*There is no need to print off these articles. Please read the articles and answer the questions on a Separate sheet of notebook paper.*

Day 7: "Mali and African Empires: The Mali Empire" Lexile 820

1. Read the entire article and answer the given questions on a separate sheet of paper.
2. For multiple choice questions write the correct letter.
3. For question s #6, 7, and 10, use complete 7th grade sentences. (turn the question around) ReadWorks Non-fiction: Mali & African Empires — The Mali Empire

Mali & African Empires The Mali Empire

Most African-Americans can trace their roots to the Western Sudan. This area in western Africa is about the size of the United States. In ancient times, three great empires’ ruled most of the Western Sudan. One of them was known as the Mali Empire.

The Malinke people of Mali ruled from about 1240 to 1500. Their empire covered the countries of Gambia, Mali, Guinea, Senegal, Burkina Faso, Niger and Mauritania. The first ruler, a man named Sundiata, became king in 1235 and made Niani the capital of his new empire. In 1312, a second ruler, named Mansa Musa took over. Under his rule, the Mali Empire grew and became very powerful. Mansa Musa greatly expanded the empire east. Timbuktu, one of the trading cities he took over, became a center of learning.

Mansa Musa is also known for his efforts to encourage” people to practice Islam. Islam is the religion of Muslims. In 1324, he traveled to Mecca, the holy city of the Muslims. It is believed he traveled by camel in a huge caravan’ bearing gold and gifts. Mansa Musa brought back many skilled\* people with him. One of them was an architect who designed houses of worship for Muslims, called mosques. They can be found today in Timbuktu and other cities.

Most people in the Mali Empire were successful farmers and herders. They prospered through trade within Africa and beyond. Despite Islam’s

influence, most of the people continued to follow traditional? African beliefs.

' empires — a group of nations or states under one ruler or government

' encourage — to support; urge on

* caravan -- a group of merchants, pilgrims, or tourists traveling together for safely through difficult country
* skilled -- trained

° traditional — according to earlier styles or customs, which have been handed down from generation to generation

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ReadWorks Non-fiction: Mali & African Empires — The Mali Empire

After Mansa Musa died, his son became ruler of the empire. But no one could govern the empire as well as Mansa Musa. The Mali Empire eventually became weak and fell to the Songhai Empire. By 1500, the Songhai Empire

controlled all of Mali’s territory.

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Name:

Date:

1. Which country was NOT part of the Mali Empire?

29009

Gambia

Senegal Chad

Niger

1. Most people in the Mali Empire were successful

297”

Muslims.

camel traders. engineers.

farmers and herders.

1. Who ruled first?

2009

Mansa Musa

Sundiata

Mansa Musa’s grandfather Mansa Musa’s son

1. The rulers after Mansa Musa were as he was.

ao op

as good not as good

as corrupt as powerful

1. Which of the following is a correct sequence of events of the Mali Empire?

ai:

Mansa Musa became king, traveled to Mecca, then brought an architect to Mali to design mosques.

Sundiata expanded the empire, converted the people to Islam, then left his empire to Mansa Musa.

Mansa Musa traveled to Mecca, took over the Mali Empire, then lost it to the Songhai.

Sundiata became king, traveled in a caravan, and built Timbuktu into a center of learning.

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1. Why do you think people continued to follow traditional African beliefs despite Mansa Musa’s efforts to get them to practice Islam?
2. Using evidence from the passage, what things were most important to Mansa Musa?
3. The question below is an incomplete sentence. Choose the word that best completes the sentence.

Most people in the Mali Empire were successful farmers and herders prospered through trade within Africa and beyond.

1. but
2. though
3. and
4. or
5. Answer the following question based on the sentence below.

Mansa Musa expanded his empire east through the trading city of Timbuktu, which became a center for learning under his rule.

In the sentence, the word Timbuktu best answers which question?

Who? What? When? Where?

2979

1. Vocabulary Word: influence: the effect of something on a person, thing or event.

Use the vocabulary word in a sentence:

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