

SECTION  
**3**

# Reading for Understanding

## ▶ Key Ideas

### BEFORE, YOU LEARNED

Nigeria and Ghana have struggled to maintain stable governments and productive economies.

### NOW YOU WILL LEARN

Mali and Côte d'Ivoire are developing countries with lively cultural traditions.

## ▶ Vocabulary

### TERMS & NAMES

**federation** colonies, states, or countries that have joined together

**inflation** a price increase or a fall in the purchasing power of money

**infrastructure** basic services a community needs, such as roads, railroads, water and power lines, schools, and post offices

**millet** a grain raised in West Africa, often made into porridge

### BACKGROUND VOCABULARY

**rig** to influence or fix the results of an election

### REVIEW

**drought** a long period of little or no rainfall

**famine** a severe food shortage



Visual Vocabulary millet

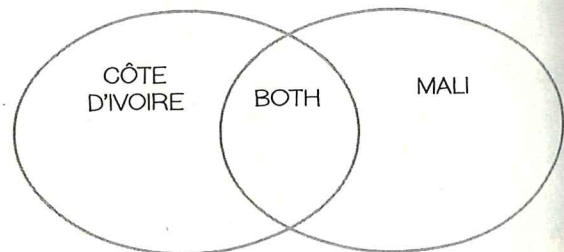
## ▶ Reading Strategy

Re-create the Venn diagram shown at right. As you read and respond to the **KEY QUESTIONS**, use the diagram to compare and contrast information about Mali and Côte d'Ivoire.



Skillbuilder Handbook, page R9

### COMPARE AND CONTRAST



**GRAPHIC ORGANIZERS**

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# Mali and Côte d'Ivoire

## Connecting to Your World

Have you ever worked hard on something, only to feel like you got none of the benefit or credit? Mali produces more gold than any other African country except South Africa and Ghana. But despite Mali's natural wealth, local mining communities keep little of the wealth that their mines produce.

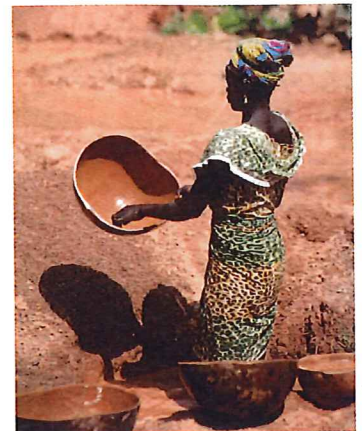


### Mali

**KEY QUESTION** What does Mali's economy rely on?

Mali, located where three powerful African empires once reigned, remains one of the world's poorest countries. Nearly two-thirds of Mali's people live in poverty. Residents of Mali cluster in the basin of the Niger River because most of the country is located within the Sahara.

After overcoming fierce resistance from Africans, France seized a huge territory in West Africa in 1895. This territory included present-day Mali, then called French Sudan. French Sudan joined the Federation of West Africa in 1904. A **federation** is a group of colonies or states with a single government. In 1958, French Sudan won the right to govern itself within the larger French community. In 1960, the Republic of Mali gained full independence from France.



**Panning for Gold**  
Gold helped build the West African trading empires and is a key resource in modern Mali.

**Mud-Brick Mosque**  
Rebuilt in 1907, the mud-brick Great Mosque dominates the ancient trading town of Djenné.



**History Since Independence** This young country has faced many difficulties. During the 1960s, Mali was left in debt as the result of worldwide inflation. **Inflation** means that costs rise and the value of money falls. In the 1970s and 1980s, rainfall shortages caused regional **droughts**. Thousands starved or died of malnutrition from the resulting **famines**. Mali lived under one-party rule or military dictatorship until 1992. That year, Mali adopted a constitution allowing a multiparty system and a democratically elected government.



**Modern Griots** Part musician, part storyteller, part historian, griots play a key role in West African culture.

[Click here](#) to learn more about and see griots today @ [ClassZone.com](#)

**Mali's Daily Life and Culture** Most Malians are Muslims. The others follow traditional African religions or Christianity. French, the official language, is taught in schools, but most people speak African languages. Only a small percentage of Mali's school-age children attend schools, so fewer than half of the country's adults can read and write. Mali also has few doctors to treat many cases of malaria and waterborne illnesses. Buildings in Mali range from modern structures to buildings made of sun-dried mud bricks. The Great Mosque of Djenné, shown on the previous page, is an example of mud-brick architecture.

Despite its poverty, Mali's blend of Muslim cultures in the north and black African cultures in the south produces a rich cultural stew. Griots, or Jelis, as they are called in Mali's Bambara language, are important parts of Mali's culture. A famous musician is Salif Keita, a descendant of ancient Mali's founder, Sundiata. Mali's Malinka and Songhai peoples specialize in music and dancing, while the Bambara and Voltaic groups make fine masks, statues, and stools.

**Economy** Mali faces many challenges. Since it has no coast, it must rely on roads and ports leading to neighboring countries. Most Malians are livestock herders, fishers, or subsistence farmers, but less than four percent of Mali's land is fertile. The inland delta of the Niger River is an important source of fish. Farmers grow millet, rice, and sorghum for their families, or export cotton, peanuts, or sugar cane. However, the country suffers periodic droughts.

Mali has few factories, and the country's **infrastructure**—basic services such as roads and schools—remains undeveloped. Only about ten percent of Mali's roads are paved. Mali has important mineral resources, including gold, salt, and limestone. Gold is its most important mineral export. There are also large deposits of iron, bauxite, and uranium, but they are not significantly mined yet.

 **CATEGORIZE** Describe Mali's economy.

# Worldster

## A Day in Ali's Life

To learn more about Ali and his world, go to the Activity Center @ [ClassZone.com](http://ClassZone.com)

**Hi! My name is Ali.** I'm 12 years old and live in Mali's capital city of Bamako. My city has almost 1.5 million people. My big brother and I share one room, and my parents share our second room with my younger sister. Five other families live in my compound.

To introduce himself, Ali might say:

**“Salut! Je m'appelle Ali.”**



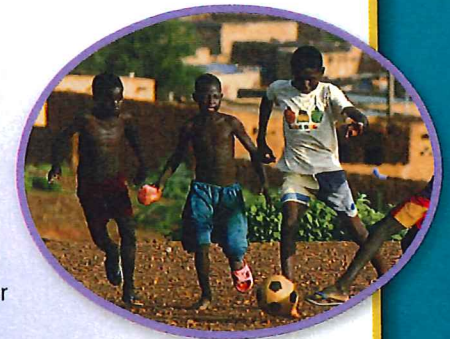
**7 A.M.** It's still dark when I hear my mom cooking outside. For breakfast, we usually eat porridge. Sometimes, we also have beans and coffee. We eat together right outside our rooms.



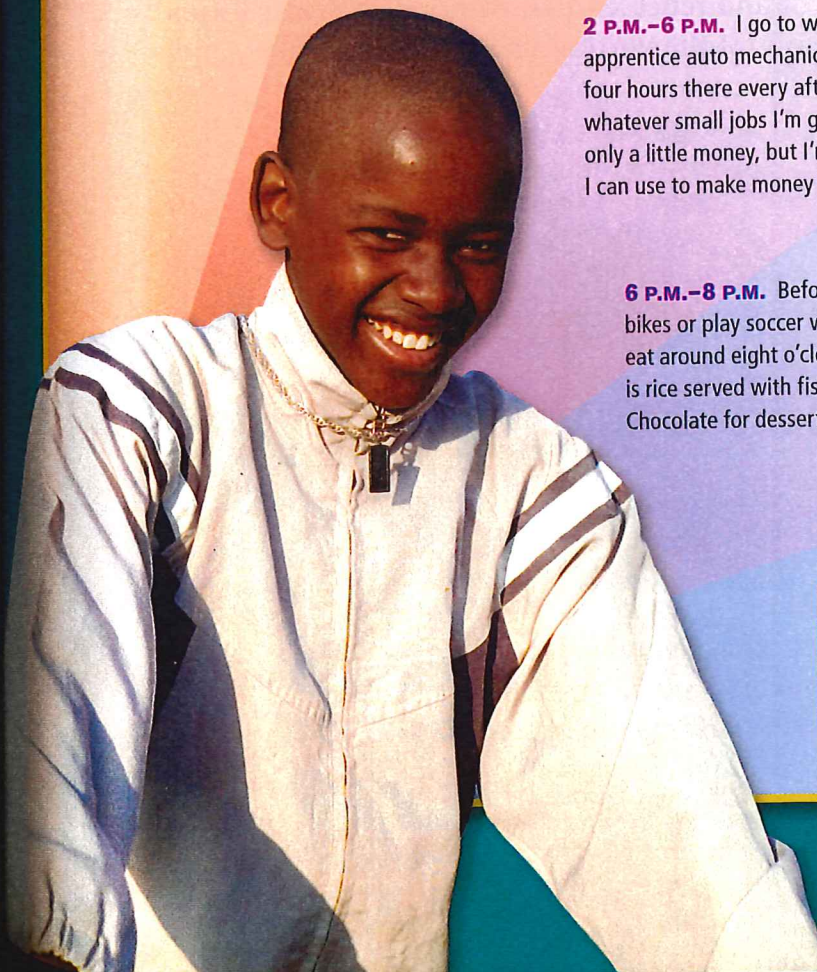
**8 A.M.–12 noon** My seventh-grade class has 85 students—lots more boys than girls. I share a desk and a reading book with two other students. We also learn science, math, and French.



**2 P.M.–6 P.M.** I go to work. I'm an apprentice auto mechanic. I spend about four hours there every afternoon, doing whatever small jobs I'm given. I get paid only a little money, but I'm learning things I can use to make money later.



**6 P.M.–8 P.M.** Before dinner, I ride bikes or play soccer with my friends. We eat around eight o'clock. Our usual dinner is rice served with fish or meat sauce. Chocolate for dessert is a special treat.



### CONNECT to Your Life

**Journal Entry** Think about your school and outside activities. What sort of things are you learning? How are they similar to what Ali is learning? Record your ideas in your journal.

## Fun Facts!

### COCOA

Cocoa is one of Côte d'Ivoire's biggest exports. Cocoa beans are the seeds of the cacao tree. Large pods grow on the trees, ranging from yellow to purple in color. These pods contain 20 to 60 seeds inside a sticky white pulp. The seeds are gathered and processed as cocoa beans.



**Our Lady of Peace** This cathedral in Côte d'Ivoire's capital is the world's largest Christian church.

## Côte d'Ivoire

**KEY QUESTION** How has Côte d'Ivoire's economy suffered in recent years?



Côte d'Ivoire (KOHT dee•vwahr) lies west of Ghana and east of Liberia on Africa's west coast. Like Mali, its northern neighbor, Côte d'Ivoire was once part of French West Africa. In the early 1700s, the French established coastal trading posts in present-day Côte d'Ivoire, exchanging

European goods for ivory and slaves. Later, French colonizers forced West Africans to build roads and railroads, and to toil on cocoa, coffee, and logging plantations. These thriving plantations made Côte d'Ivoire West Africa's wealthiest French colony. The colony won independence from France in 1960, 14 years after the French ended forced labor.

**History Since Independence** Félix Houphouët-Boigny (OOF•WAY BWAH•nyuh), an African doctor, led the independence movement of French West African colonies. He became Côte d'Ivoire's first president in 1960, and held office until he died in 1993. After Houphouët-Boigny's death, political instability hurt Côte d'Ivoire's economy. The military took over the government in 1999. In 2000, a **rigged**, or fixed, election caused mass protest, leading to a three-year civil war. In 2003, a power-sharing government came to office, but occasional violence continued. In 2005, South Africa hosted talks between the Ivoirian government and rebel leaders. Although the war formally ended, rebels still control the northern half of the country.



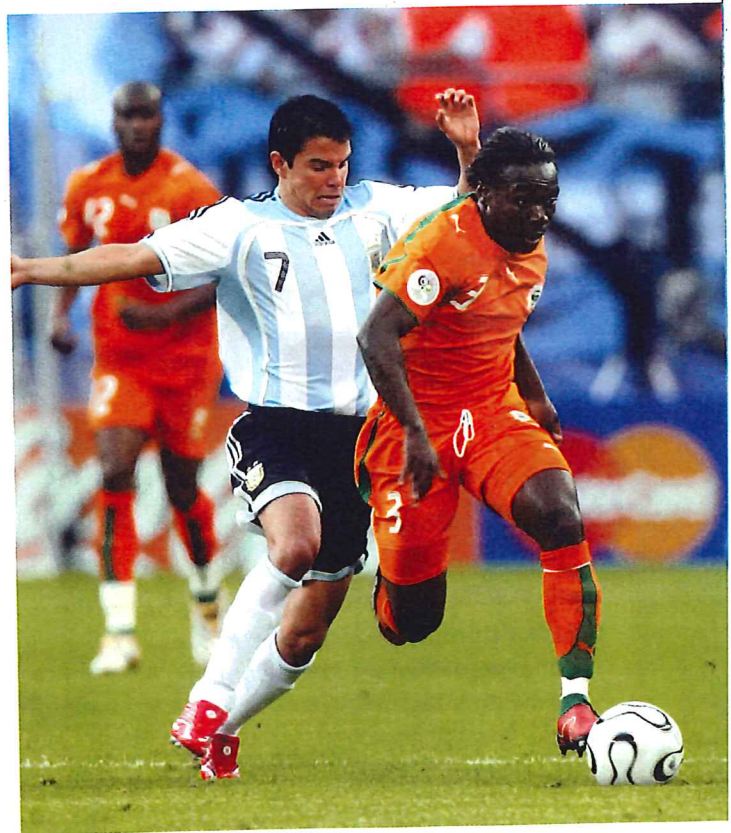
**Government** President Houphouët-Boigny spent millions transforming his hometown, Yamoussoukro (YAH•moo•SOO•kroh), into Côte d'Ivoire's capital. But most business still takes place in Abidjan, the nation's largest city. Under Côte d'Ivoire's constitution, the president is elected by popular vote for a five-year term. He appoints a prime minister, who governs with the aid of a one-house National Assembly. Until 1990, Côte d'Ivoire had a single-party government.

**Economics** Two out of three Ivoirians are farmers, and the country is one of the world's biggest exporters of coffee, cocoa, and palm oil. But Côte d'Ivoire's dependence on a few products means the economy rises or falls with shifting worldwide prices. Continuing warfare threatens profits too. Côte d'Ivoire has offshore oil reserves, which may feed this developing nation's growth. The country's infrastructure is well-developed, with more than 4,000 miles of paved roads, cell phone access, and some Internet availability. Abidjan's seaport is one of the most modern in West Africa.

**Ivoirian Culture and Daily Life** Our Lady of Peace, the world's largest Christian church, dominates the skyline of Côte d'Ivoire's capital. But Christians in the southern regions of the country are outnumbered by Muslims and people following traditional African religions, especially in rural regions and the north. Most Ivoirians belong to the Akan, Kru, Mandes, or Voltaic peoples. Soccer is popular in Côte d'Ivoire. The Elephants, Côte d'Ivoire's national team, surprised the world by qualifying for their first-ever World Cup in 2006. About 25 percent of the population are immigrants, mostly from poorer neighboring countries. French is the country's official language, but most people speak ethnic languages or a common tongue, Dioula. Côte d'Ivoire's literacy rate—over 50 percent—is among the highest in West Africa.

Nearly half of Ivoirians live in cities, and many urban areas have French and Southwest Asian communities. However, the recent civil war led many Europeans to leave the country. There is a large divide in the cities between the poor and wealthier people. Crime has risen because of recent fighting. Côte d'Ivoire had more than 215,000 homeless children in 2004, including 50,000 in Abidjan.

**World Cup** Côte d'Ivoire's national soccer team earned its first World Cup trip in 2006.





**Mask Festival** Yacouba people celebrate the Festival of Ignames, or yams.

Villagers live with extended families in compounds. The compounds are usually dried clay structures with thatched or metal roofs. Ethnic groups govern their villages in different ways; some with councils of elders, some with single chiefs. Trading, herding, and farming are the main activities. Important crops in the region are yams, root vegetables similar to sweet potatoes; and **millet**, a grain often made into porridge.

Ivoirian arts include music, storytelling by griots, and mask-making. The Dan people use masks to symbolize a chief's authority. The popular Festival of Masks is held in Côte d'Ivoire's forest region each November. Other mask ceremonies celebrate harvests. Alpha Blondy, a world-famous Ivoirian musician, blends African and Caribbean sounds in a style called "Afro-reggae." Zouglou is a musical style originating in Abidjan. Sung in French slang and local languages, it is similar to American hip-hop.

**SEQUENCE EVENTS** Explain what led to Côte d'Ivoire's economic struggles.

## Section 3 Assessment

**ONLINE QUIZ**  
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### TERMS & NAMES

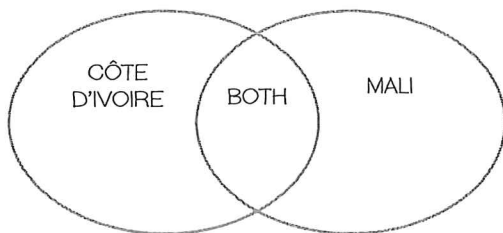
**1. Explain the importance of**

- inflation
- infrastructure
- drought
- famine

### USE YOUR READING NOTES

**2. Draw Conclusions** Use your completed diagram to answer the following question:

Why is Côte d'Ivoire's economy more successful than Mali's?



### KEY IDEAS

3. In what year did both Mali and Côte d'Ivoire win their independence from France?
4. What are Mali's main exports?
5. What natural resource may improve Côte d'Ivoire's economy?

### CRITICAL THINKING

6. **Compare and Contrast** How did Mali's taking the name of an ancient empire differ from Ghana's?
7. **Analyze Cause and Effect** What happened to spark Côte d'Ivoire's civil war?
8. **CONNECT to Today** Tensions remain high between Côte d'Ivoire's government and opposition leaders. What do you think might happen if French and West African peacekeeping troops leave the country?
9. **ART Draw a Mask** Research Bambara masks on the Internet. Copy a picture of your favorite mask and label it to describe its key elements and their symbolic meanings.

## CHAPTER SUMMARY

### Key Idea 1

Colonizers traveled to West Africa, dividing up land once held by great trading empires.

### Key Idea 2

Nigeria and Ghana have struggled to maintain stable governments and productive economies.

### Key Idea 3

Mali and Côte d'Ivoire have a wealth of natural resources, but are two of Africa's poorest countries.

## NAME GAME

Use the Terms & Names list to complete each sentence on paper or online.

- I am an ancient empire as well as a modern country that used to be known as the Gold Coast. Ghana
- I led the Mali Empire in the 14th century. \_\_\_\_\_
- I am perfectly equipped for desert travel. \_\_\_\_\_
- I am an ancient empire, whose main city was Timbuktu, as well as a modern West African country. \_\_\_\_\_
- I am a region of Nigeria that broke away in a civil war in 1967. \_\_\_\_\_
- I was modern Ghana's first president. \_\_\_\_\_
- I am used by the Ashanti people to make clothing for religious ceremonies. \_\_\_\_\_
- I am a nation's roads, bridges, schools, and post offices. \_\_\_\_\_
- I am rising prices or a fall in the value of money. \_\_\_\_\_
- I am a collection of states, colonies, or countries. \_\_\_\_\_

Biafra  
camel  
federation  
Ghana  
Igbo  
imperialism  
inflation  
infrastructure  
Kente cloth  
Mali  
Mansa Musa  
Kwame Nkrumah  
Songhai  
subsistence  
trans-Saharan  
Yoruba

 For Review and Study Notes, go to [Interactive Review @ClassZone.com](#)

## Activities

### GeoGame

Use this map to reinforce your knowledge of West African geography. Drag and drop each name in the list to its location on the map.



**Geo GAME**

West Africa

Ghana  
Mali  
Côte d'Ivoire  
Bamako  
Abuja

Abuja



To play the complete game, go to [Interactive Review @ClassZone.com](#)

### Crossword Puzzle

Complete an online crossword puzzle to test your knowledge of the region.

#### ACROSS

- a woven ceremonial fabric from Ghana





## VOCABULARY

Explain the significance of each of the following.

1. Songhai
2. federation
3. infrastructure
4. imperialism
5. Ghana
6. Kente cloth
7. coup
8. Kwame Nkrumah



Explain how the terms and names in each group are related.

9. trans-Saharan, Ghana, and Mali
10. coup, Igbo, and Biafra

## KEY IDEAS

### 1 Three Trading Empires

11. Why is Askia Muhammad known as Askia the Great?
12. Which European countries first explored Africa?
13. Which West African country remained free in the era of European imperialism?
14. What effect did World War II have on the African struggle for independence?

### 2 Nigeria and Ghana

15. What is the official language of Nigeria and Ghana?
16. Which African nation is the continent's most populous country?
17. What Nigerian art form inspired Western painters?
18. Why did the Gold Coast choose the ancient name of Ghana?

### 3 Mali and Côte d'Ivoire

19. What difficulties has Mali faced since independence?
20. In what year did Mali get its first democratic government?
21. What made Côte d'Ivoire the wealthiest colony in French West Africa?
22. What are Côte d'Ivoire's main exports?

## CRITICAL THINKING

23. **Compare and Contrast** Create a chart to compare and contrast Ghana and Mali. Show their dates of independence, major products or industries, and chief challenges.

	GHANA	MALI
challenges		

24. **Make Predictions** What factors could affect Côte d'Ivoire's economy in the future?
25. **Connect to Economics** Which West African country would you predict will have the greatest economic success in the coming years? Why?
26. **Five Themes: Region** In Nigeria and Côte d'Ivoire, why does Islam dominate in northern regions, while Christianity and African religions prevail in the south or along the coast?
27. **Connect Geography & Culture** What makes Mali a cultural crossroads?

## Answer the ESSENTIAL QUESTION

### How have centuries of colonialism affected West Africa?

**Written Response** Write a two- or three-paragraph response to the Essential Question. Be sure to consider the key ideas of each section. Use the rubric below to guide your thinking.

#### Response Rubric

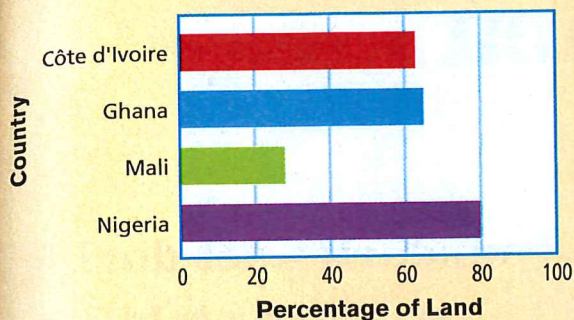
A strong response will:

- summarize colonialism in West Africa
- note colonialism's lingering effects on industry, ethnic conflict, and government corruption
- explain how concentration on a single crop or resource benefited colonizers, not Africans

- Online Test Practice @ [ClassZone.com](http://ClassZone.com)
- Test-Taking Strategies and Practice at the front of this book

**BAR GRAPH**

Use the bar graph and your knowledge of geography to answer questions 1 and 2.

**Agricultural Land in Selected Countries**

Source: The World Bank World Development Indicators

- Which nation has the highest percentage of agricultural land?
  - Côte d'Ivoire
  - Ghana
  - Mali
  - Nigeria
- Why might Mali have such a low percentage of agricultural land?
  - because Mali is landlocked
  - because Mali's economy is more focused on industry
  - because the northern part of Mali is in the Sahara
  - because Mali has no rivers for irrigation

**PRIMARY SOURCE**

Nigerian author Chinua Achebe gained fame for *Things Fall Apart*, his novel about Nigeria under colonial rule. In this passage, he discusses why his book is read worldwide. Use the passage to answer questions 3 and 4.

I knew I had a story, but how it fit into the story of the world—I really had no sense of that. Its meaning for my Igbo people was clear to me, but I didn't know how other people elsewhere would respond to it. Did it have any meaning or resonance for them? I realized it did when . . . the whole class of a girls' college in South Korea wrote to me and each one expressed an opinion about the book. And then I learned something, which was that they had a history that was similar to the story of *Things Fall Apart*—the history of colonization.

Source: Chinua Achebe, interview in *Atlantic Monthly*, August 2, 2000

- Why might people from other countries relate to Achebe's novel?
- What can you infer about Achebe's reaction to the book's success?

**GeoActivity****1. INTERDISCIPLINARY ACTIVITY-SCIENCE**

With a small group, research malaria and the waterborne illnesses that plague much of West Africa. Make a brief oral presentation to your class, describing preventive measures.

**2. WRITING FOR SOCIAL STUDIES**

Research the beginnings of Pan-Africanism. Write a short essay on how the movement for freedom in Africa was related to the struggle for African-American civil rights.

**3. MENTAL MAPPING**

Create an outline map of West Africa and label the following:

- Atlantic Ocean
- Ghana
- Accra
- Nigeria
- Abuja
- Lagos
- Côte d'Ivoire
- Yamoussoukro
- Mali
- Bamako