

Year 7 unit 7: Medieval West Africa



What am I going to learn?

1. Why has medieval African history been neglected?

2. How have historians learned about Medieval West Africa?

3. What was precolonial West Africa like?

4. Who was Mansa Musa?

5. What made Timbuktu a special place?

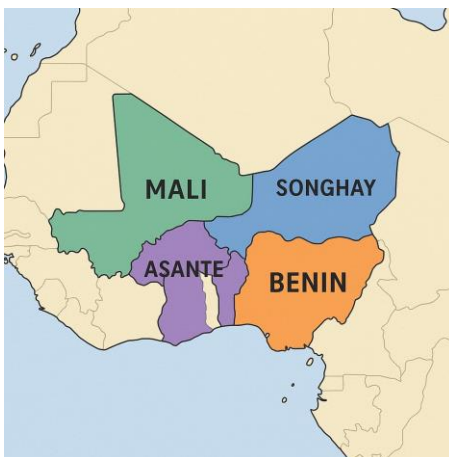
End of unit assessment



Hugh Trevor-Roper, a professor of history at Oxford University

"Perhaps in the future there will be some African history to teach. But at the present there is none - there is only the history of the Europeans in Africa.

The rest is darkness... and darkness is not a subject of history."



Four of the major African Kingdoms.



Mansa Musa depicted in the Catalan Atlas holding a nugget of gold.



Oral histories - stories
and songs



Written accounts



Objects and artefacts



Architectural remains

Keyword	Definition	Keyword	Definition
Empire:	a large group of states or countries controlled by a single ruler or government	Neglected:	ignored / suffering from a lack of attention
Griots:	oral historians that pass history down from generation to generation through songs and stories	Oral Tradition:	the passing of history, stories, and knowledge through spoken word rather than written records.
Hajj:	pilgrimage to Mecca, the holiest city in Islam	Pilgrimage:	a journey made for religious reasons, such as Mansa Musa's trip to Mecca
Islam:	a major world religion that was widely practiced in many West African kingdoms	Precolonial:	occurring or existing before the beginning of colonial rule. Colonial rule was when other countries seized African land and ruled there
Kingdom:	a territory or community ruled by a king or queen, often with its own system of government and culture	Timbuktu:	a city in Mali, formerly the capital of the Kingdom of Mali
Mansa:	ruler, king, or emperor	Trade:	the exchange of goods and services, often between different regions or countries

BC (Before Christ)		AD (Anno Domini)																									
Century	0	500 AD										1000 AD					1500 AD					2000 AD					
		1st	2nd	3rd	4th	5th	6th	7th	8th	9th	10th	11th	12th	13th	14th	15th	16th	17th	18th	19th	20th	21st					
		Periods in British History	Romans in Britain 55BC – 410AD	Saxon and Viking Britain 410AD – 1066AD										Medieval Britain 1066AD – 1485AD					Tudor Britain 1485AD – 1603AD		Stuart Britain 1603AD – 1714AD		Georgian Britain 1714AD – 1837AD		Victorian Britain 1837AD – 1901AD		Living history