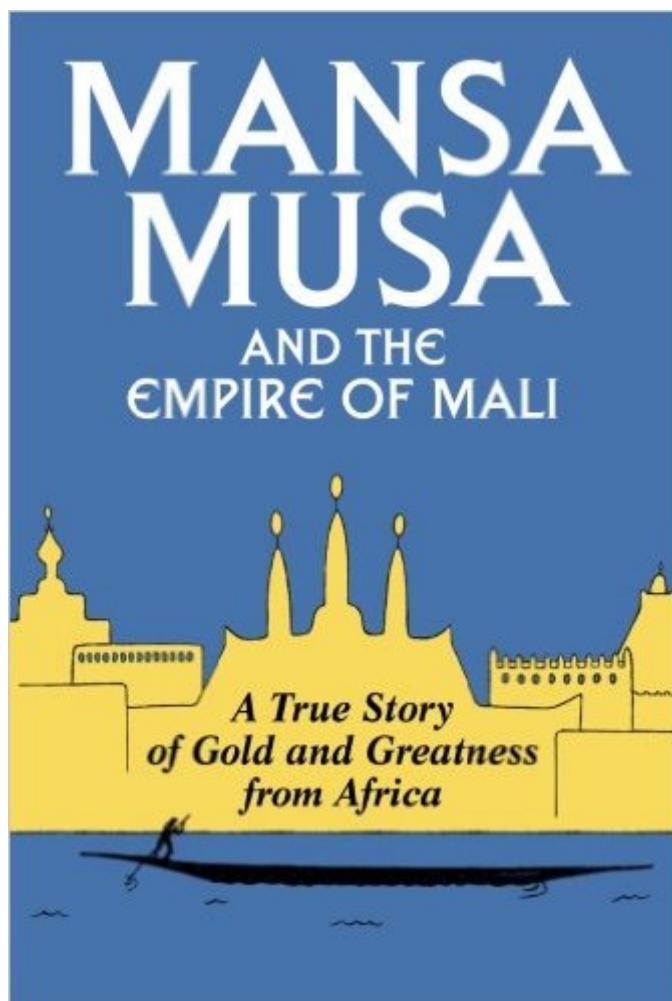


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Mansa Musa And The Empire Of Mali



Synopsis

Oliver's well-researched biography of Mansa Musa reads like an exotic tale of gold, glory, and adventure. During his long reign as Mali's emperor, Mansa Musa led his empire into its Golden Age; presided over a spectacular, 60,000 person, 9,000 mile pilgrimage; founded a university in Timbuktu; and helped revolutionize architecture across the Sudan. Oliver does not allow Musa's story to get bogged down in detail by seamlessly weaving a lot of history into his narrative and by supplying curious readers with an extensive Glossary. Many of the African ancestors of today's African-Americans came from West Africa. From 700 -- 1600 A. D., one after the other, three great, black, commercial empires dominated West Africa. They were powerful, prosperous, complex, stable -- and large. At its height, the Empire of Mali was the size of all of Western Europe. Well-crafted and fast paced, Oliver's book is enhanced by a liberal sprinkling of enjoyable drawings, clear and helpful maps, and interesting photos. Not only are Mansa Musa's triumphs and dilemmas clearly portrayed, but so are the lives of the people of medieval Mali.

Book Information

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Age Range: 13 - 17 years

Grade Level: 8 - 12

Customer Reviews

Like most Western-educated people, I know almost no pre-colonial African history. In particular, I had no idea that in the 14th century the empire of Mali ranked with the greatest in the globe. This book begins to fill a significant hole in my education. It is easy to read and I enjoyed the whimsical graphics. Attention teachers! You need this book.

This was an easy read. I thoroughly enjoyed learning about the richest man who ever lived. The story was told in a clear concise manner. The author shared interesting facts and archaeological pictures that added to the beautiful story. The story's format is great for children and adults alike. I hope one day to see a movie made of this story.

Students often hear about the problems faced by African people. They learn about colonization and its after effects. This book brings a different perspective on Africa to the classroom. The author has provided a refreshing way to look at Africa by bringing alive the story of a strong leader of an advanced civilization, all at the time Europe was in the Dark Ages. I have struggled over the years to find information about African history geared to elementary and/or secondary students and was delighted to find this very readable book. The glossary, the illustrations, the thorough footnotes make this book an invaluable resource for history teachers. Sarah Peterson, Clague Middle School, Ann Arbor, MI and Mount Madonna School, Watsonville, CA

As a teacher I'm continually looking for books on the history of Africa. With Mansa Musa and the Empire of Mali I found an engaging glimpse into the life and times of a true leader. The author's story telling format makes the book accessible to students of many ages. The younger students are amazed by the vastness of Mansa Musa's empire and the distance of his journey. While the older students are able to appreciate the glimpse into the architectural, and cosmopolitan, nature of ancient Africa. Mansa Musa and the Empire of Mali is a enjoyable read for young and old alike, Sean Richard Montessori Teacher

I teach 6th-8th grade history and used this book during our unit on Medieval Africa. My 6th grade class read the book, answered some questions that I came up with and then we had a large group discussion. They really enjoyed the story and it gave them a much better picture of Mansa Musa and Mali than our textbook. A great classroom resource that I will definitely use again!

Take a trip back in time and meet Mansa Musa, the ruler of Mali. Bringing to life one of the greatest journeys of its time, the author hides a healthy dose of history inside an engaging narrative. A good choice for history buffs and history teachers alike.

I found this to be an enjoyable and surprisingly complete biography. Mansa Musa's incredible

journey across the Sahara, his founding of a university in Timbuktu, and his revolutionizing of architecture across the Sudan highlight this book's account of Musa's amazing reign. I had not realized how vast his empire was.

This book receives a high rating for its well researched narrative that draws from many cited resources. In addition to an appropriate reading level for the middle school, the story informs students with a continued tale of Mansa Musa, while using varied side stories, maps, sketches and historical explanations to embellish the work. I have been using it to extend understanding of West African culture, beyond our textbook, as it mixed with new Islamic influences and to highlight the importance of the trans-Saharan trade system in three major empires. After studying pre-Islamic traditions of W. Africa, we are charting both pre-Islamic and Islamic aspects of life during the reign of Mansa Musa.Jeff OsborneMission Hill Middle SchoolSanta Cruz, CA

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