

History Subject Knowledge Bank

Year 2: Mansa Musa

<u>Vocabulary</u>	<u>Definition</u>
Argument	Different points of view.
Locality	From the local area.
Chronological	In order of when something happened.
Mansa Musa	Emperor of Mali.
Contribution	The part played by something or someone.
Primary evidence	Information produced from the period studied.
Secondary evidence	Information produced about the period studied but not from the time of the period studied.
Events	Things that have happened.
Achievements	Something done successfully.
Identify	Indicate what something is.

Who was Mansa Musa?

- Musa became the Emperor of Mali (the Mansa) in 1312.
- He ruled for the next 25 years, expanding the wealth and power of the empire.
- Mansa Musa is known as the 'King of Kings' and is said to be one of the wealthiest people who ever lived.
- He was born in 1280.
- His Empire was the biggest West Africa had ever known.
- His estimated wealth is around £400 billion.
- When he came to power, Europe was suffering civil war and famine. At this time Africa was flourishing.
- Mansa means "Emperor" or "Sultan". Most of Mansa Musa's wealth came from gold and salt.

What journey did Mansa Musa go on?

- As a devout Muslim, going on Hajj was very important to him.
- In 1324 he completed an epic 9,000mile expedition across the Sahara Desert, around the Red Sea and down the Arabian Peninsula to Mecca.
- He travelled with 60,000 people including soldiers and slaves as well as 100 elephants and 80 camels.
- During his pilgrimage to Mecca, Mansa Musa gave away such a significant amount of gold that the economy of Cairo was badly affected for years after.
- In Cairo he gave lots of gold to the poor, bought many souvenirs and built Mosques.

What did Mansa Musa do when he returned home?

- On his return, Musa invited many scholars and architects to travel home with him, bringing their great minds to Mali's cities.
- He built many great libraries, mosques and palaces across the empire.
- Timbuktu became the heart of his empire, trade and culture. Traders and scholars from Europe, the Middle East and Africa came to live in Mali.
- Musa supported and funded science, arts, literature and architecture. His empire was one of the greatest in the world.
- Mansa Musa commissioned the famous Djinguereber Mosque in 1327. He established a revolutionary centre of learning in Timbuktu. Mansa Musa's renewal of Timbuktu included building schools, libraries and mosques. Timbuktu held hundreds of thousands of texts and became one of the most important cities in West Africa.

What happened next?

- It is thought that Mansa Musa died, in around 1337. After his death, the power of the Mali Empire began to decline.
- The Catalan Atlas was the most important world map of Medieval Europe.
- The Empire of Mali was included in this Atlas which shows how important it was.
- Mansa Musa was depicted wearing a crown and sceptre holding a golden nugget.

