource for people in the (18) \_\_\_\_\_. Malian people depended on salt for:
  1. (19) \_\_\_\_\_
  2. (20) \_\_\_\_\_ food

# GROUP WORK

Each group will be responsible for making one merchant business sign. Your job, (as a group) is to make a business sign to display at a Malian marketplace.

***Your business sign should include the following:***

1. A business name Also, please write all table member names on the back of your sign.
2. The item(s) that you are selling or trading
3. What items you are needing and would be willing to trade for.
4. Display all salt packets that your table won.



Be creative and **HAVE FUN!!!**

## SOL3.4

Students will develop map skills by locating West Africa; describing its physical and human characteristics.

Students will explain how the people of West Africa adapted to and/or changed their environment to meet their needs.

# WHERE IS ANCIENT MALI?

\*Ancient Mali is in West Africa.

\*Mali was located on the trade routes between the sources of salt in the Sahara Desert and the gold region/mines of West Africa.

\*Timbuktu was an important city in Mali.



# Definition Time

**Characteristics-** different traits or features.

# Mali Physical Characteristics

## Physical characteristics:

1. Mali was located in West Africa
2. Mali was located near rivers
3. Mali had desert-like conditions
4. Mali had several gold mines



# Mali Human Characteristics

Human characteristics:

1. Farmers
2. Miners
3. Traders



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# Malian Adaptations

Malians adapted to  
their environment by:

1. Salt was an important natural resource for people in the desert.
2. Salt was traded for gold.





## SOL3.8

The student will recognize the concepts of specialization and interdependence in the production of goods and services in the ancient West African empire of Mali.

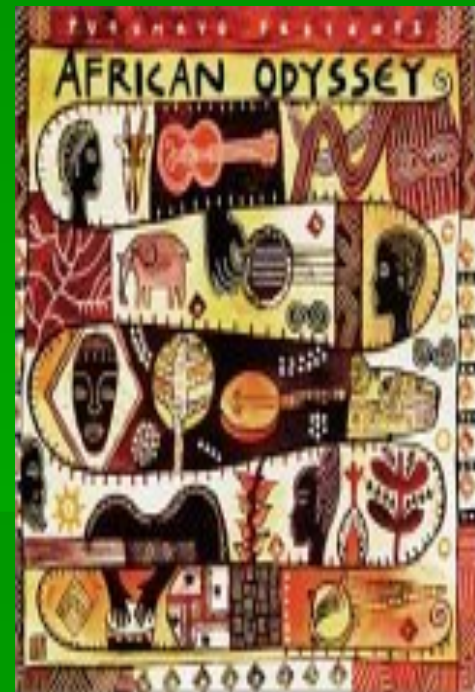
# Malian Specialization

- In the empire of Mali, some people specialized in protecting the empire, while others specialized in growing food for the empire.



# Malian Interdependence

- The people of Mali traded gold for salt with other people.



# Learning is important!

Mali had a famous university or school in Timbuktu with a large library containing Greek and Roman books.

**TIMBUKTU**  
Educational Foundation

