

Image of Mali Equestrian Figure, Thirteenth to Fifteenth Century



Smithsonian National Museum of African Art

2. Using the image, respond to parts A, B, C, and D.

- A.** Describe one significant feature of the Mali Empire represented by the figure depicted.
- B.** Describe one way figures like the one depicted serve as evidence challenging misconceptions about early African societies like that of the Mali Empire.
- C.** Using a specific example, explain one way Mali's strength as an empire was similar to or different from another African empire before 1650.
- D.** Using a specific example, explain one way an artistic or cultural practice in the African diaspora after 1650 incorporated elements of African traditions.

3. Respond to parts A, B, C, and D.

- A.** Describe one specific example of a nineteenth-century African American woman who fought against slavery.
- B.** Using a specific example, explain how a twentieth-century African American woman artist, author, or activist influenced public perception about the oppression African Americans experienced.
- C.** Using a different specific example, explain how African American women influenced the ideas or strategies of the modern Civil Rights movement.
- D.** Describe one specific example of a new opportunity for African American women that emerged following the twentieth-century freedom movements.

Question 2: Non-Text Source**4 points**

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- (A) **Describe one significant feature of the Mali Empire represented by the statue depicted.** **1 point**

Examples that earn this point include the following:

- A feature of the Mali Empire represented by the statue is their use of horses to extend their power over neighboring groups.
- The Mali Empire's wealth and access to trans-Saharan trade routes enabled its leaders to crossbreed powerful North African horses and purchase steel weapons.
- The statue serves as evidence of the military might of the Mali Empire, as Mansa Musa's calvary is said to have included 10,000 soldiers.

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- (B) **Describe one way sculptures like the one depicted serve as evidence challenging misconceptions about early African societies like that of the Mali Empire.** **1 point**

Examples that earn this point include the following:

- This figure demonstrates the complexity of Africa, countering notions that the continent was not connected to the larger global community before the Atlantic slave trade.
- The sculpture from the Mali Empire serves as evidence of the powerful societies that existed in Africa. This artifact demonstrates Africa as a diverse continent, countering perspectives of Africa's contributions to humanity.
- Sculptures like the one depicted in the image challenge misconceptions about early African societies like Mali by showcasing the artistic and cultural sophistication of these societies.

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- (C) **Using a specific example, explain one way Mali's strength as an empire was similar to or different from another African empire before 1650.** **1 point**

Examples that earn this point include the following:

- The strength of both the Mali Empire and the Kingdom of Zimbabwe came from wealth accumulated through trade. The Mali Empire was the center for trade in gold, salt, and enslaved people along the trans-Saharan trade routes. Similarly, the Kingdom of Zimbabwe flourished through its trade in gold, ivory, and cattle resources with states along the Swahili Coast.
- While the strength of both the Mali Empire and Aksumite Empire came from wealth accumulated through trade, their trading routes were different. The Mali Empire grew its wealth from trade along the trans-Saharan trade routes, while the Aksumite Empire emerged in east Africa and expanded due to its trade along the Red Sea and Mediterranean maritime trade networks.

- The Mali Empire and the Kingdom of Zimbabwe were both powerful empires/kingdoms, but they differed in their approaches to defense. The Mali Empire's use of North African horses and use of steel weapons allowed it to extend power over neighboring groups. The Kingdom of Zimbabwe, on the other hand, used a more defensive approach and built stone structures to provide military protection for the kingdom and its resources.
- Strengths of both the Mali Empire and Kingdom of Kongo were drawn in large part from wealth accumulated through trade. The Mali Empire grew its empire and wealth from trans-Saharan trade in gold, salt, and enslaved people. The Kingdom of Kongo gained its wealth through trade and through its political ties with the Portuguese. Ivory, salt, copper, and textiles were the primary goods traded by the Kingdom of Kongo to increase its wealth.

(D) Using a specific example, explain one way an artistic or cultural practice in the African diaspora after 1650 incorporated elements of African traditions. 1 point

Examples that earn this point include the following:

- African Americans developed instruments such as the banjo, drums, and rattlers from gourds to recreate instruments similar to those used in West Africa. They were able to create musical genres using elements from Africa.
- African descendants incorporated African rhythmic and performative elements, such as call and response, clapping, and improvisation with biblical themes. The combination of these different elements would later form the foundation for American musical genres such as gospel and blues.
- As enslaved Senegambians arrived in large numbers in Louisiana, they brought with them the frottoir musical system. This musical system would later influence the development of American blues.
- The Black is Beautiful movement celebrated and encouraged African Americans to strengthen their connections to Africa by embracing their natural hair, wearing African dress such as dashikis and African headwraps, and using Akan adinkra symbols such as the Sankofa bird.
- In Haiti, Brazil, and various parts of the Southern United States, members of the African diaspora incorporated African cultural and religious practices to develop their own traditions; these syncretic practices included ancestor veneration in various forms as a common practice.

Total for question 2 4 points