

Find Ancient Mali

Use continent, region, and landmark clues to locate an empire.

3.8.a "locating the ancient empire of Mali on a map of the world;"

NAME _____

DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK _____ Read it twice

YOUR JOB Circle the five bold map clues. Number them 1 to 5 in the order they appear, so you can use the clues to find ancient Mali on a world map.

Clues to Mali's Location

- ① Long ago, the Mali Empire grew in West Africa. To find this place on a world map, first find the continent of **Africa**. Look at Africa's western side, not the eastern side near the Indian Ocean. Mali was in the wide inland area of **West Africa**, south of the Sahara Desert. It is far from Africa's southern tip.
- ② **The Sahara Desert** is a huge, dry area across northern Africa. The Mali Empire lay below this desert. Another map clue is the **Niger River**. The empire grew near the river, where people could farm, travel, and trade. On a map, follow the Niger River in West Africa to help narrow the location of the empire.
- ③ **The Atlantic Ocean** is west of Africa. It is a helpful check, but Mali was not on the coast. The empire was inland, east of the Atlantic Ocean and below the Sahara Desert. Its location was in the northern half of West Africa. Do not look in Europe, Asia, or southern Africa when you use a world map.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE Use the passage

1 What continent should you find first on a world map?

2 Which region of Africa was the Mali Empire in?

3 On a world map, should you look above or below the Sahara Desert for Mali?

4 Which ocean is west of Africa and helps you check that Mali is inland and east of it?

3 YOUR TURN Your own words

Use a world map provided by your teacher. Place an X in the ancient Mali Empire's area, then write two sentences explaining how you used at least three map clues to find it.

PART 1 • READ AND MARK

Circle the five bold map clues. Number them 1 to 5 in the order they appear, so you can use the clues to find ancient Mali on a world map. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 • ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	What continent should you find first on a world map?	Africa.
2	Which region of Africa was the Mali Empire in?	West Africa, on Africa's western side.
3	On a world map, should you look above or below the Sahara Desert for Mali?	Below the Sahara Desert.
4	Which ocean is west of Africa and helps you check that Mali is inland and east of it?	The Atlantic Ocean.

PART 3 • YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

I found Africa and looked on its western side. I placed an X in inland West Africa, below the Sahara Desert and near the Niger River.

Accept an X in the inland West African area south of the Sahara and near the Niger River. Student sentences should use at least three accurate clues, such as Africa, West Africa, Sahara Desert, Niger River, Atlantic Ocean, inland, or east of the Atlantic.