Mediterranean Sea
SAHARA
GHANA
Timbuktu
Niger River
SONGHAY
MALI
KANEM
L. Chad
BORNU
HAUSA
KINGDOMS
Nile River
Red Sea
Ivory Coast
Gold Coast
Slave Coast
Congo River
GHANA KINGDOM -
supreme in 12th century
MALI KINGDOM -
supreme in 13th and 14th centuries
SONGHAY KINGDOM -
supreme in 15th century
Loango
KONGO
KINGDOM
Ndongo
LUBA
STATES
Kilwa
Trade ships
China
Arabia
India
KASANJE
MALAWI
YAO
MWENEMUTAPA
CHANGHMIRE
MADAGAS
Atlantic Ocean
Indian Ocean
AFRICA
MAJOR AFRICAN STATES
ABOUT 1500-1650

READ THE DOCUMENT *"LEO AFRICANUS: DESCRIPTION OF TIMBUKTU"* THEN ANSWER THE FOLLOWING QUESTIONS.

1. WHAT ITEM WAS IN SHORT SUPPLY IN TIMBUKTU? _____

2. WHAT TYPE OF WEAPONS DID THE FOOT SOLDIERS HAVE?

_____

3. WHAT IS TRIBUTE? (USE A DICTIONARY IF NEEDED) _____

_____

4. WHAT HAPPENED TO THE LOSERS IN WARS? _____

_____

5. WHAT SPECIFIC GROUP DID THE KING OF TIMBUKTU HATE?

_____

6. NAME THE GROUP THAT CARRIED CLOTH (TEXTILES) TO BE TRADED IN THE CITY OF TIMBUKTU? _____

7. WHAT DID THE CITIZENS OF TIMBUKTU DO BETWEEN THE HOURS OF 10:00 PM AND 1:00 AM? _____

_____

8. THE CITY OF TIMBUKTU WAS THREATENED BY WHAT?

_____

9. JOHANNIS LEO WAS A MUSLIM THEN CONVERTED TO CHRISTIANITY THEN RECONVERTED TO _____

10. GRANADA IS A CITY IN THE COUNTRY OF (USE A DICTIONARY OR ATLAS) _____

Leo Africanus: Description of Timbuktu

from *The Description of Africa*(1526)

El Hasan ben Muhammed el-Wazzan-ez-Zayyati was born in the Moorish city of Granada in 1485, but was expelled along with his parents and thousands of other Muslims by Ferdinand and Isabella in 1492. Settling in Morocco, he studied in Fez, and as a teenager accompanied his uncle on diplomatic missions throughout North Africa and and to the Sub-Saharan kingdom of Ghana. Still a young man, he was captured by Christian pirates and presented as an exceptionally learned slave to the great Renaissance pope, Leo X. Leo freed him, baptised him under the name "Johannis Leo de Medici," and commissioned him to write in Italian the detailed survey of Africa which provided most of what Europeans knew about the continent for the next several centuries. At the time he visited the Ghanaian city of Timbuktu, it was somewhat past its peak, but still a thriving Islamic city famous for its learning. "Timbuktu" was to become a byword in Europe as the most inaccessible of cities, but at the time Leo visited, it was the center of a busy trade in African products and in books. Leo is said to have died in 1554 in Tunis, having reconverted to Islam.

What evidence does he provide that suggests the importance of learning in Timbuktu?

The name of this kingdom is a modern one, after a city which was built by a king named Mansa Suleyman in the year 610 of the hegira [1232 CE] around twelve miles from a branch of the Niger River. (1)

The houses of Timbuktu are huts made of clay-covered wattles with thatched roofs. In the center of the city is a temple built of stone and mortar, built by an architect named Granata, (2) and in addition there is a large palace, constructed by the same architect, where the king lives. The shops of the artisans, the merchants, and especially weavers of cotton cloth are very numerous. Fabrics are also imported from Europe to Timbuktu, borne by Berber merchants. (3)

The women of the city maintain the custom of veiling their faces, except for the slaves who sell all the foodstuffs. The inhabitants are very rich, especially the strangers who have settled in the country; so much so that the current king (4) has given two of his daughters in marriage to two brothers, both businessmen, on account of their wealth. There are many wells containing sweet water in Timbuktu, and in addition, when the Niger is in flood canals deliver the water to the city. Grain and animals are abundant, so that the consumption of milk and butter is considerable. But salt is in very short supply because it is carried here from Tegaza, some 500 miles from Timbuktu. I happened to be in this city at a time when a load of salt sold for eighty ducats. The king has a rich treasure of coins and gold ingots. One of these ingots weighs 970 pounds. (5)

The royal court is magnificent and very well organized. When the king goes from one city to another with the people of his court, he rides a camel and the horses are led by hand by servants. If fighting becomes necessary, the servants mount the camels and all the soldiers mount on horseback. When someone wishes to speak to the king, he must kneel before him and bow down; but this is only required of those who have never before spoken to the king, or of ambassadors. The king has about 3,000 horsemen and infinity of foot-soldiers armed with bows made of wild fennel [?] which they use to shoot poisoned arrows. This king makes war only upon neighboring enemies and upon those who

do not want to pay him tribute. When he has gained a victory, he has all of them--even the children--sold in the market at Timbuktu.

Only small, poor horses are born in this country. The merchants use them for their voyages and the courtiers to move about the city. But the good horses come from Barbary. They arrive in a caravan and, ten or twelve days later, they are led to the ruler, who takes as many as he likes and pays appropriately for them.

The king is a declared enemy of the Jews. He will not allow any to live in the city. If he hears it said that a Berber merchant frequents them or does business with them, he confiscates his goods. There are in Timbuktu numerous judges, teachers and priests, all properly appointed by the king. He greatly honors learning. Many hand-written books imported from Barbary are also sold. There is more profit made from this commerce than from all other merchandise.

Instead of coined money, pure gold nuggets are used; and for small purchases, cowrie shells which have been carried from Persia, (6) and of which 400 equal a ducat. Six and two-thirds of their ducats equal one Roman gold ounce. (7)

The people of Timbuktu are of a peaceful nature. They have a custom of almost continuously walking about the city in the evening (except for those that sell gold), between 10 PM and 1 AM, playing musical instruments and dancing. The citizens have at their service many slaves, both men and women.

The city is very much endangered by fire. At the time when I was there on my second voyage, (8) half the city burned in the space of five hours. But the wind was violent and the inhabitants of the other half of the city began to move their belongings for fear that the other half would burn.

There are no gardens or orchards in the area surrounding Timbuktu.

Translated by Paul Brians

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(1) Mansa Suleyman reigned 1336-1359. The city was in fact probably founded in the 11th century by Tuaregs, but became the chief city of the king of Mali in 1324.

(2) Ishak es Sahili el-Gharnati, brought to Tinbuktu by Mansa Suleyman.

(3) By camel caravan across the Sahara Desert from NorthAfrica.

(4) 'Omar ben Mohammed Naddi, not in fact the king, but representative of the ruler of the kingdom of Songhai.

(5) Such fabulous nuggets are commonly mentioned by Arab writers about Africa, but their size is probably grossly exaggerated.

(6) Cowrie shells, widely used for money in West Africa, sometimes came in fact from even farther away, from the Maladive Islands of Southeast Asia.

(7) A Sudanese gold ducat would weigh .15 oz.

(8) Probably in 1512.

MANSA MUSA

Mansa Musa was the ruler of the **Mali** Empire in Africa from 1313 to 1337. He was the grandson of **Sundiata Keita**, an earlier Mali ruler.

Mansa Musa was a great warrior. He made the Kingdom of Mali almost as large as all of Western Europe. Many tribes paid **tribute** to the Mali nation.

Mana Musa was not just a man of war. He was a great statesman and was interested in learning the arts. Most important, he was a strong **Moslem.** He wanted all his subjects to follow the Islamic faith. The scholars of Mali used the **Arabic** language.

One of the duties of a good Moslem was to make a pilgrimage to the city of **Mecca** on the Arabian Peninsula. Mecca was the birthplace of **Mohammed**, the founder of the **Islamic** faith.

Mansa Musa talked to his council about going on a pilgrimage to Mecca. They agreed that a pilgrimage should be made. Mansa Musa sent messengers to all parts of his kingdom to ask for food and money.

Gold was the most important item Mansa Musa would need for his trip. He got the gold by trading with the **Wangara** people to the south. Mansa Musa sent them copper bars from the mines of the **Sahara** Desert and salt bars, as well.

Sixth thousand people went with their king to Mecca. The journey was several thousand miles long. Part of it was across the Sahara. The largest desert in the world.

Finally, they reached the Holy Land, There, Mansa Musa saw the Great Mosque, a small flat-roofed stone building called the **Kaaba**.

Mansa Musa enjoyed Mecca very much. While in Arabia, he met a scholar and architect named **Es-saheli**. Mansa Musa convinced Es-saheli to return to Mali with them.

Shortly after their return to Mali, Es-saheli built an auditorium in the capital city. Es-saheli went on to build a mosque **Gao** and a royal palace fir Mansa Musa in **Timbuktu**.

Mansa Musa died in 1337. He has become known as one of Africa's best early rulers

_____1. Mansa ___.

_____2. Great African kingdom.

_____3. Sundiata ___ was Mansa's grandfather.

_____4. Many African nations paid ___ to Mali.

_____5. Mansa Musa was a ___.

_____6. Moslems follow a ___.

_____7. The ___ language was used in Mali too.

_____8. Mohammed was born here.

_____9. The ___ people traded gold to Mali.

_____10. The ___ Desert.

_____11. Flat-roofed building.

_____12. Architect.

_____13. A mosque was built here.

_____14. Palace was built here.

_____15. Founder of the Islamic religion.

I	L	A	M	A	K	E	I	T	A
S	C	A	O	B	O	M	B	R	R
L	E	S	S	A	H	E	L	I	A
A	A	I	L	A	I	C	A	B	H
M	R	A	E	K	C	C	S	U	A
I	A	B	M	C	A	A	U	T	S
C	B	M	O	H	A	M	M	E	D
T	I	M	B	U	K	T	U	K	E
K	C	W	A	N	G	A	R	A	T

Mansa Musa (d. A.D. 1337)

Neither the man who travels nor he who stays at home has anything to fear from robbers or men of violence.—a traveler, commenting on life in Mali during Mansa Musa's time

No one knows for certain when Mansa Musa was born. He came to the throne in A.D. 1312 and ruled Mali for nearly 25 years. In time, his reign would be remembered as a golden age in the history of the region. It was certainly a peaceful time, as Musa was adept at combining strong central laws with flexibility that allowed them to conform to local practices. The quotation above is testament to the order that prevailed during Musa's reign. That same traveler also wrote that the people of Mali had "a greater abhorrence of injustice than any other people." This, perhaps, is a comment on the results of Musa's rule as well as on the character of the people themselves.

Under Musa's rule, the peace in the empire was matched by its prosperity, which was heightened by Musa's work to expand trade. Musa was also a political and military success.

Mansa Musa, King of Mali, detail from a Spanish map of West Africa, A.D. 1375

Mali was a huge empire that stretched from the Atlantic to deep into the African continent, and from the rain forest in the south to the Sahara in the north. In addition, historical records indicate that Musa was an active leader who examined and decided important legal cases himself.

Mansa Musa is perhaps best known, however, for the important role Islamic culture played in his government. A Muslim, he commissioned great mosques to be built in Timbuktu, Mali's capital, and other cities. Under Musa's patronage, Muslim scholarship flourished, and Timbuktu began its tenure as an important center of learning. Musa's pilgrimage to Makkah in 1324–1325 is recorded as a grand procession of more than 12,000 enslaved persons carrying gold. This public display of wealth and power enhanced Mali's reputation and prestige throughout the world.

READ THE DOCUMENT PEOPLE IN WORLD HISTORY – MANSA MUSA THEN ANSWER THE PROVIDED QUESTIONS.

1. MANSA MUSA RULED WHAT EMPIRE? _____
DEFINE AN EMPIRE (USE A DICTIONARY) _____
_____

2. WHAT RELIGION DID MUSA BELONG TO? _____
3. WHY WAS THERE LAW AND ORDER IN MUSA'S KINGDOM? _____
_____

4. WHAT RACE DID MANSA MUSA BELONG TO? _____
5. MUSA WAS ACTING AS A _____ WHEN HE PERSONALLY DETERMINED LEGAL CASES.
6. WHAT IS A MOSQUE USED FOR? _____
7. WHY WAS TIMBUKTU IMPORTANT TO MALI? _____
8. WHAT MADE MALI A WEALTHY POWER? _____
9. NAME GIVEN TO A RELIGIOUS TRIP? _____
10. WHAT CITY DID MANSA MUSA VISIT AS PART OF HIS RELIGIOUS DUTY?
_____