



Summary

Mansa Musa was the ruler of Mali during the 14th century. He was one of the richest rulers in the world. Mali mined for gold and salt and made large profits. In 1324 Mansa Musa went on a pilgrimage (hajj) to Mecca where his journey through Egypt caused a stir. He travelled with a caravan of tens of thousands of warriors and slaves. Mansa Musa met the Sultan of Egypt and gave away so much gold that the value of the currency decreased. Stories of his wealth reached Europe and he is shown on the Catalan Atlas, made by the Spanish, sitting on a throne holding a nugget of gold. Mali took over Gao and Timbuktu and new mosques were built.

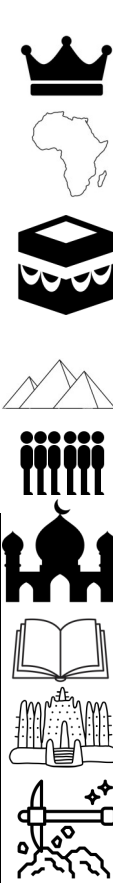
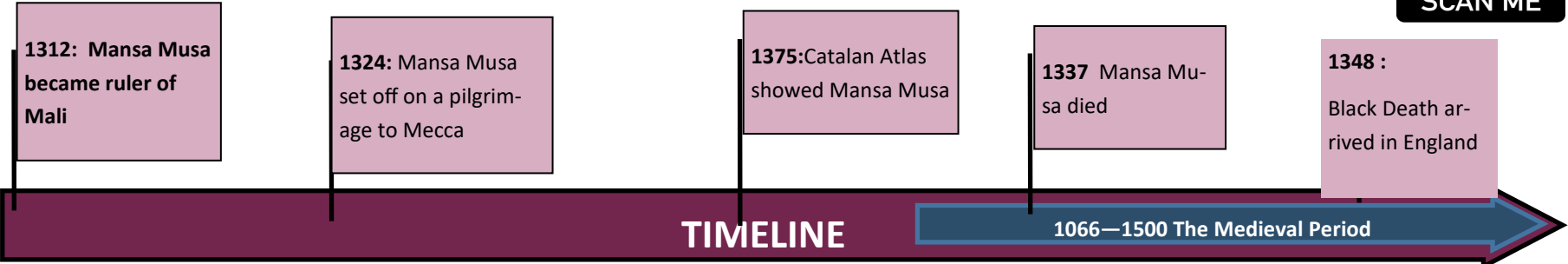
Key Figures

Mansa Musa	Ruler of Mali during the 14th century. Believed to be the richest man to have ever lived.
Sultan Al-	The Sultan/ leader of Egypt when Mansa Musa travelled through Cairo.
Al-Umari	A historian during the 14th century who recorded the life of Mansa Musa.
Al-Sahili	A scholar from Spain who joined Mansa Musa on his travels. He built the Djingareyber Mosque in Timbuktu.

Other Resources

[Mansa Musa \(Musa I of Mali\) | National Geographic Society](#)

[Mali and Mansa Musa | BBC Bitesize](#)



Key Vocabulary

Mansa	Title for the ruler of Mali.
Mali	A medieval kingdom in West Africa.
Hajj	A pilgrimage to Mecca, to be carried out by all Muslims.
Mecca	A pilgrimage site for Muslims. Mansa Musa visited in 1324.
Cairo	A city in Egypt that Mansa Musa visited during his pilgrimage to Mecca, where he shared his gold.
Caravan	A group of pilgrims travelling across the desert.
Mosques	A Muslim place of worship.
Architects	A person who designs buildings.
Scholars	A person who studies and records knowledge
Timbuktu	Part of the Mali Empire, where Mansa Musa built universities and mosques,
Gold Fields	An area where gold is found in the ground. Gold Fields in Medieval Mali made Mansa Musa wealthy.

Challenge

What was the significance of Mansa Musa?

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