



ISLAM IN AFRICA

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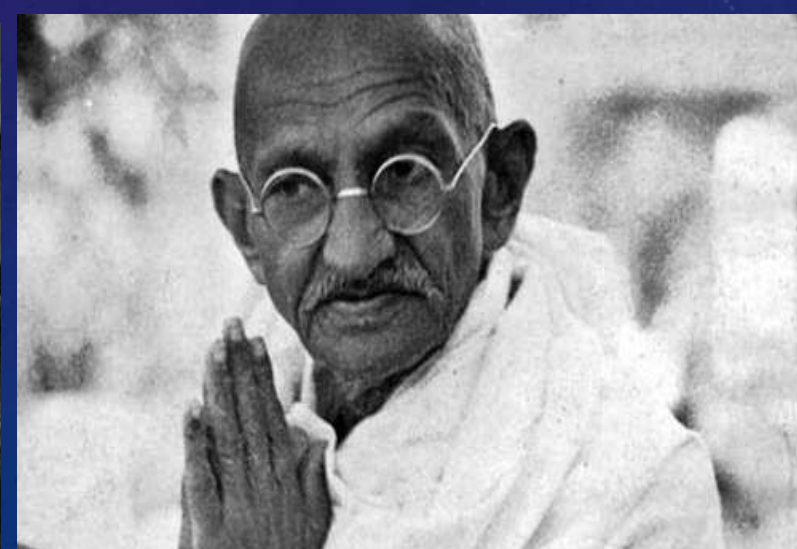
- **Main Idea (Objective) :**



- Islam played an important role in Medieval Africa, despite African Traditional beliefs and customs remaining strong.

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- **Lecture Focus (Essential Question) :**



- Have you ever changed your personal ideas because someone you respect has a different outlook? We are going to learn how African rulers helped spread Islam and how both cultures influenced each other.

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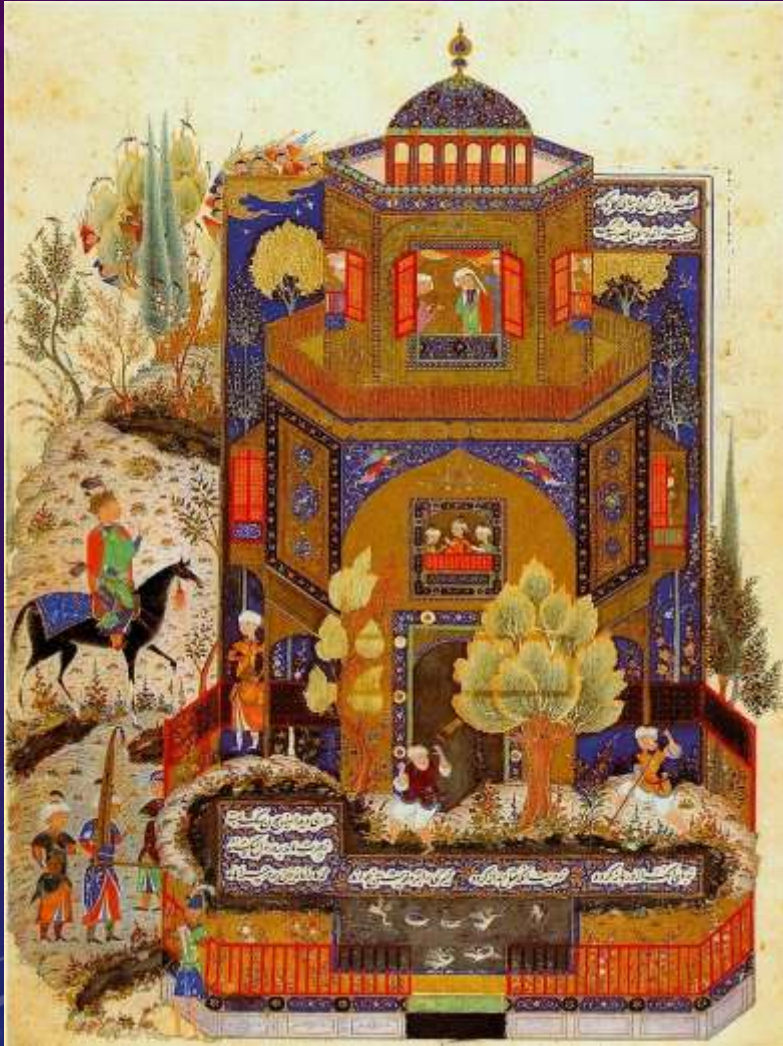
- **Ibn Battuta**, a young Arab lawyer from Morocco, set out in 1325 C.E., to see the Muslim world.



- Since the 600's C.E., the religion of Islam had spread from the Arabian Peninsula to Africa and various other cultures and regions around the world.

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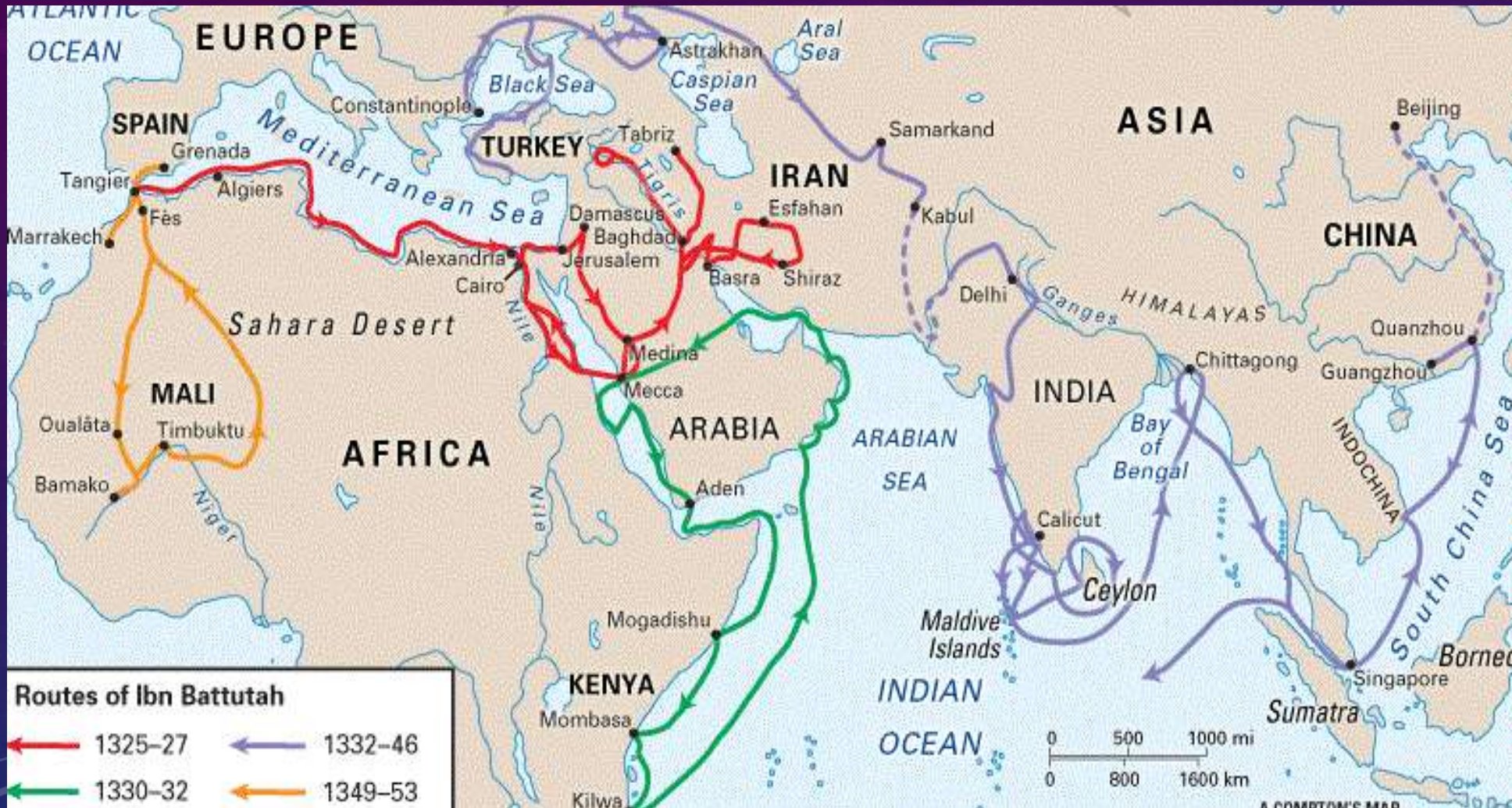
- Ibn Buttuta traveled throughout the lands of Islam for almost thirty years, searching for mysteries and histories of these cultures.



- In his travels he covered a distance of more than 73,000 miles.

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- When Ibn Battuta arrived in West Africa in 1352 C.E., he found that Islam had been practiced for hundreds of years in the region.



- Yet he soon realized that not all people in West Africa accepted Islam...in fact many people in the countryside still followed Traditional African religions.

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- The Islamic religion was popular in the major cities, where rulers and traders accepted it by choice or in some greedy merchants cases because it helped their trading business.

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- Some Muslims complained that Sundiata Keita and Sunni Ali, Western Africa's two greatest empire builders did not do enough to win people over to Islam.



- The two Kings were more concerned with stopping rebellions than spreading the religion.

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- Ibn Buttuta found things that surprised him.



- He was amazed that women did not cover their faces with a veil, as was the Muslim custom.

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- Ibn did find out, however, that West Africans studied the Islamic faith, in particular the **Quran**... which is the Muslim Holy book.



- Ibn actually wrote, “**West Africans zealously** (eagerly) **learn the Quran by heart**”.

ISLAM IN AFRICA

- **Questions:**
- **1)** Who was Ibn Buttuta and what did he do?
- **2)** What did Ibn Buttuta find when he traveled to West Africa?
- **3)** Why was Islam popular in African cities?
- **4)** What surprised did Ibn Battuta find in Islamic African communities?

ISLAM IN AFRICA

- **Questions:**
- **1) Who was Ibn Buttuta and what did he do?**
 - **A lawyer from Morocco who traveled the Muslim world**
- **2) What did Ibn Buttuta find when he traveled to West Africa?**
 - **That Islam had been practiced for hundreds of years**
- **3) Why was Islam popular in African cities?**
 - **Rulers practiced it and traders accepted it to help their businesses**
- **4) What surprised did Ibn Battuta find in Islamic African communities?**
 - **Women did not cover their faces and they studied the Quran**

MALI AND MANSA MUSA

- Much of what pleased Ibn Battuta was the work of Mansa Musa.



- Mans Musa had allowed different religions in his empire, but had worked hard to make Islam the strongest.

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MALI AND MANSA MUSA

- He used the wealth of Mali to build more Mosques and libraries that housed Muslim books, art and various artifacts.



- The city of Timbuktu was where Mansa Musa set up his largest library, full of Islamic works that he collected during his personal travels.

MALI AND MANSA MUSA



MALI AND MANSA MUSA

- In 1324 Mansa Musa made Mali known to the rest of the world when he set out on a long journey to the city of Makkah (Mecca).



- When Mansa Musa set out on his trip, however, he made sure everyone he encountered knew he was the leader of a vast and wealthy kingdom.

MALI AND MANSA MUSA

- Mansa Musa's caravan had thousands of individuals, including enslaved people, personal body guards and 100 camels, each of which carried gold.



- While in Makkah, Mansa Musa convinced some of Islam's finest some of Islam's finest architects, teachers and writers to return with him to Mali and help spread Islam in West Africa.

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MALI AND MANSA MUSA

- **Questions:**
- **1)** What did Mansa Musa use his wealth to build?
- **2)** Mansa Musa set out on a long journey to what Muslim city?
- **3)** What was Mansa Musa's caravan made up of and what were they carrying?
- **4)** Who did Mansa Musa convince to help him spread Islam to West Africa?

MALI AND MANSA MUSA

- **Questions:**
- **1) What did Mansa Musa use his wealth to build?**
 - **Mosques and libraries that held Islamic artifacts**
- **2) Mansa Musa set out on a long journey to what Muslim city?**
 - **Makkah**
- **3) What was Mansa Musa's caravan made up of and what were they carrying?**
 - **Thousands of people including body guards, slaves and camels, each carrying gold**
- **4) Who did Mansa Musa convince to help him spread Islam to West Africa?**
 - **Islam's finest teachers, architects and writers**

PRIMARY SOURCE DBQ: THE SULTAN OF MALI

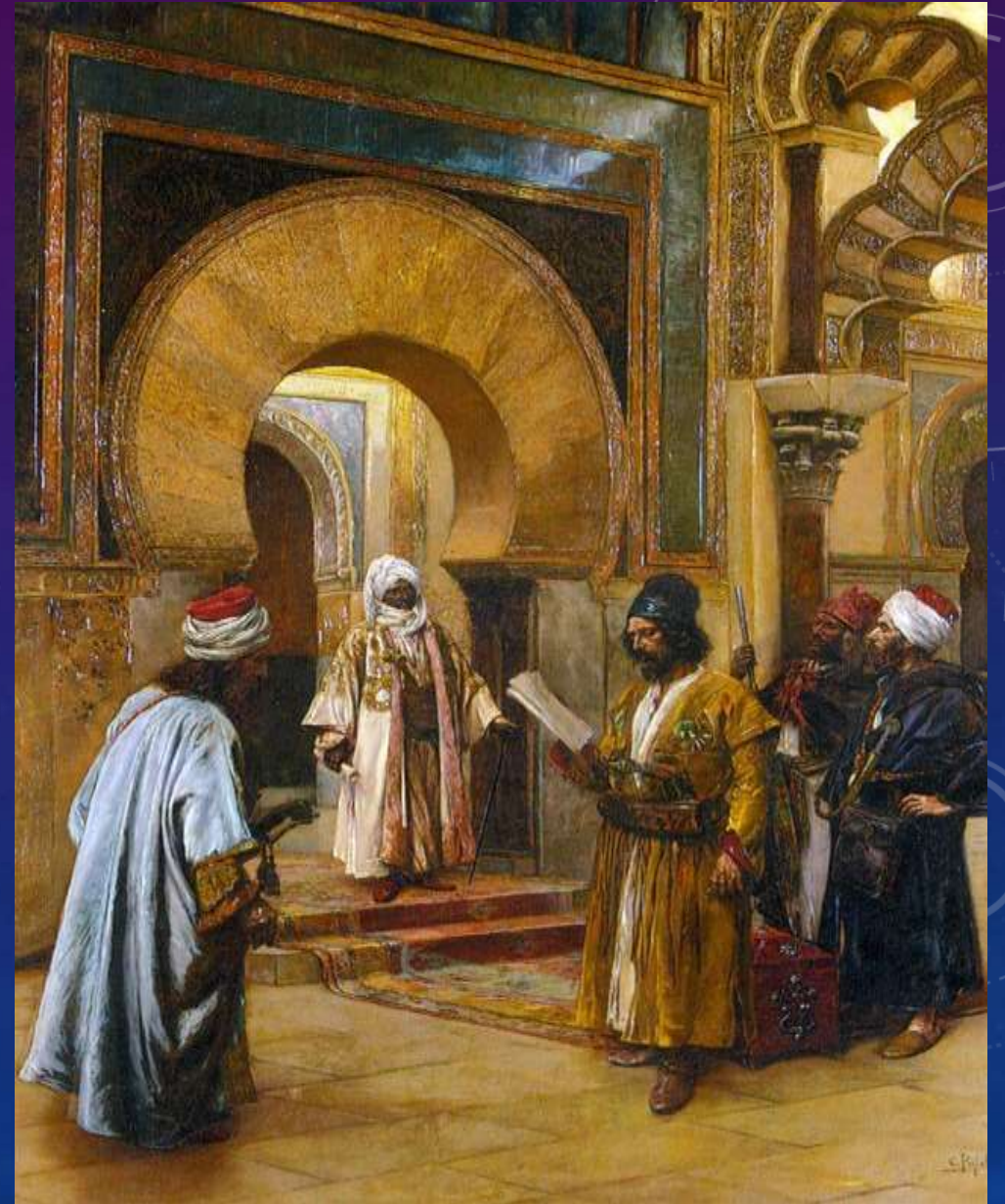
The following historical passage is a description of Mansa Musa by an Arab scholar named **Ibn Fadl Allah al Omari**:

“The Sultan of this kingdom presides in his palace on a great balcony called Bembe, where he has a great seat of ebony that is like a throne fit for a large and tall person: on either side it is flanked by elephant tusks turned towards each other. His guards stand near him, being all of gold, saber, lance, quiver, bow and arrows. He wears wide trousers made of about twenty pieces of stuff, of a which he alone may wear.”

- Ibn Fadl Allah al Omari,

“Mali in the Fourteenth Century”

What kind of impression did Mansa Musa want to make on newcomers to his kingdom? What specifics are mentioned?



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The following historical passage is a description of Mansa Musa by an Arab scholar named **Ibn Fadl Allah al Omari**:

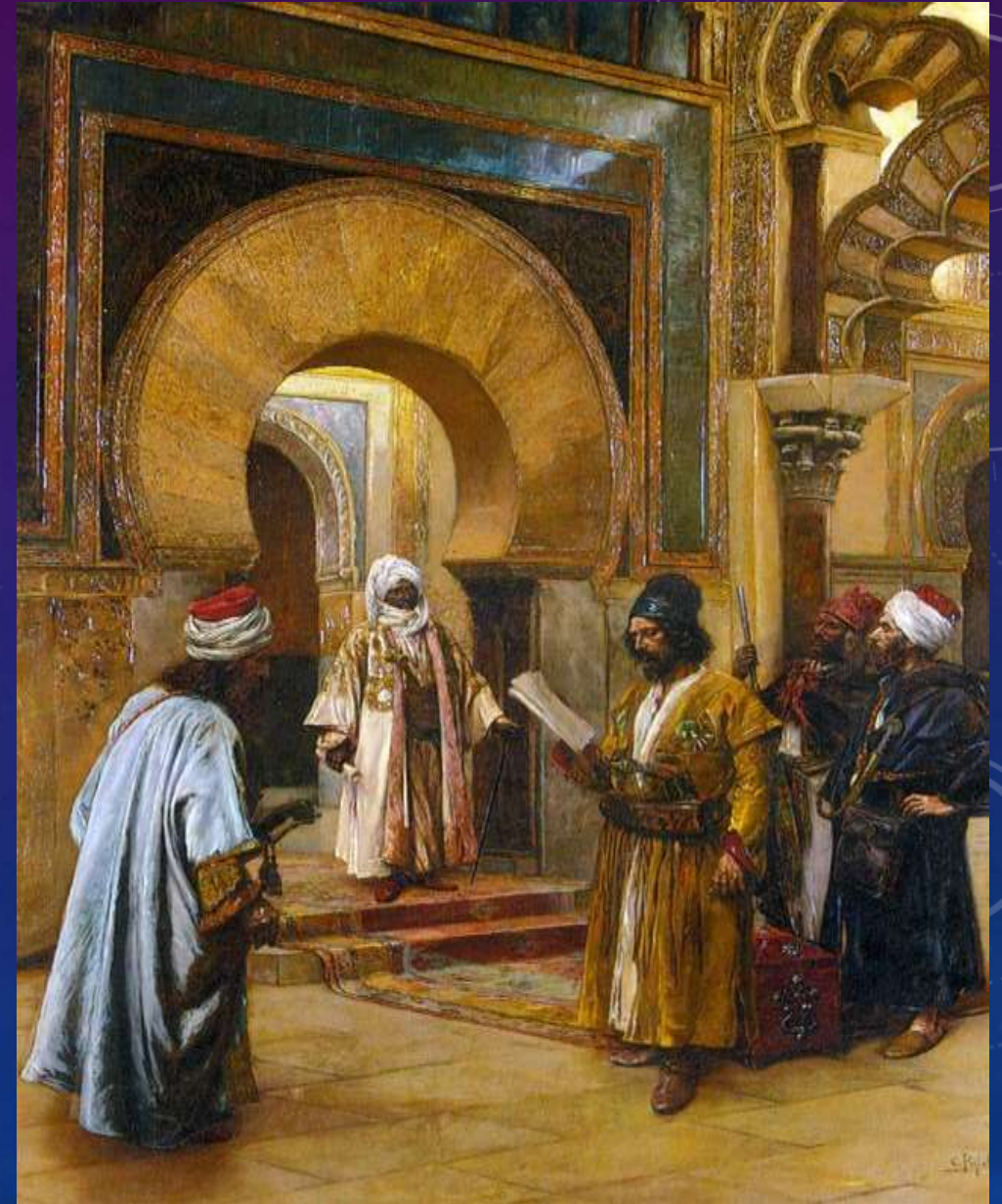
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- Ibn Fadl Allah al Omari,

“Mali in the Fourteenth Century”

What kind of impression did Mansa Musa want to make on newcomers to his kingdom? What specifics are mentioned?

Answers may vary...He really intended to awe visitors, everything was extravagant.



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SONGHAI AND ASKIA MUHAMMAD

- Sunni Ali practiced the traditional religion of the Songhi people.



- However, he declared himself a Muslim to keep the support of his citizens...after Sunni Ali's death, his son refused to follow his father's example.

SONGHAI AND ASKIA MUHAMMAD

- Remember Muhammad Ture, one of Sunni Ali's generals, saw an opportunity to seize control of Songhai's government.



- With the help of the Muslim citizens, he declared himself king.

SONGHAI AND ASKIA MUHAMMAD

- In a bloody war, Muhammad Ture drove Sunni Ali's family from the Songhai territory.



- He then took the name Askia, a military rank within the Songhai army.

SONGHAI AND ASKIA MUHAMMAD

- Under Askia Muhammad, Songhai built the largest empire in medieval Africa.



- He kept local courts in place but instructed them to honor Muslim laws. (**Askia Muhammad Tomb**)

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SONGHAI AND ASKIA MUHAMMAD



- Askia Muhammad also made Timbuktu an important center for Islamic culture and up 150 schools to teach the Quran and Islamic law.

SONGHAI AND ASKIA MUHAMMAD

- The new Songhai Empire survived family disputes, however, as we discussed the empire collapsed due the Moroccan invaders.



- These invaders destroyed the Songhai military with superior guns and shattered what was left of the empire.

SONGHAI AND ASKIA MUHAMMAD

- **Questions:**
- **1)** Why did Sunni Ali declare himself a Muslim?
- **2)** What was the new name that Muhammad Ture took after he gained control of the Songhai Kingdom?
- **3)** How did the Songhai Kingdom come to an end?

SONGHAI AND ASKIA MUHAMMAD

- **Questions:**
- **1) Why did Sunni Ali declare himself a Muslim?**
 - **To keep the support of the citizens of Soghai**
- **2) What was the new name that Muhammad Ture took after he gained control of the Songhai Kingdom?**
 - **Askia Muhammad, a military term**
- **3) How did the Songhai Kingdom come to an end?**
 - **Moroccan invaders with superior weapons, guns**

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ISLAM IN EAST AFRICA

- In 1331 C.E., Ibn Battuta visited **Mogadishu**, a trading port on the East African coast.



- Its **Sultan**, or leader, said in perfect Arabic, “You have honored our country by coming”...a moment later the sultan switched languages and began addressing his own people in **Swahili**.

ISLAM IN EAST AFRICA



- For hundreds of years Mogadishu was a glorious trading port city...unfortunately today the city and surrounding areas suffer from an unstable government, civil war and violent uprising.

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ISLAM IN EAST AFRICA



- This is Mogadishu twenty years ago...

ISLAM IN EAST AFRICA

- The word **Swahili** comes from an Arabic word meaning “**people of the coast**”.



- By 1331 C.E., however, it had come to mean two things: the unique culture of East Africa's coast and the language spoken there today.

ISLAM IN EAST AFRICA

- The Swahili culture and language, which exist in East Africa today, are a blend of African and Muslim influences and traditions.



- African influences came from the cultures of Africa's interior, while the Muslim influences came from the Arab and Persian settlers.

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- When Europeans from Portugal arrived on the coast in the early 1500's they tried to destroy the Swahili culture.



- The Swahili responded by halting inland trade and in the end, the Swahili culture outlived the European rule of the region.

ISLAM IN EAST AFRICA

- **Questions:**
- **1)** What does the term Sultan mean?
- **2)** What does the term Swahili translate too and what has it come to mean today?
- **3)** What influences blended to make the Swahili culture a unique nation?

ISLAM IN EAST AFRICA

- **Questions:**
- **1) What does the term Sultan mean?**
 - **A term for leader**
- **2) What does the term Swahili translate too and what has it come to mean today?**
 - **“People of the coast” and today it means culture of East Africa’s coast and language spoken today**
- **3) What influences blended to make the Swahili culture a unique nation?**
 - **Influences from Africa’s interior and Muslim influences from Arab and Persian settlers**

ISLAM'S IMPACT ON AFRICA

- Islam had a far-reaching impact on Northern and Eastern Africa.



- Africans who accepted Islam also adopted Islamic laws and ideas about right and wrong...sometimes these changes were opposed by people who favored the traditional African ways.

ISLAM'S IMPACT ON AFRICA

- Islam also advanced learning in Africa.



- Muslim schools drew students from many areas of Africa and introduced them to Arabic languages, writing styles and other cultures.

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ISLAM'S IMPACT ON AFRICA

- Islam also influenced African art and buildings.



- Muslim architects built beautiful Mosques and Palaces throughout African cities.

ISLAM'S IMPACT ON AFRICA

- **Writing Activity:**
 - I would like you to put yourself in the shoes of an ancient journalist, someone who writes and tells the current events to ancient people. Your story will be revolving around an interview with Mansa Musa. Your interview should focus on Mansa Musa's accomplishments as king, Mali's massive wealth and his recent trip to Mekkah (Mecca). Your interview should consist of ten questions as an interviewer and ten answers as Mansa Musa. Think of a title for your interview piece and what ancient news paper or magazine you are writing for.
 - **Examples of questions and answers:**
 - **Interviewer Question:** How was your trip to Mekkah, Your Highness?
 - **Mansa Musa Answer:** Spectacular! We stopped in Cairo and several other places along the way.

TIME TRAVEL TIME: **THE CITY OF DJENNE**



- Time Travel Time: **The City of Djenné**

TIME TRAVEL TIME: THE CITY OF DJENNE

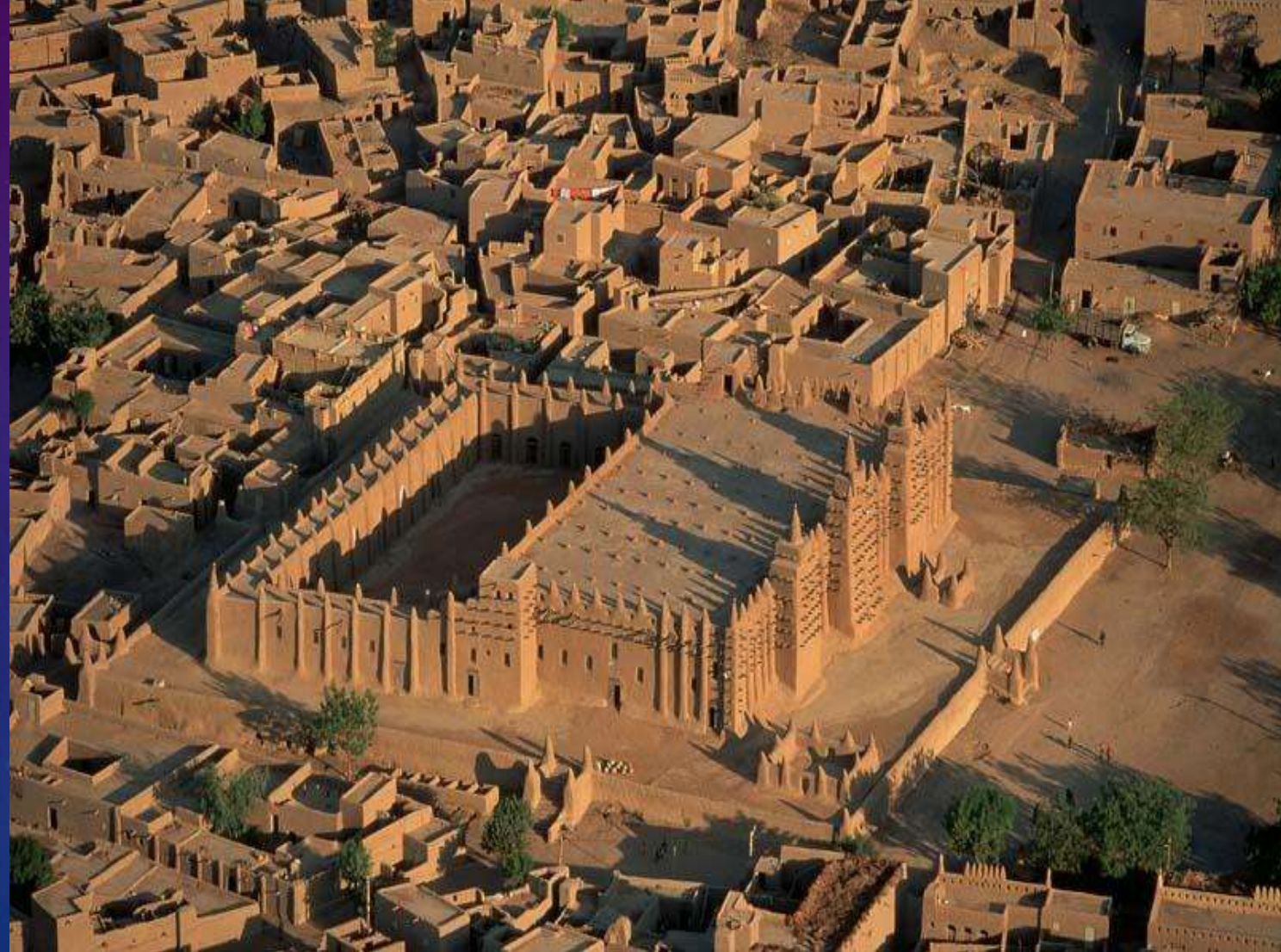
- Today the city of **Djenne** is an urban community in the Inland Niger Delta region of central Mali.



- The history of Djenne is closely linked with that of **Timbuktu**...between the 1400's C.E., to the 1600's C.E., much of the trans-Saharan trade consisted of goods such as salt, gold and slaves...most of which moved in and out of Timbuktu.

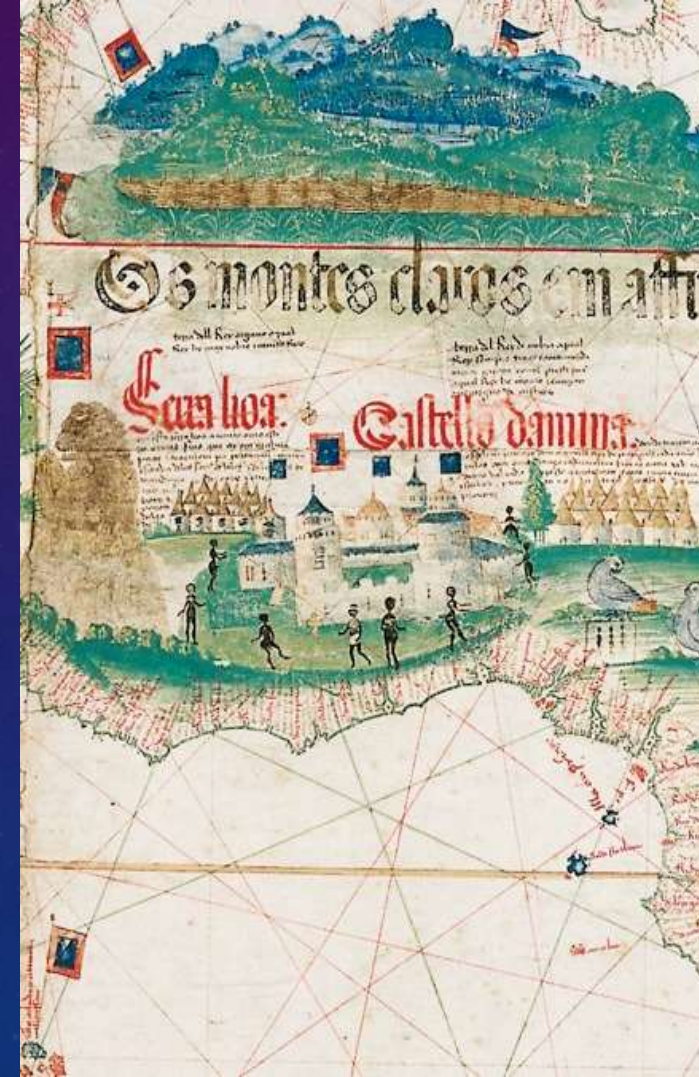
TIME TRAVEL TIME: THE CITY OF DJENNE

- These trade routes just happen to also passed through Djenne.



- Both Cities became centers of Islamic learning.

TIME TRAVEL TIME: THE CITY OF DJENNE



- Djenne's prosperity depended on this trade and when the Portuguese established trading posts on the African coast, the importance of the trans-Saharan trade and prosperity of Djenne declined.

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TIME TRAVEL TIME: THE CITY OF DJENNE

- The town is famous for its distinctive adobe architecture, most notably the Great Mosque which was built in 1907 on the site of an earlier mosque.



- To the south of the town is **Djenne-Djeno**, the site of one of the oldest known towns in Africa... Djenné together with Djenne-Djeno were designated **World Heritage Sites** in 1988.

TIME TRAVEL TIME: THE CITY OF DJENNE

- A **World Heritage Site** is a place, such as a building, city, complex, desert, forest, island, lake, monument, or mountain that is listed by the **United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO)** as being of special cultural or physical significance.



- The program catalogues, names, and conserves sites of outstanding cultural or natural importance to the common heritage of humanity.