First Name: _____ Last Name: _____

Date: _____ Class: _____

THE DOGON PEOPLES OF MALI

Geography, Material Evidence, Astronomy, and Cultural Continuity

RST | Grades 6–12 | Five days | Ma'at Standard

CENTRAL QUESTION

How do geography, oral history, artifacts, and astronomical records reveal Dogon knowledge, cultural continuity, and control over historical memory?

OBJECTIVES

Analyze settlement and agricultural adaptation; distinguish object dates from collection dates; compare Dogon and Kemetic astronomical records; synthesize evidence into a historically precise explanation.

DEMONSTRATION OF LEARNING

Cite at least four packet sources in a RACE response, including a Dogon artifact, a geography or livelihood finding, and an astronomical record. Explain relationships and identify one question for further research.

STANDARDS CONNECTIONS

NJSLS Social Studies: 6.2.8.GeoGI.4.a (African geography, opportunities and challenges); 6.2.8.HistoryCC.4.g (achievements and enduring legacies). NJSLS ELA: RI.CR.6.1, RI.CI.6.2, W.AW.6.1, W.IW.6.2, SL.PE.6.1. CCSS/CCLS: RH.6–8.1, RH.6–8.7, RH.6–8.9; WHST.6–8.1, WHST.6–8.9. Grades 9–12: RH.9–10.1, RH.11–12.1; WHST.9–10.1, WHST.11–12.1.

Interdisciplinary: geography, history, astronomy, mathematics, visual arts, and information literacy. Amistad connection: African intellectual contributions, cultural agency, and the effects of colonial power on historical representation.

All readings are sourced factual summaries or explicitly labeled analysis. No fictional dialogue or reconstructed events. Bracketed numbers refer to the references on page 9.

DAY 1 | LANDSCAPE AND COMMUNITY

Objective: Explain how place and diversity shape historical interpretation.

DOL: Use two geographic details and one language finding in an explanation.

DO NOW: How might a steep landscape offer both protection and practical difficulties?

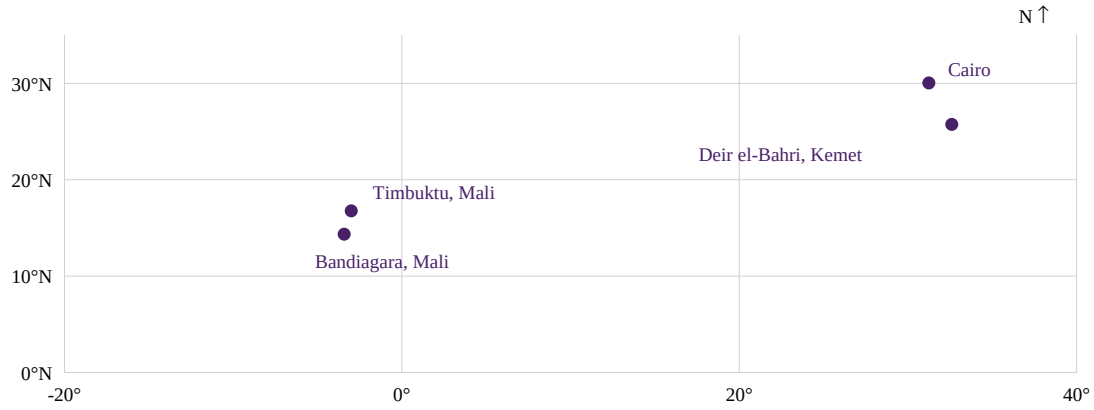
SOURCE A | Landscape, migration, and language

Dogon country centers on the Bandiagara plateau, escarpment, and adjoining plains in Mali. UNESCO describes a cultural landscape in which settlement and architecture respond to a demanding environment. Granaries store food; family compounds and shrines connect built space with community life. [1]

Dogon oral histories describe migrations, often from Mande. The Menil Collection places successive settlement waves between the thirteenth and fifteenth centuries and describes interaction with earlier inhabitants. Such date ranges describe a process, not a single arrival shared by every village. [3]

Linguist Jeffrey Heath identifies approximately eighty locally named varieties grouped into about twenty languages. He describes older villages on slopes or near cliffs and later movement toward plains. A shared regional identity therefore exists alongside substantial linguistic diversity. [2]

LOCATOR MAP | SELECTED AFRICAN PLACES



Coordinate locator, approximate city positions. Grid: latitude/longitude in degrees. It shows relative location, not historical borders or migration routes. Map orientation: north up.