

Where is Mali?

Mali is located on the continent of Africa.

Mali is a part of western Africa.



Physical Characteristics

Niger River: The Niger River is the largest river. In the south, this river provided water for farming, laundering and transportation.

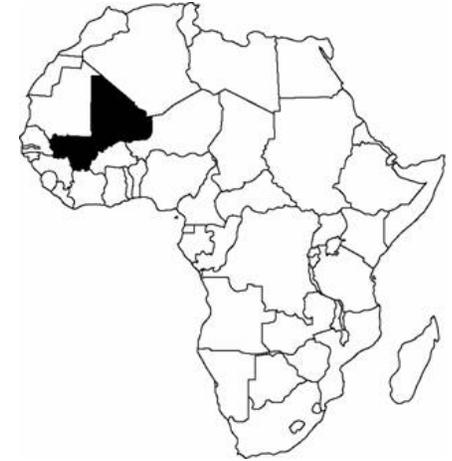


Sahara Desert: This desert, known as the "Sea of Sand" is the largest desert in the world. Sahara means "desert" in Arabic.

Timbuktu: a great trade center and home of an ancient university and library which contained Greek and Roman books.

Ancient Mali

Study Guide



Name: _____

Virginia SOL's covered:

- 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).
- 3.4 The student will develop map skills by
- a) locating West Africa;
 - b) describing the physical and human characteristics of West Africa;
 - c) explaining how the people of West Africa adapted to and/or changed their environment to meet their needs.
- 3.7 The student will explain how producers in ancient West African empire of Mali used natural resources, human resources, and capital resources in the production of goods and services.

Oral Tradition – Griots



Ancient Mali had storytellers called griots.

These storytellers retold Mali's history from generation to generation.

They often use musical instruments when telling their stories.

Griots were close to the king and were responsible for memorizing the history of Mali.

Families had their own griots to retell their family histories.

Government

Ancient Mali was ruled by powerful kings.

The first king to bring Mali together was **Sundiata**, the Lion King. When he was king, Mali grew in wealth, power, and size.

Mansa Musa was another famous king in Ancient Mali. He put a large tax on all things sold and traded within Mali. He built the first Islamic university in the city Timbuktu. The university had many Greek and Roman books.

Economic Development

Trade was very important to Ancient Mali.

Trade means to exchange or swap one thing for another.



* Salt and gold were the **natural resources** found in Ancient Mali.

*Salt was used to preserve food.

*Gold is a precious, rare metal.

*On the trade routes across Mali, people traded gold, nuts, and ivory from the south.

*People from the north, near the Sahara Desert traded salt, cloth, and pearls.

*All things traded were taxed.

*People would go to marketplaces throughout Mali to trade things they had for things they needed.

***Producers** (people) in Mali would farm, mine, and _____ to make a living. (human resources)



Interdependence & Ancient Mali

Producers are people that **make** or produce goods or services.

Consumers are people who **trade or buy** goods or services.

Interdependence is when groups of people **depend** on each other for things they need, but can't make themselves.

People needed salt and traded for gold.

Others may have a goat and trade for books they need.

Mosques (temples) were built in Ancient Mali. They practiced the Islam religion. Mosques were also used as schools and courts.

What would the **natural resources** be to build a mosque?

- mud
- some wood

Human resources?

- people

