

ANSWERS



Mali is a country in the west of Africa. It is one of the poorest countries in the world. 65% of its land area is desert or something similar. There were several long droughts there over the last hundred years. Therefore, most economic activity is near the Niger River. About 10% of the people are nomads and 80% of workers have jobs in farming and fishing. Industry is mainly to process farm products. Women also do pottery and the pots are bought and taken to markets. Many foreign tourists like the traditional methods which the women use to make the pots. Mali's main export is cotton, so if the price of cotton changes, Mali's economy is affected a lot. Mali also receives a lot of financial help from other countries. In 1997, the International Monetary Fund (IMF) recommended a programme for changing the economy and the government followed this. Several international companies started digging for larger amounts of gold in 1996-1998, and the government thinks that Mali will become an important gold exporter soon.

Source: wikipedia

Watch the video about a Mali community. You will have to talk about what you have seen so answer the following questions which will help you in your summary.

1. How long has the mine been working? **10 centuries (since the eleventh century)**
2. What kind of mine is it? **A salt mine.**
3. How does the man working in the mine feel? **He has sores and his arms and legs hurt but there are no doctors so there is nothing that can be done.**
4. How do they carry the salt tablets? **They load them on camels.**
5. Where do they take the tablets and how long does it take them to get there? **Timboctou, 14 days.**
6. How is the desert described? **An absolute sea of sand.**
7. How do they orientate in the desert? **They read the direction of the stars and use the orientation of the sand dunes and tracings in the sand that mark the direction of prevailing winds.**
8. While in the desert, how do they get water? **From the wells.**
9. How does rain affect the salt? **It causes it to break if it has not been allowed to dry.**
10. What do they do after they unload the salt? **Come back to Taudeni through the desert.**