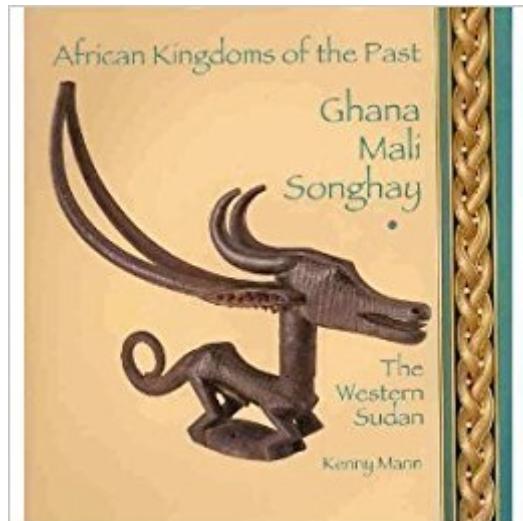


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Ghana Mali Songhay: The Western Sudan (African Kingdoms Of The Past)



Synopsis

Book by Mann, Kenny

Book Information

Series: African Kingdoms of the Past

Hardcover: 108 pages

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Customer Reviews

Grade 4-8?This eloquently written book opens with a retelling of the West African legend of the fearless warrior Amadou Sefedokote, who slew the sacred serpent Ouagadou-Bida and rescued the beautiful Sia from sacrificial death. The focus then shifts to the rise and fall of the once powerful empires of Ghana, Mali, and Songhay. An intriguing sidelight is the additional information provided on the beginnings of Islam; its spread and impact in West Africa; and background information on its founder, Mohammed. The Mandinka Empire of Mali and its kings, Sundiata and Mansa Musa, and the Songhay Empire and its kings, Sunni Ali Ber and Askia Mohammed Toure, are also discussed. The epilogue mentions how Europeans, lured by the news of gold, came to West Africa and ended up in the slave trade. The McKissacks' The Royal Kingdoms of Ghana, Mali, and Songhay (Holt, 1995) provides more detail and information on the same subjects. Mann's book, with its more enticing and accessible format, many excellent full-color and black-and-white photographs, and African decorative motifs, is an excellent companion to that title.?Gebregeorgis Yohannes, San Francisco Public Library, Copyright 1996 Reed Business Information, Inc.

Looking for more material in this area of study. A Harvard Professor I knew taught us this material in Grade School and this topic shall be delved into deeper by future scholars.

beautiful pictures

I am a homeschooler who is constantly looking for books to teach about African History. This is the best reference I have found to date on Ancient to old kingdoms in Africa. This is part of a six part series on the past kingdoms of Africa. It is geared for an upper elementary to middle school student. The author is from Kenya and I appreciated the time and justice the author gave to each part of Africa in the 6 total books. You will not be disappointed. I have purchased many books on African History for young people and this is the most through I have found. The books are in color and the book is arranged more like a textbook with inlays and little pop outs within the text. There is excellent art work throughout the book. I like this book because it covers less known kingdoms, and the information is in depth. I have found that many books on African History just repeat the very basic facts and offer no culture or richness, this book does. I highly recommend. I will be incorporating this series of books into our African studies curriculum.

I used this book as the text to give 28 6th Graders an introduction to the wealth of Africa's past--and they hung on every word. The mix of storytelling, political, economic, cultural and religious history served as the basis for several lively student presentations. In short, my only complaint about this book is the fact that its out-of-print status prevents me from ordering copies by the dozen for next year's class. Publishers--Please get on the ball. With the addition of these African Kingdoms to the Virginia State Standards of Learning, you have an eager market and a product that beats anything else now on the market for this age group.

This book is gorgeously illustrated with lots of graphics taken from authentic textiles and pottery. The legends are written in an easy to read narrative style and take readers from ancient myths through to modern theories on the history of this region. Highly recommended

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