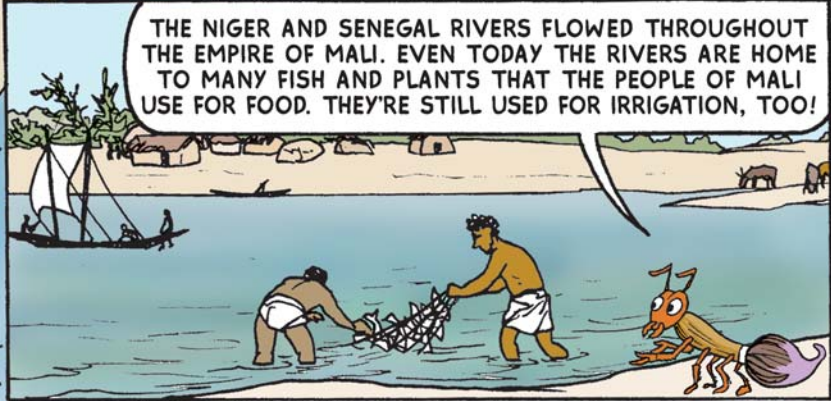
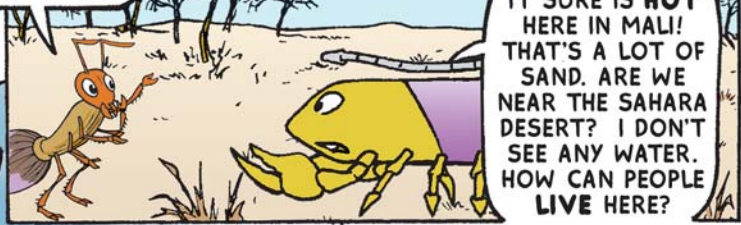


HEY, I RECOGNIZE THIS CONTINENT - IT'S AFRICA!

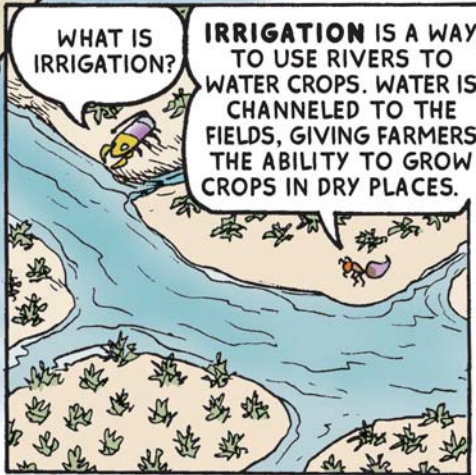
THE SMALL COUNTRY OF MALI IS LOCATED IN WEST AFRICA. BUT AT ONE TIME MALI WAS MUCH LARGER. IT WAS ONE OF THE GREATEST EMPIRES IN AFRICA FROM 1235 TO 1468!

RIGHT, SCORPY! TODAY I WANT TO SHOW YOU A VERY SPECIAL PLACE IN AFRICA NAMED MALI.

IT SURE IS HOT HERE IN MALI! THAT'S A LOT OF SAND. ARE WE NEAR THE SAHARA DESERT? I DON'T SEE ANY WATER. HOW CAN PEOPLE LIVE HERE?



THE NIGER AND SENEGAL RIVERS FLOWED THROUGHOUT THE EMPIRE OF MALI. EVEN TODAY THE RIVERS ARE HOME TO MANY FISH AND PLANTS THAT THE PEOPLE OF MALI USE FOR FOOD. THEY'RE STILL USED FOR IRRIGATION, TOO!



WHAT IS IRRIGATION?

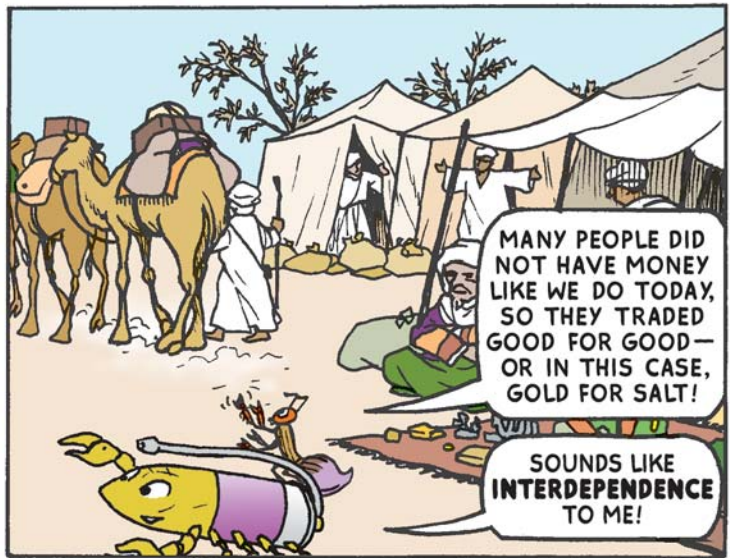
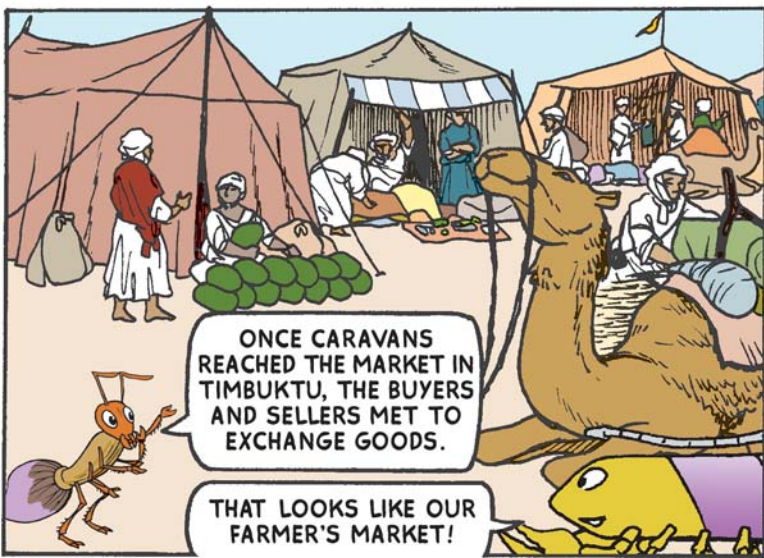
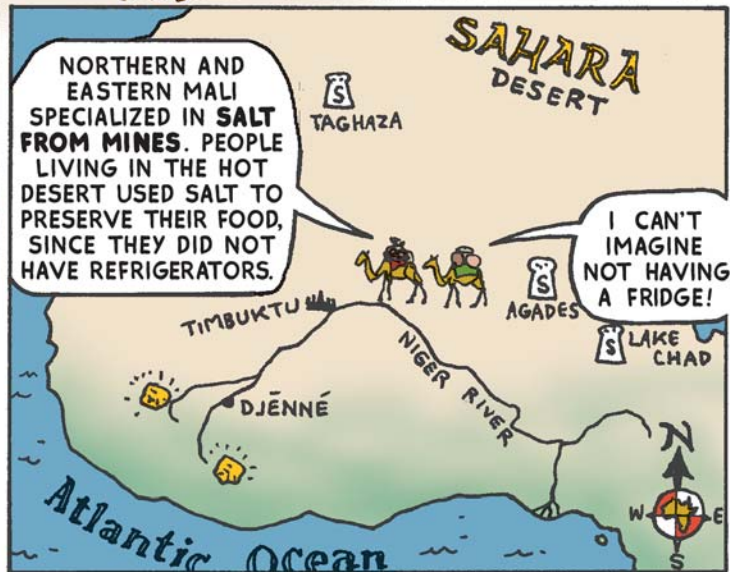
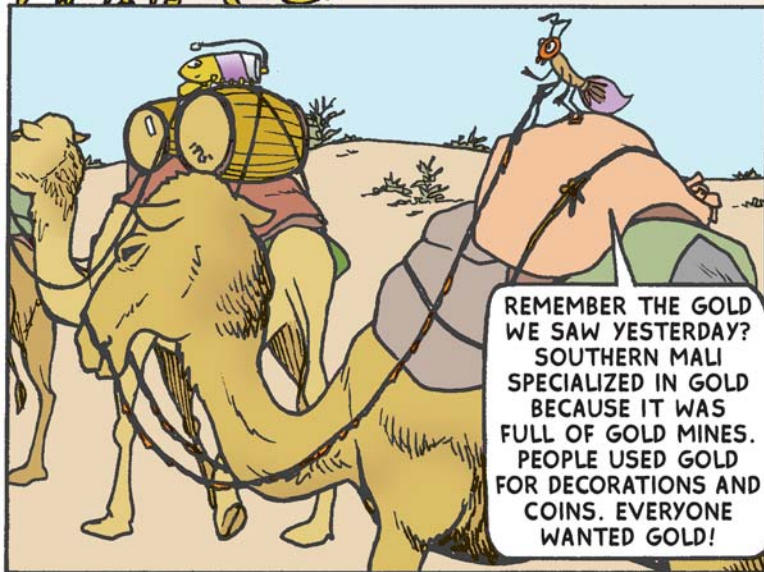
IRRIGATION IS A WAY TO USE RIVERS TO WATER CROPS. WATER IS CHANNLED TO THE FIELDS, GIVING FARMERS THE ABILITY TO GROW CROPS IN DRY PLACES.

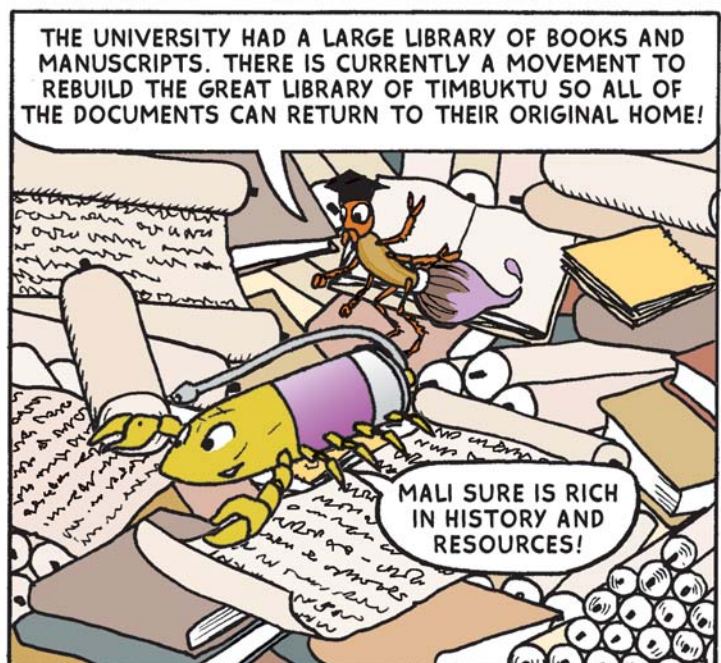
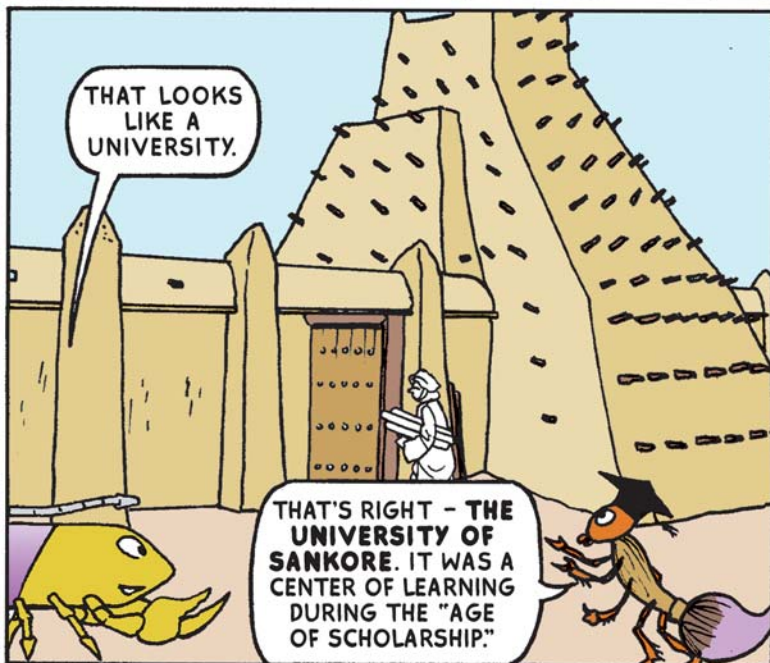
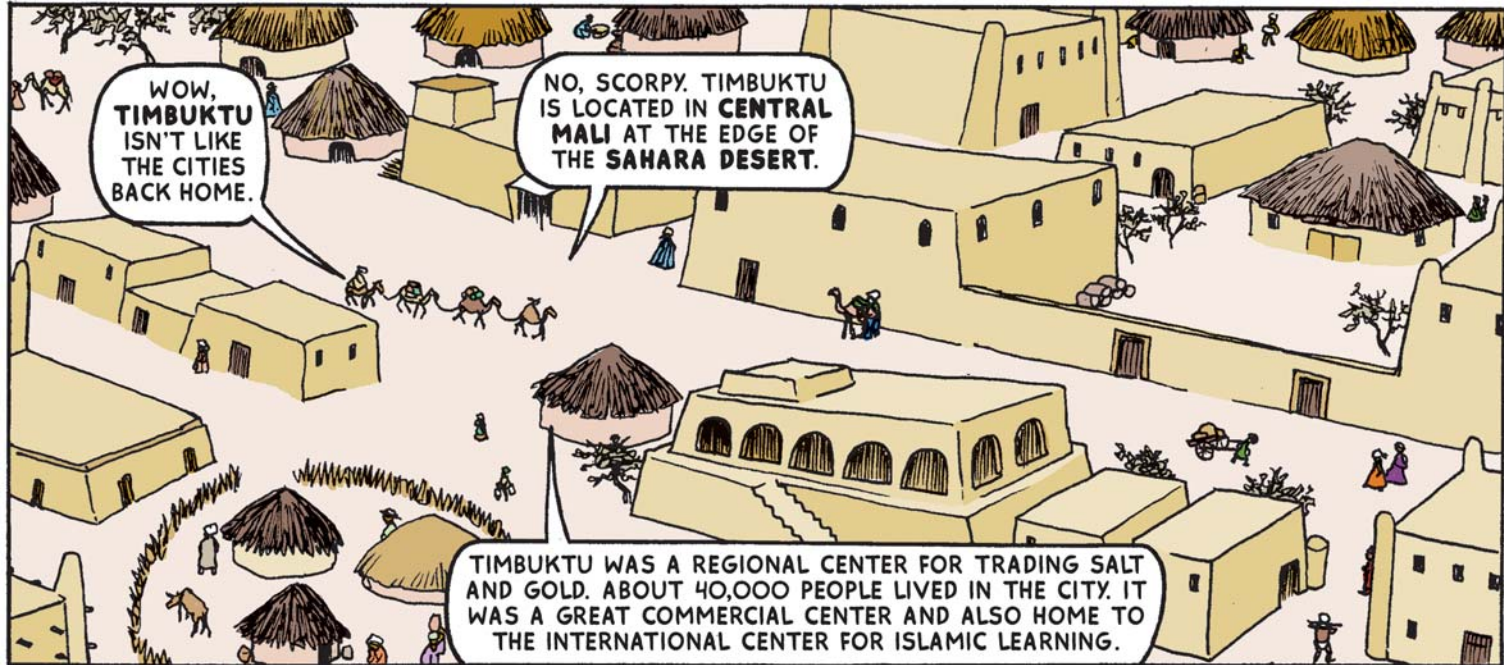


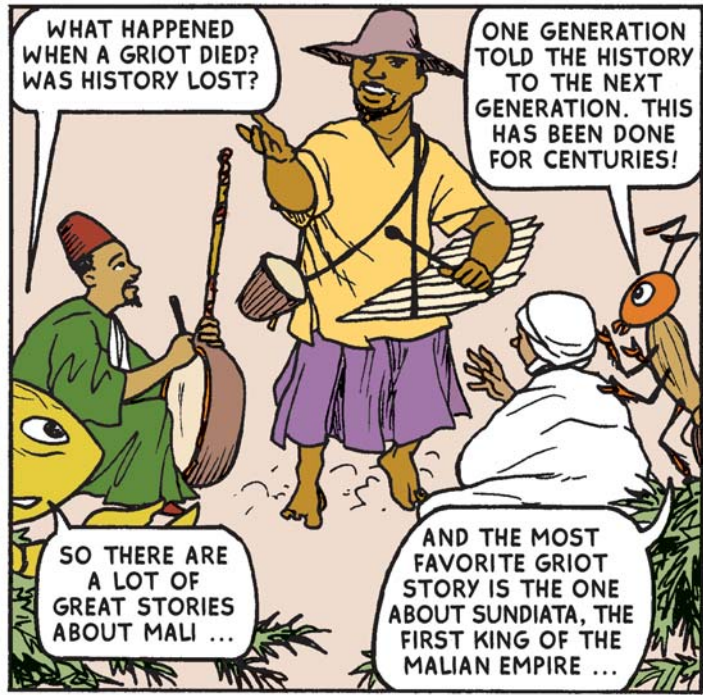
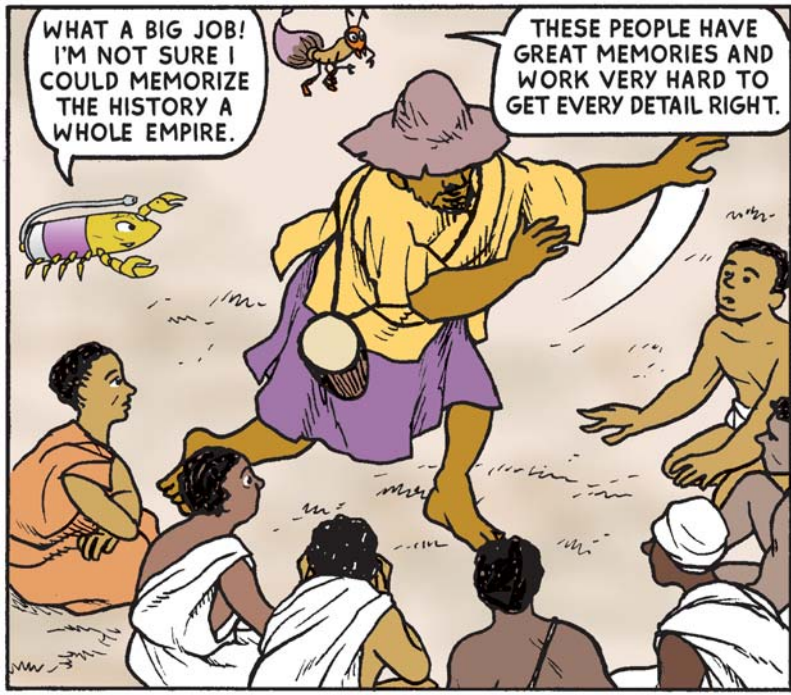
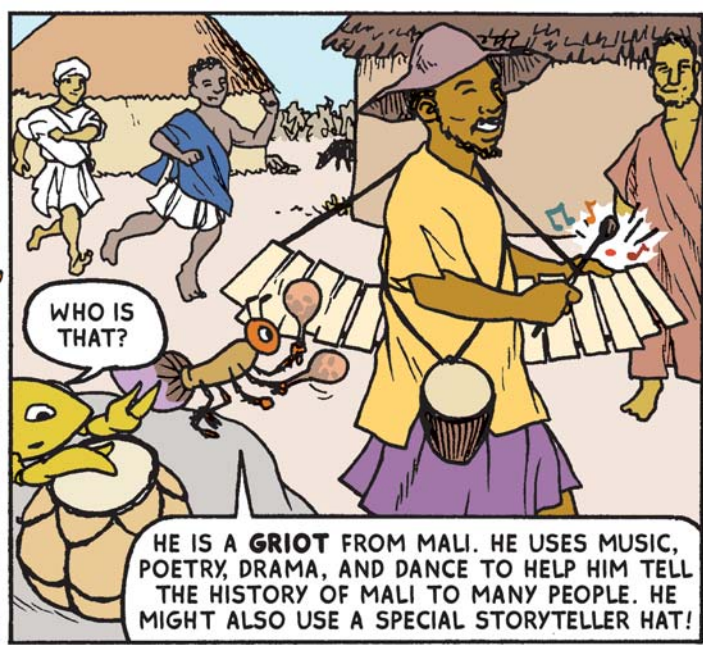
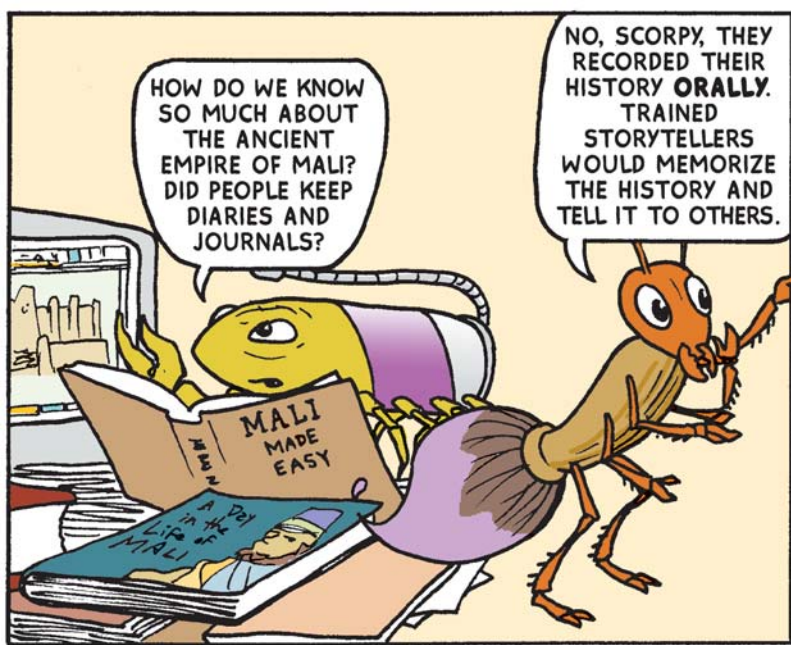
THE PEOPLE OF MALI WERE ALSO MINERS.

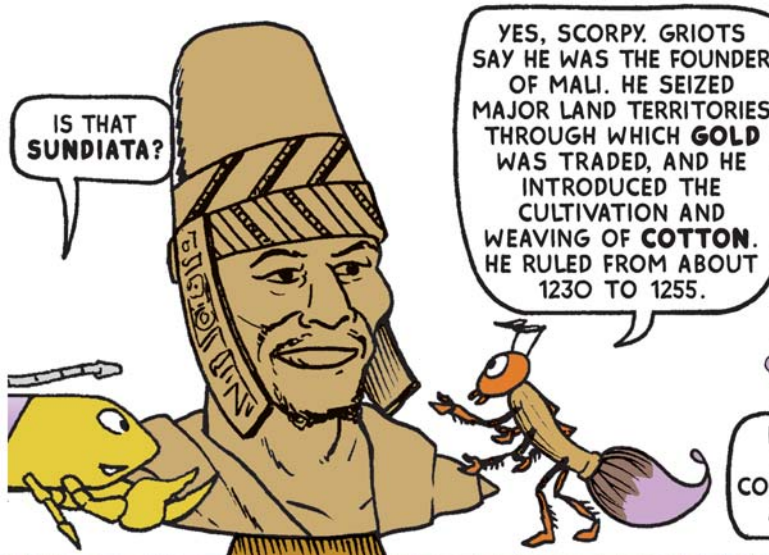
AWESOME! I'VE NEVER SEEN SO MUCH GOLD!

THAT GOLD MADE THE EMPIRE OF MALI VERY WEALTHY.









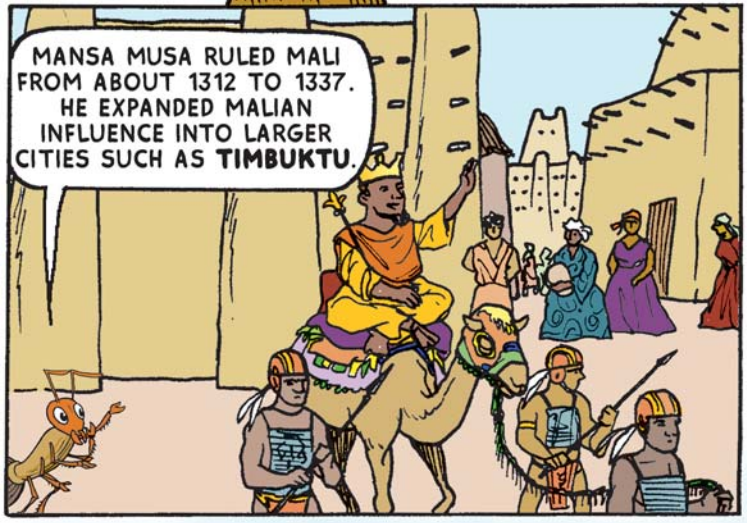
IS THAT SUNDIATA?

YES, SCORPY. GRIOTS SAY HE WAS THE FOUNDER OF MALI. HE SEIZED MAJOR LAND TERRITORIES THROUGH WHICH **GOLD** WAS TRADED, AND HE INTRODUCED THE CULTIVATION AND WEAVING OF **COTTON**. HE RULED FROM ABOUT 1230 TO 1255.

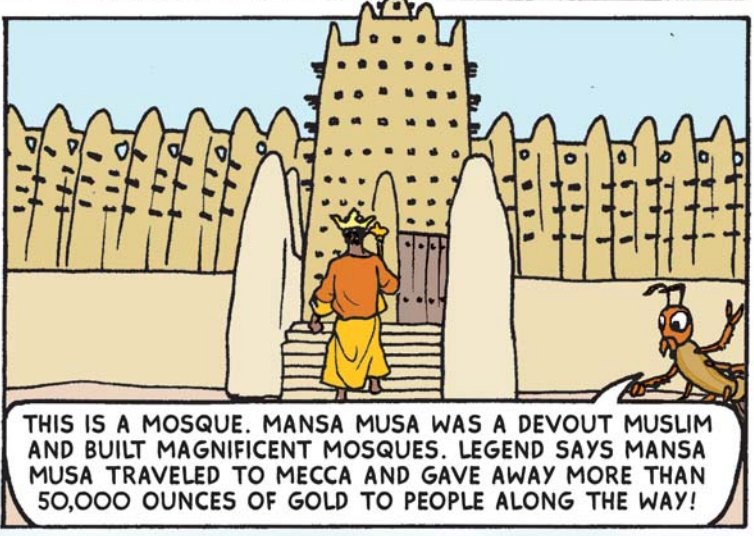


THAT'S WHAT I CALL A LONG TIME AGO.

I TOLD YOU MALI WAS AN ANCIENT CIVILIZATION! THE KINGS OF MALI WERE RICH AND POWERFUL MEN WHO CONTROLLED TRADE IN WEST AFRICA. THE MOST POWERFUL AND INFLUENTIAL RULER OF MALI WAS **MANSA MUSA**.



MANSA MUSA RULED MALI FROM ABOUT 1312 TO 1337. HE EXPANDED MALIAN INFLUENCE INTO LARGER CITIES SUCH AS **TIMBUKTU**.



THIS IS A MOSQUE. MANSA MUSA WAS A DEVOUT MUSLIM AND BUILT MAGNIFICENT MOSQUES. LEGEND SAYS MANSA MUSA TRAVELED TO MECCA AND GAVE AWAY MORE THAN 50,000 OUNCES OF GOLD TO PEOPLE ALONG THE WAY!



AFTER THE DEATH OF MANSA MUSA, THE EMPIRE OF MALI DECLINED. OTHER KINGDOMS BEGAN TO TAKE LAND AWAY FROM MALI IN THE NORTH AND SOUTH.

AWESOME! I'M GLAD WE GOT TO VISIT MAGNIFICENT MALI!