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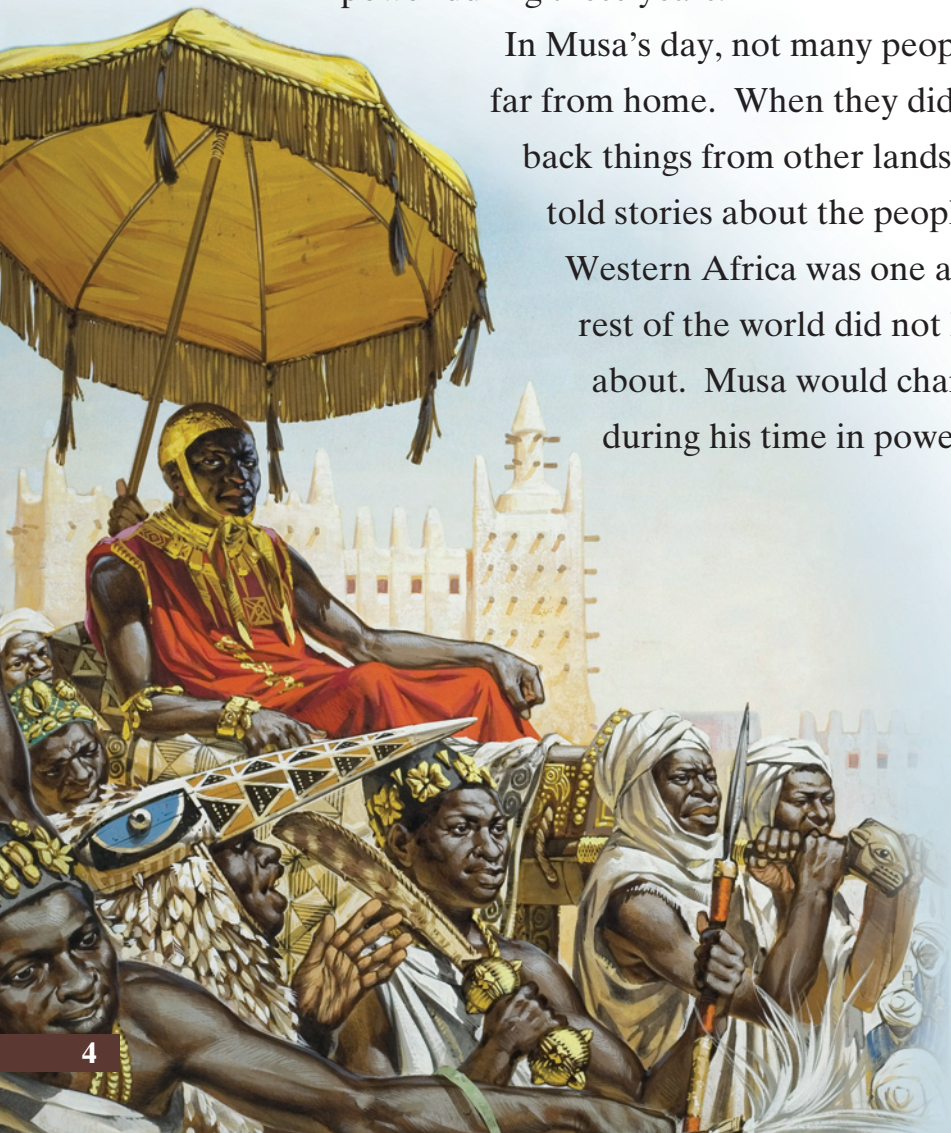
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Mansa Musa

Mansa Musa (MAHN suh MOO-suh) was an African king. The word *mansa* means “emperor.” Mansa Musa ruled Mali (MAW-lee) from 1312 to 1337. During his years in power, Musa helped Mali to grow.

Mali is located in western Africa. It was one of the largest **empires** in the world at that time. Mali was at the peak of its power during these years.

In Musa’s day, not many people traveled far from home. When they did, they brought back things from other lands. And, they told stories about the people they saw. Western Africa was one area that the rest of the world did not know much about. Musa would change that during his time in power.



◀ Musa was honored by his people.



◀ Map of western Africa today

Modern Mali

There is still a country called Mali. Today, its borders are different than they were during Mansa Musa’s time. Present-day Mali is the largest country in West Africa. It is nearly twice the size of the state of Texas.

The Nile River

The longest river in Africa is the Nile. In ancient times, people relied on the Nile to help the Egyptian (ih-JIP-shuhn) **civilization** (siv-uh-luh-ZAY-shuhn) survive. Today, Africans still depend upon its water for food, energy, and transportation.

▼ The Nile today is very different than it was in Musa’s life.

