



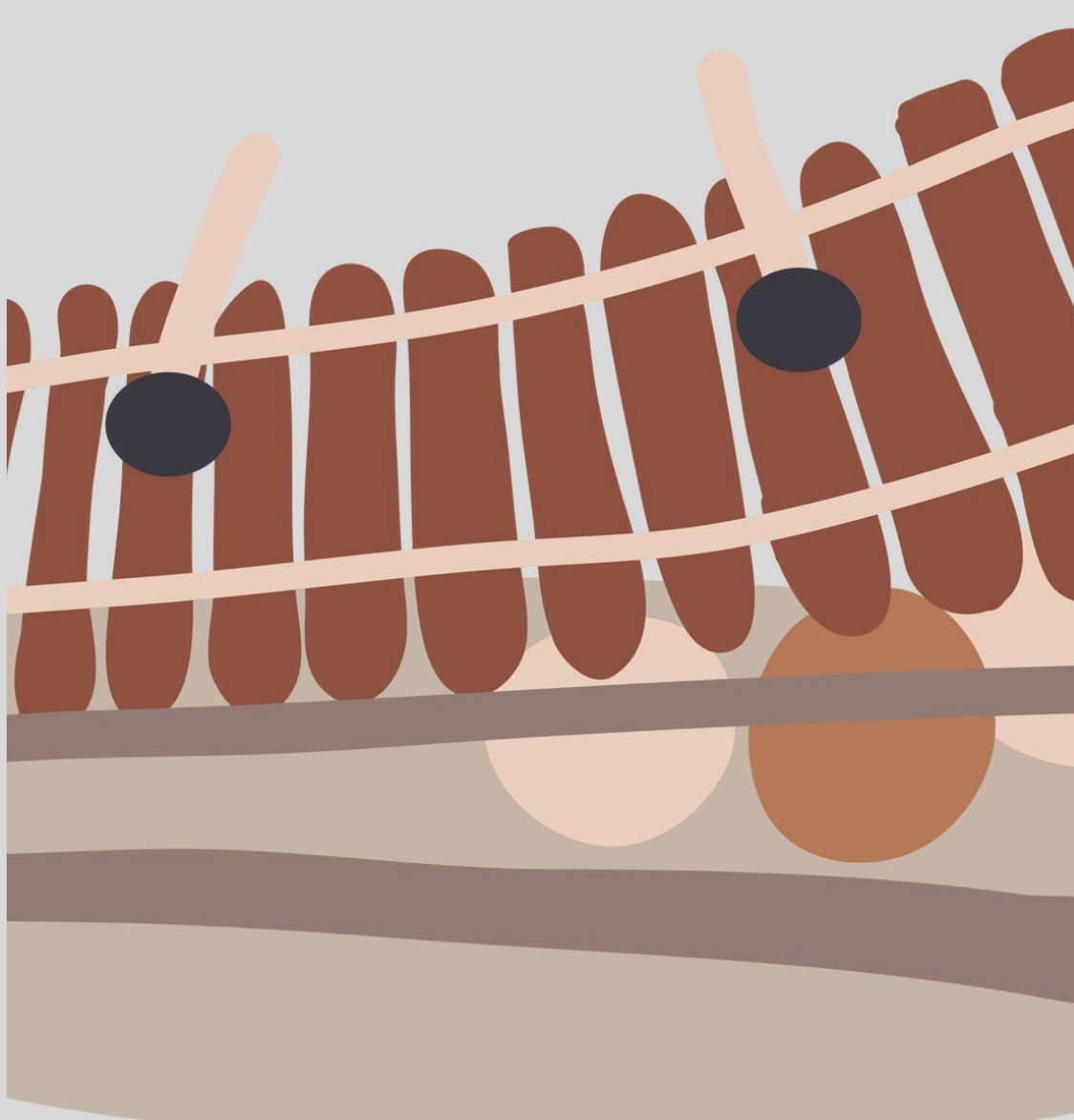
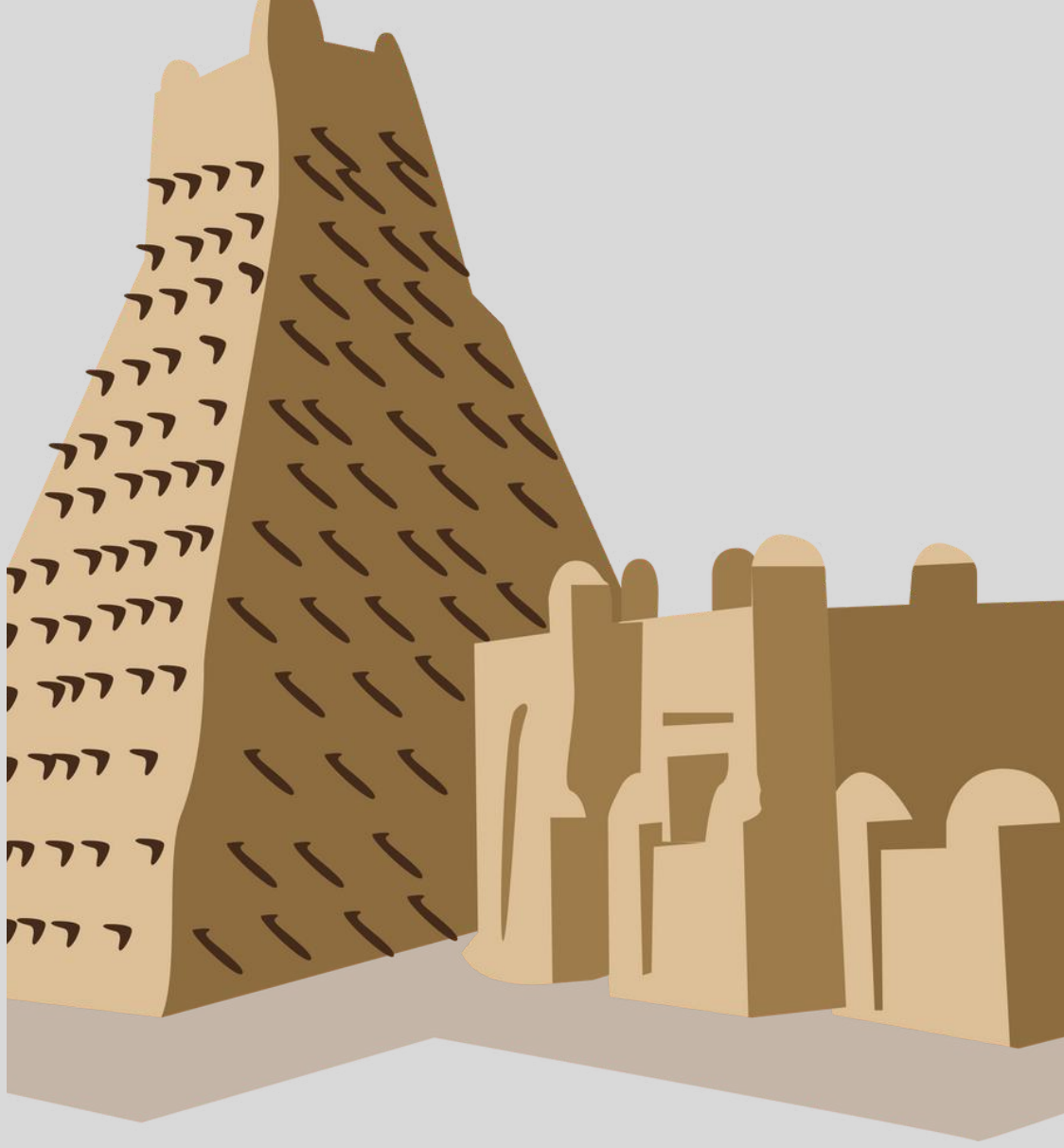
very
puzzled

MALI JIGSAW PUZZLE GUIDE

CONTAINING BIOGRAPHIES OF THE
PEOPLE FEATURED ON THE MALI
MAP JIGSAW PUZZLE

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Welcome to

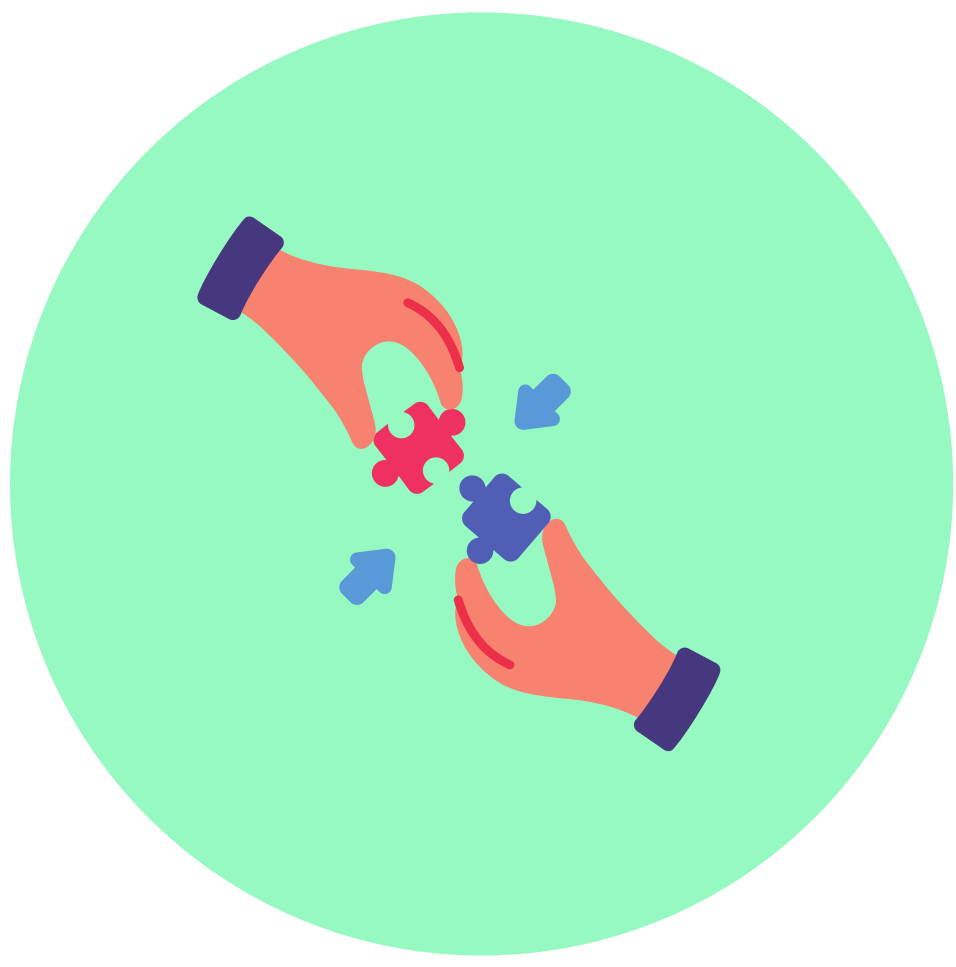
YOUR GUIDE

Mali is a landlocked country in West Africa. Mali is the eighth-largest country in Africa, with an area of just over 1,240,000 square kilometres. The population of Mali is 19.1 million. One of Mali's most prominent natural resources is gold, and the country is the third largest producer of gold on the African continent.

Mali has many notable citizens that include Amadou & Mariam, Yambo Ouologuem, Fatoumata Diawara, Mansa Musa, Salif Keita, Modibo Keita as well as many others.

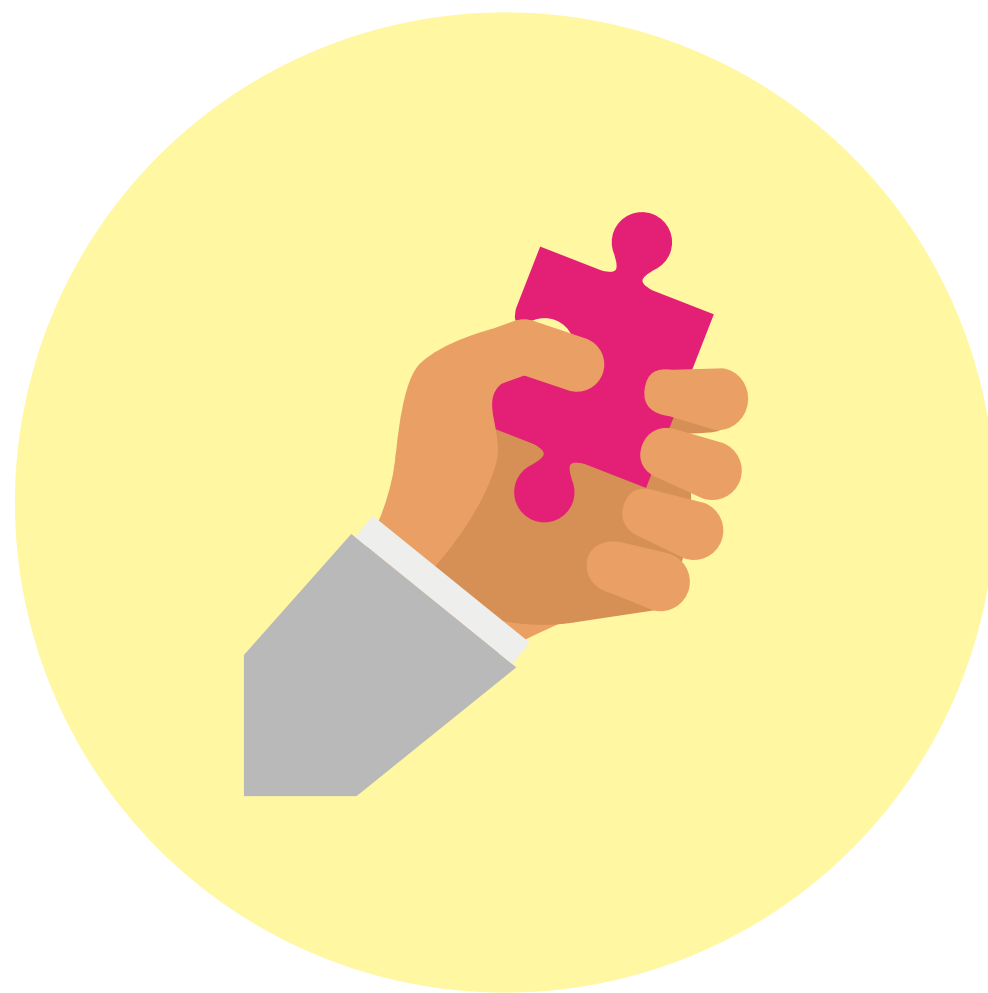
The Very Puzzled Mali map jigsaw puzzle consists of 100 pieces and each region of Mali is represented with a variety of landmarks, monuments and attractions it will provide endless fun and topics of discussion that can be used as fun way to learn for both children and adults.

THE BENEFITS OF JIGSAW PUZZLES



HAND-EYE COORDINATION

Your child will develop a keen relationship between what their eyes see, what their hands do and what their brain relates to this information.



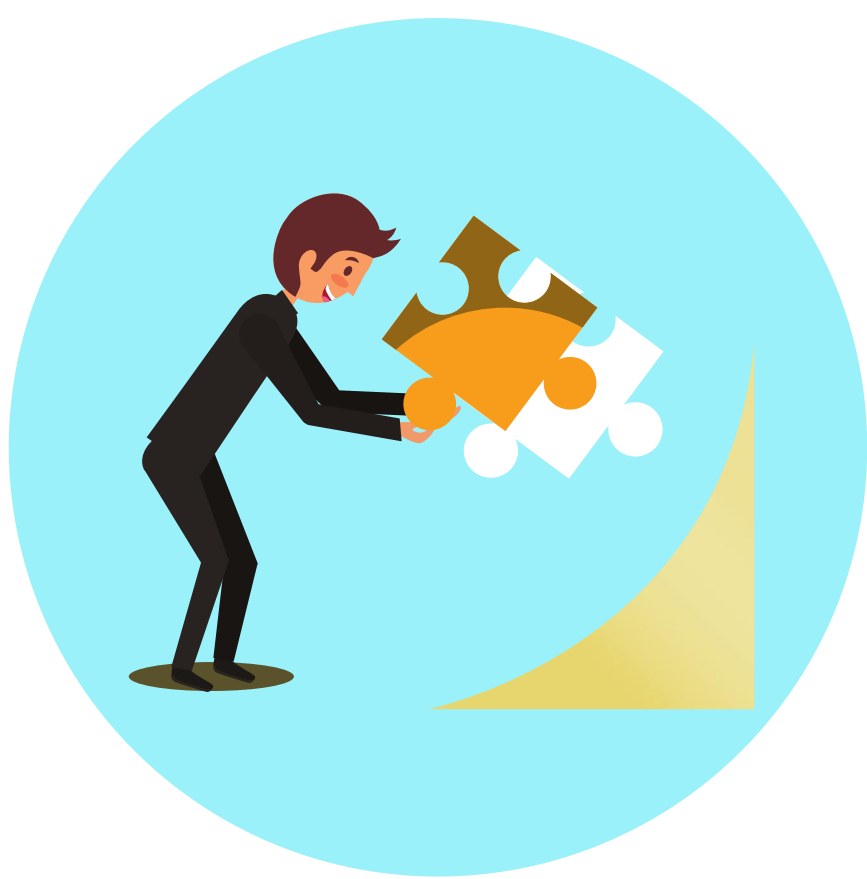
MOTOR SKILLS

Larger puzzle pieces and stacking puzzle games can enhance the large movements of your child to the point where they can then work on their fine motor skills.



UNDERSTANDING THE WORLD

There is no better way for your child to gain an understanding of the world around them than by letting them literally manipulate the world around them.



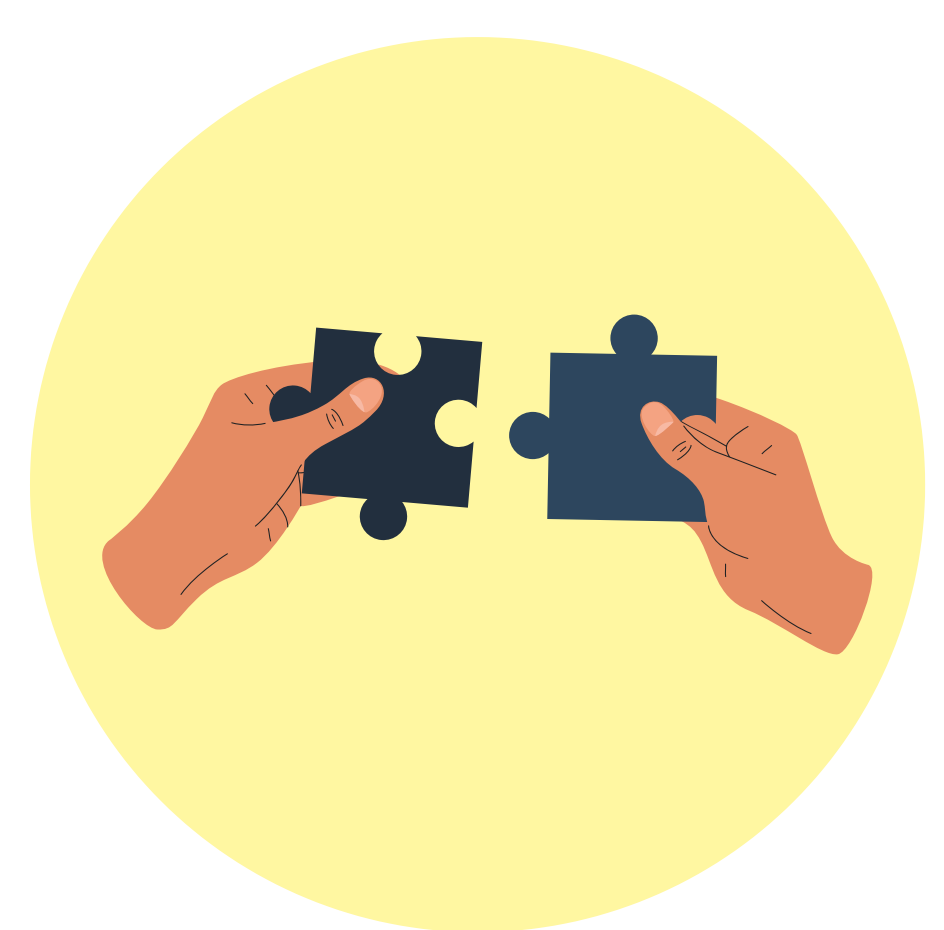
SHAPE RECOGNITION

The first puzzles we use are simple shapes — triangle, squares and circles. From there more complex shapes are used until the abstract jigsaw puzzles are used.



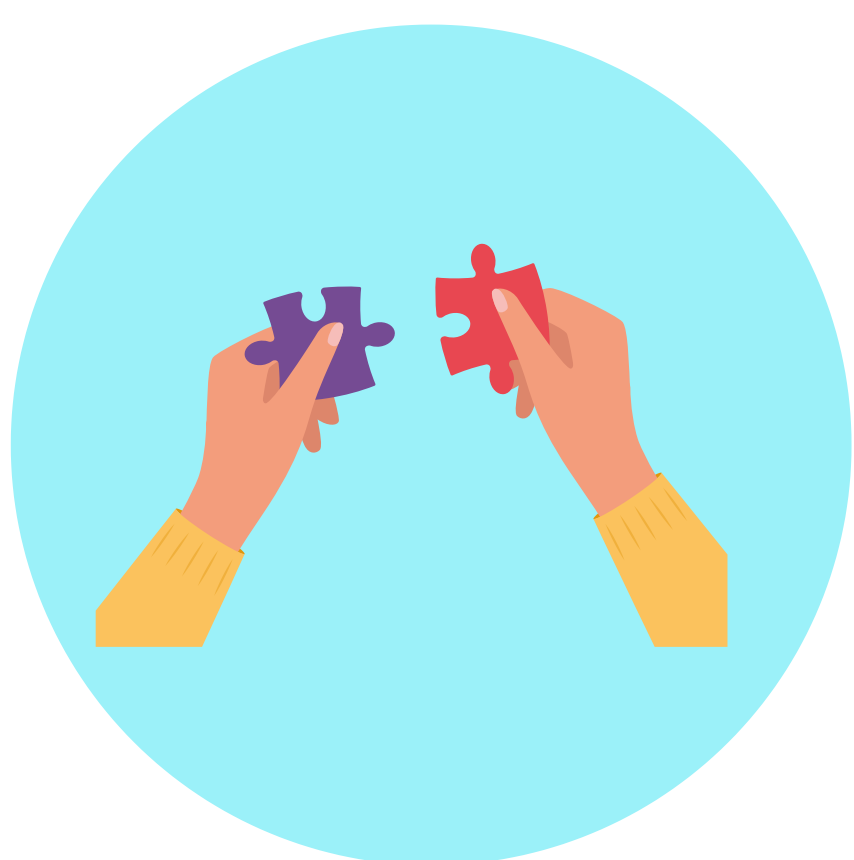
MEMORY

Your child has to remember the shape of pieces that don't fit for when they will fit later on.



PROBLEM SOLVING

Either the puzzle piece fits or it does not. Your child uses critical thinking skills to solve the puzzle and, best of all, you can't cheat a puzzle!



SETTING GOALS

The first goal is to solve the puzzle, the next goal will be a series of strategies your child comes up with to solve the puzzle. Such as putting familiar shapes or colors in one pile for future reference.



PATIENCE

Puzzles are not like sports, you can't just step up to the plate and swing until you knock it out of the park. You must practice patience and slowly work through the puzzle before you reach the ending.

MANSA MUSA

(7 November 1888 – 21 November 1970)

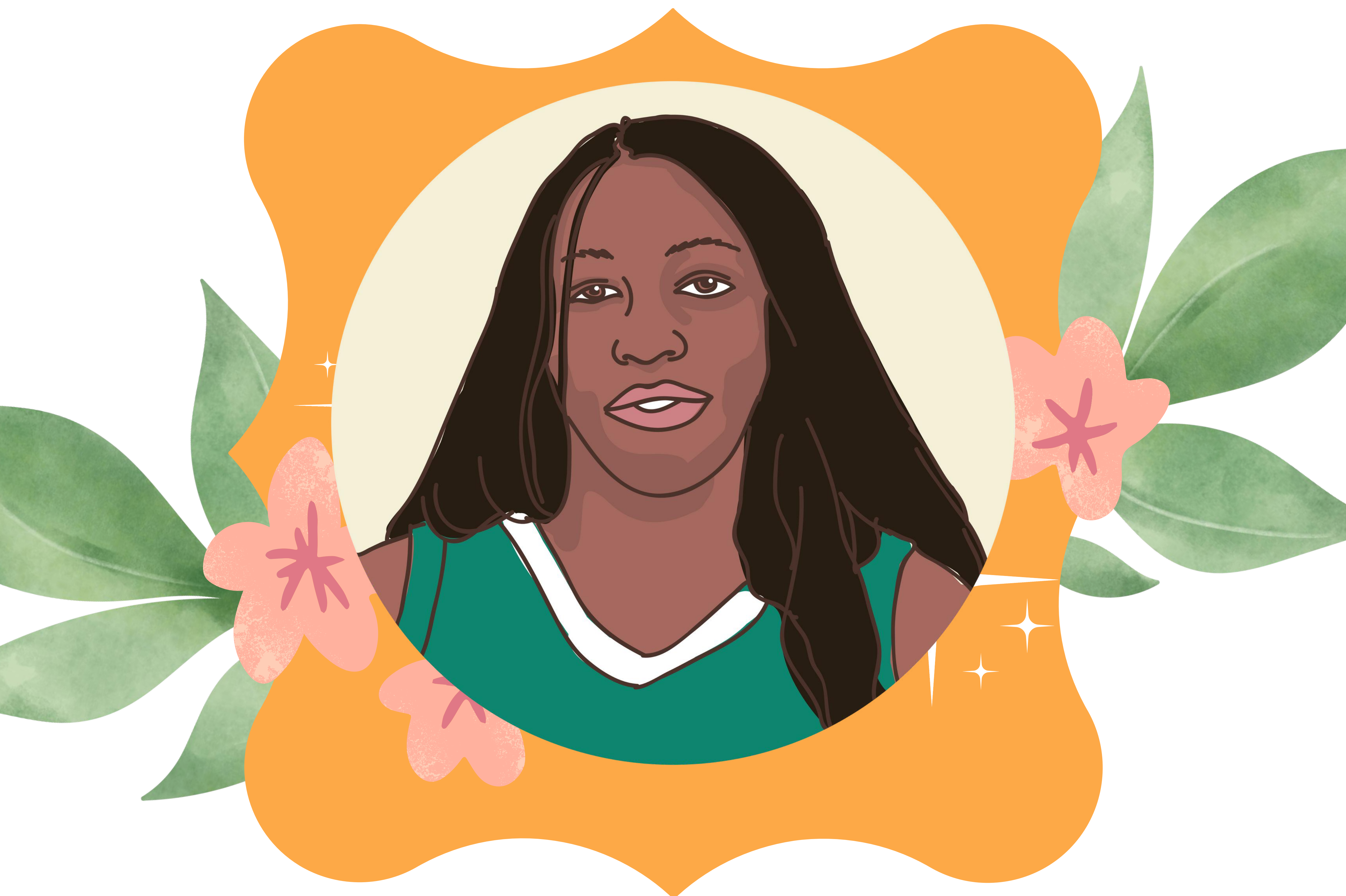


Mansa Musa was the ninth mansa of the Mali Empire, which reached its territorial peak during his reign. Musa is known for his wealth and gift-giving, and has sometimes been called one of the wealthiest people in history, though this claim is difficult to evaluate. At the time of Musa's ascension to the throne, Mali in large part consisted of the territory of the former Ghana Empire, which Mali had conquered. The Mali Empire consisted of land that is now part of Guinea, Senegal, Mauritania, The Gambia and the modern state of Mali. Musa went on hajj to Mecca in 1324, traveling with an enormous entourage and a vast supply of gold. En route, he spent time in Cairo, where his lavish gift-giving is said to have noticeably affected the value of gold in Egypt and garnered the attention of the wider Muslim world.

Musa expanded the borders of the Mali Empire, in particular incorporating the cities of Gao and Timbuktu into its territory. He sought closer ties with the rest of the Muslim world, particularly the Mamluk Sultanate and Marinid Sultanate. He recruited scholars from the wider Muslim world to travel to Mali, such as the Andalusian poet Abu Ishaq al-Sahili, and helped establish Timbuktu as a center of Islamic learning. His reign is associated with numerous construction projects, including part of Djinguereber Mosque in Timbuktu. Musa's reign is often regarded as the zenith of Mali's power and prestige.

HAMCHÉTOU MAÏGA-BA

(25 April 1978)

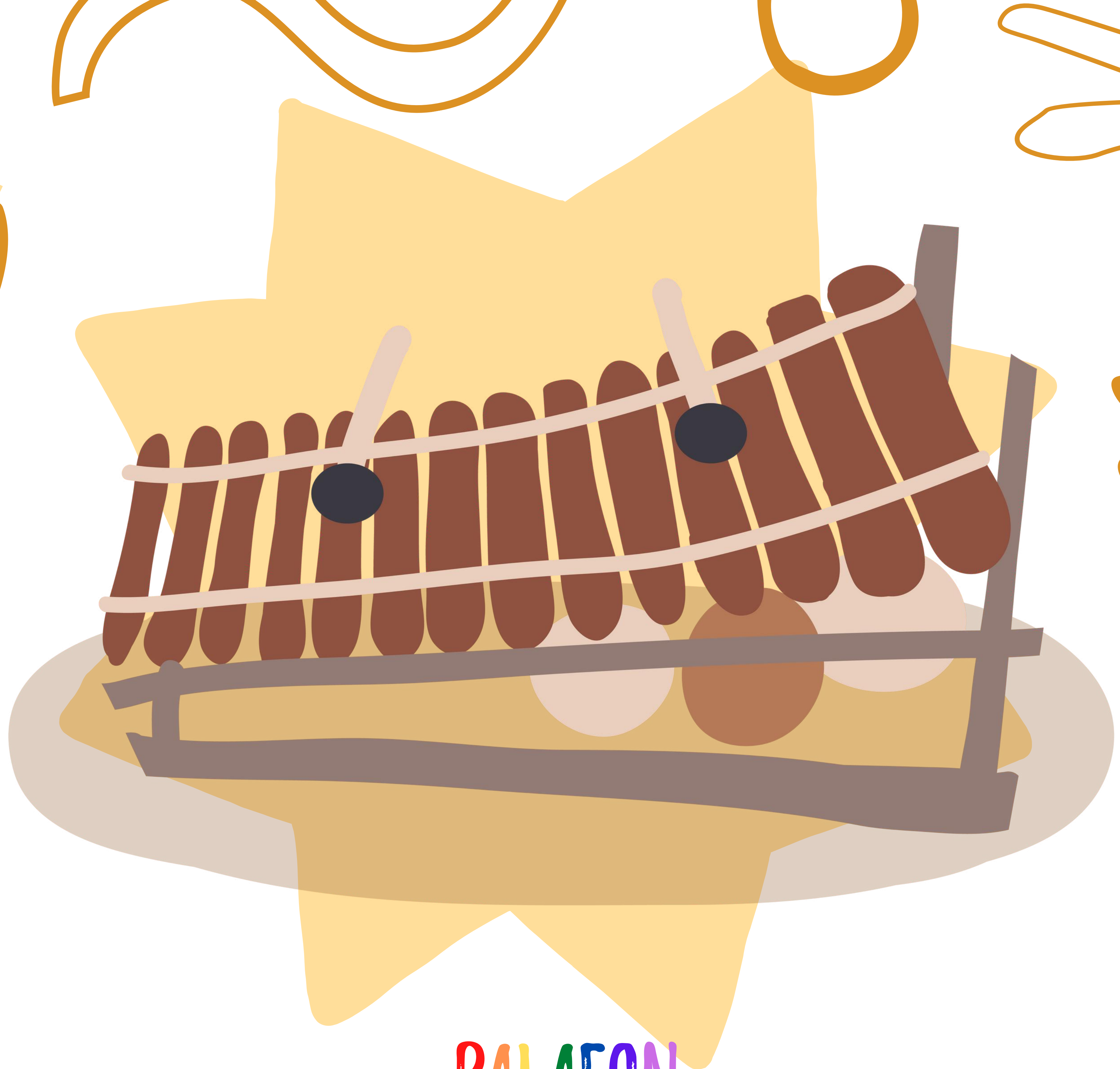


Hamchétou Maïga-Ba is a Malian professional women's basketball player most recently with the Minnesota Lynx of the WNBA. She is also a member of the Mali women's national basketball team.

Maïga was an All-American player her senior year at Old Dominion University, as well as a three time All-Colonial Athletic Association team member. Senior year, she led the team in scoring (13.7 ppg).

Drafted with the 10th overall pick in the 2002 WNBA Draft, Maïga did not start a full season for a WNBA squad until the 2007 season. Starting all 34 games for Houston, Maïga averaged 9.1 points per game, along with 4 rebounds, 2.3 assists and 1.7 steals per game. she was # 25. During the 2008-09 WNBA offseason, she was playing in the Czech Republic with Brno. During the 2009-2010 offseason, she is playing in France with Tarbes GB.

Maïga was the captain of the Mali squad which won the FIBA Africa Championship for Women 2007. By winning the tournament, Mali qualified for the 2008 Summer Olympics. Maïga was the M.V.P. of the tournament.



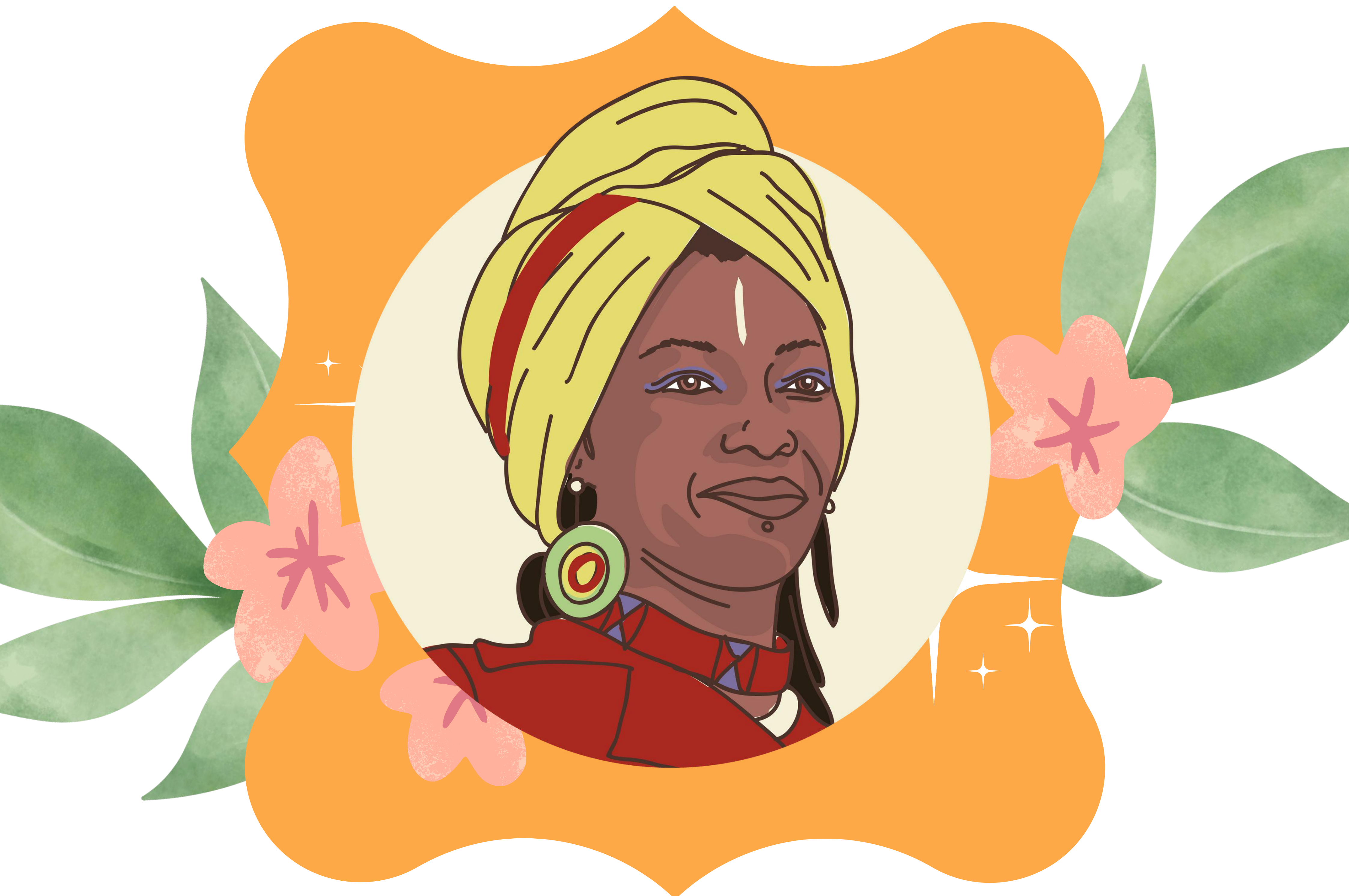
BALAFON

The balafon is a gourd-resonated xylophone, a type of struck idiophone. It is closely associated with the neighbouring Mandé, Senoufo and Gur peoples of West Africa, particularly the Guinean branch of the Mandinka ethnic group, but is now found across West Africa from Guinea to Mali.

Oral histories of the balafon date it to at least the rise of the Mali Empire in the 12th century CE. Balafon is a Manding name.

FATOUMATA DIAWARA

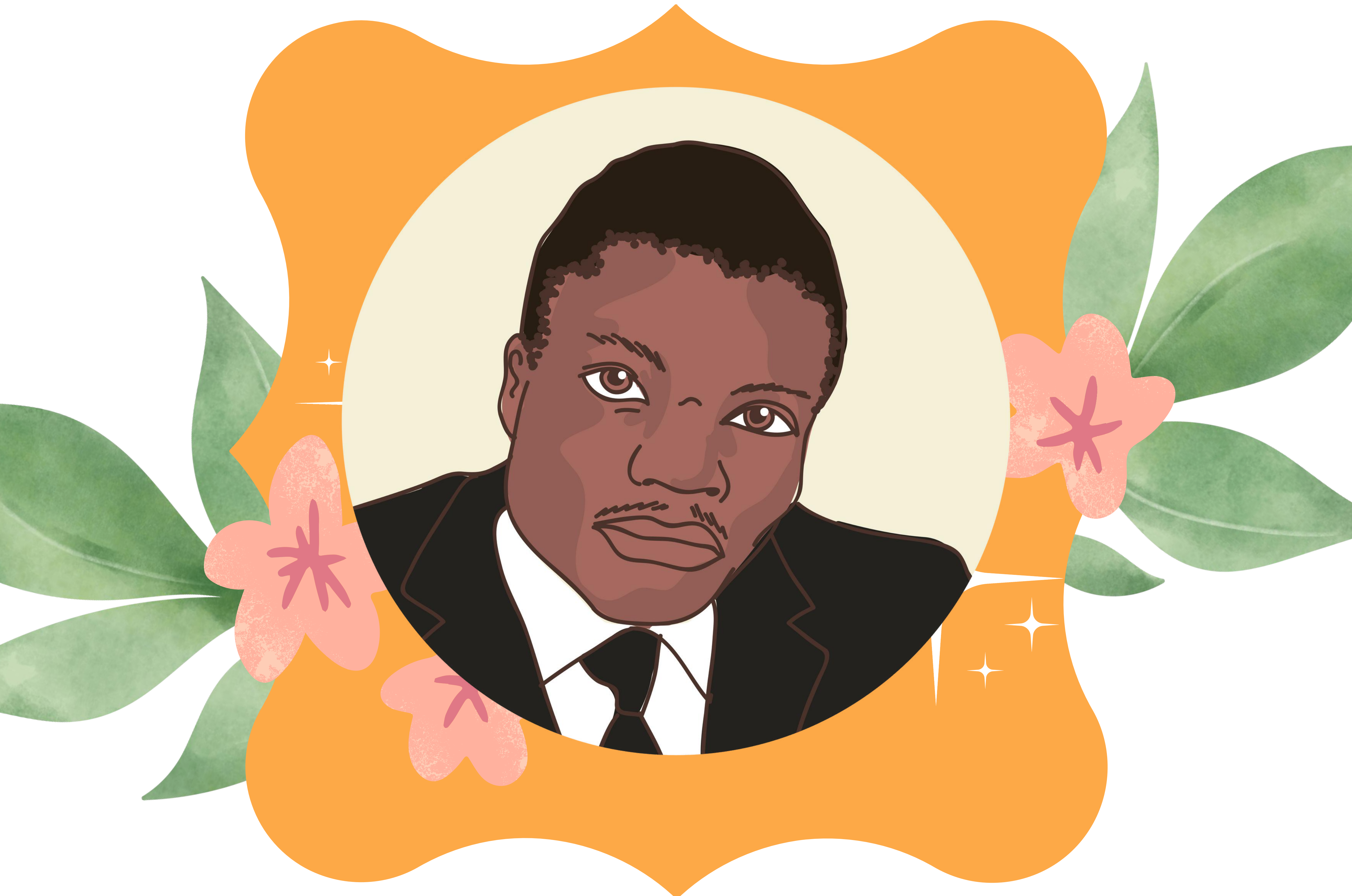
(1982)



Fatoumata Diawara is a Malian singer-songwriter and actress currently living in France. Diawara began her career as an actress in theatre and in film, including *Genesis* (1999), *Sia*, *The Dream of the Python* (2001) and *Timbuktu* (2014). She later launched a career in music, collaborating with numerous artists and releasing three studio albums beginning with 2011 debut *Fatou*. Diawara's music combines traditional Wassoulou with international styles. She received two nominations at the 61st Annual Grammy Awards for Best World Music Album for her album *Fenfo* and Best Dance Recording for "Ultimatum" in which she was featured with the English band Disclosure.

YAMBO OUOLOGUEM

(August 22, 1940 – October 14, 2017)



Yambo Ouologuem was a Malian writer. His first novel, *Le devoir de violence* (English: *Bound to Violence*, 1968), won the Prix Renaudot. He later published *Lettre à la France nègre* (1969), and *Les mille et une bibles du sexe* (1969) under the pseudonym Utto Rodolph. *Le devoir de violence* was initially well-received, but critics later charged that Ouologuem had plagiarized passages from Graham Greene and other established authors. Ouologuem turned away from the Western press as a result of the matter, and remained reclusive for the rest of his life.



GREAT MOSQUE OF DJENNÉ

The Great Mosque of Djenné is a large brick or adobe building in the Sudano-Sahelian architectural style. The mosque is located in the city of Djenné, Mali, on the flood plain of the Bani River. The first mosque on the site was built around the 13th century, but the current structure dates from 1907. As well as being the centre of the community of Djenné, it is one of the most famous landmarks in Africa. Along with the "Old Towns of Djenné" it was designated a World Heritage Site by UNESCO in 1988.

AÏDA MADY DIALLO



Aïda Mady Diallo is a French-born Malian novelist and director. She is the author of the novel *Kouty, mémoire de sang* (2002).

After her childhood in France and receiving a college degree in Uzbekistan, Diallo moved to Mali. Her novel *Kouty, mémoire de sang* (*Kouty, Memories of Blood*), tells the story of a young girl in 1980s Gao seeking the death of her family at the hands of Tuareg killers. In an interview with the magazine *Bamako Culture*, Diallo described the novel as "a call for tolerance and forgiveness." Critic Pim Higginson described it as adapting the tropes of the crime novel and romance novel to critique the fascination of Western readers with African violence.

Diallo's television film *Karim et Doussou*, the story of a contemporary Malian marriage, was nominated for a 2011 Panafrican Film and Television Festival of Ouagadougou (FESPACO) award.

ASKIA MUHAMMAD I

(1443 – 1538)



Askia Muhammad I born Muhammad ibn Abi Bakr al-Turi, was the first ruler of the Askia Dynasty of the Songhai Empire, reigning from 1493 to 1528. Askia Muhammad strengthened his empire and made it the largest empire in West Africa's history. At its peak under his reign, the Songhai Empire encompassed the Hausa states as far as Kano (in present-day Northern Nigeria) and much of the territory that had belonged to the Songhai empire in the east. His policies resulted in a rapid expansion of trade with Europe and Asia, the creation of many schools, and the establishment of Islam as an integral part of the empire.

Muhammad was a prominent general under the Songhai ruler Sunni Ali. When Sunni Ali was succeeded by his son, Sunni Baru, in 1492, Muhammad challenged the succession on the grounds that the new ruler was not a faithful Muslim. He defeated Baru and ascended to the throne in 1493. Ture subsequently orchestrated a program of expansion and consolidation which extended the empire from Taghaza in the North to the borders of Yatenga in the South; and from Air in the Northeast to Futa Djallon in Guinea. Instead of organizing the empire along Islamic lines, he tempered and improved on the traditional model by instituting a system of bureaucratic government unparalleled in Western Africa. In addition, Askia established standardized trade measures and regulations, initiated the policing of trade routes and also established an organized tax system. He was overthrown by his son, Askia Musa, in 1528.



THE BOUCLE DU BAOUÉ NATIONAL PARK

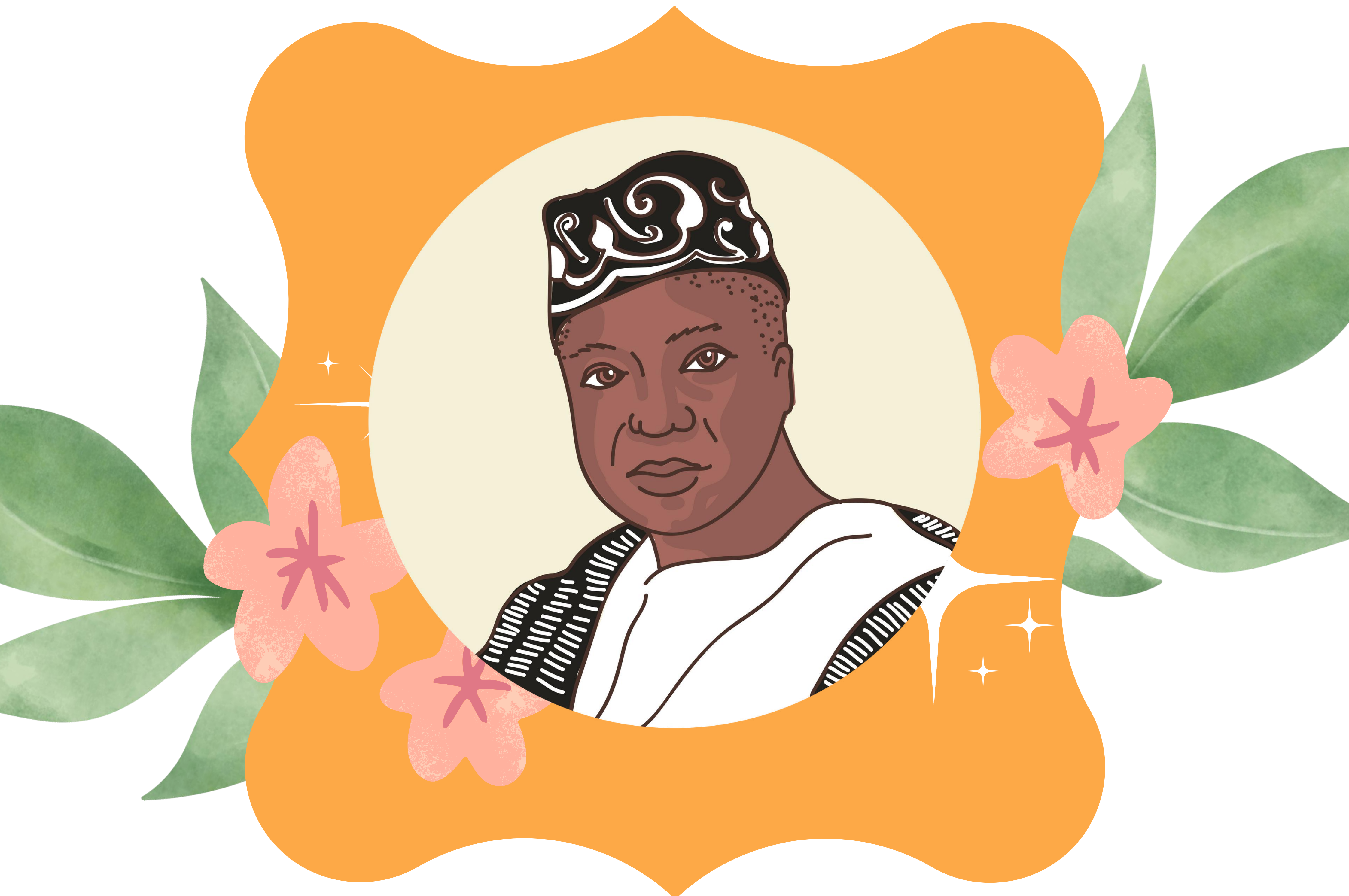
The Boucle du Baoulé National Park lies in western Mali, in Kayes Region and Koulikoro Region, set up in 1982. It has an area of 25,330 km² but has little large wildlife. The park is known for its prehistoric rock art and tombs. It is part of the UNESCO "Boucle Du Baoulé Biosphere Reserve", along with Badinko Faunal Reserve to the southwest, Fina Faunal Reserve to the south, and Kongossambougou Faunal Reserve to the northeast.

Mali is one of the sub-Saharan countries most affected by drought and overgrazing by livestock, putting its ecology and biodiversity under pressure. The Boucle du Baoulé National Park was created to try to address this issue. It is part of a complex which also includes the Badinko Faunal Reserve, the Fina Faunal Reserve, the Kongossambougou Faunal Reserve and the Bossofolo Forest Reserve. These preserved areas consist of desert and semi-desert areas, and include dry, lightly-wooded savannah, riverine forest and thorn scrub. Much of the large animal population in the country occurs in these types of habitat.

This site was added to the UNESCO World Heritage Tentative List on September 8, 1999, as a biosphere reserve in the Cultural category.

MODIBO KEÏTA

(4 June 1915 – 16 May 1977)



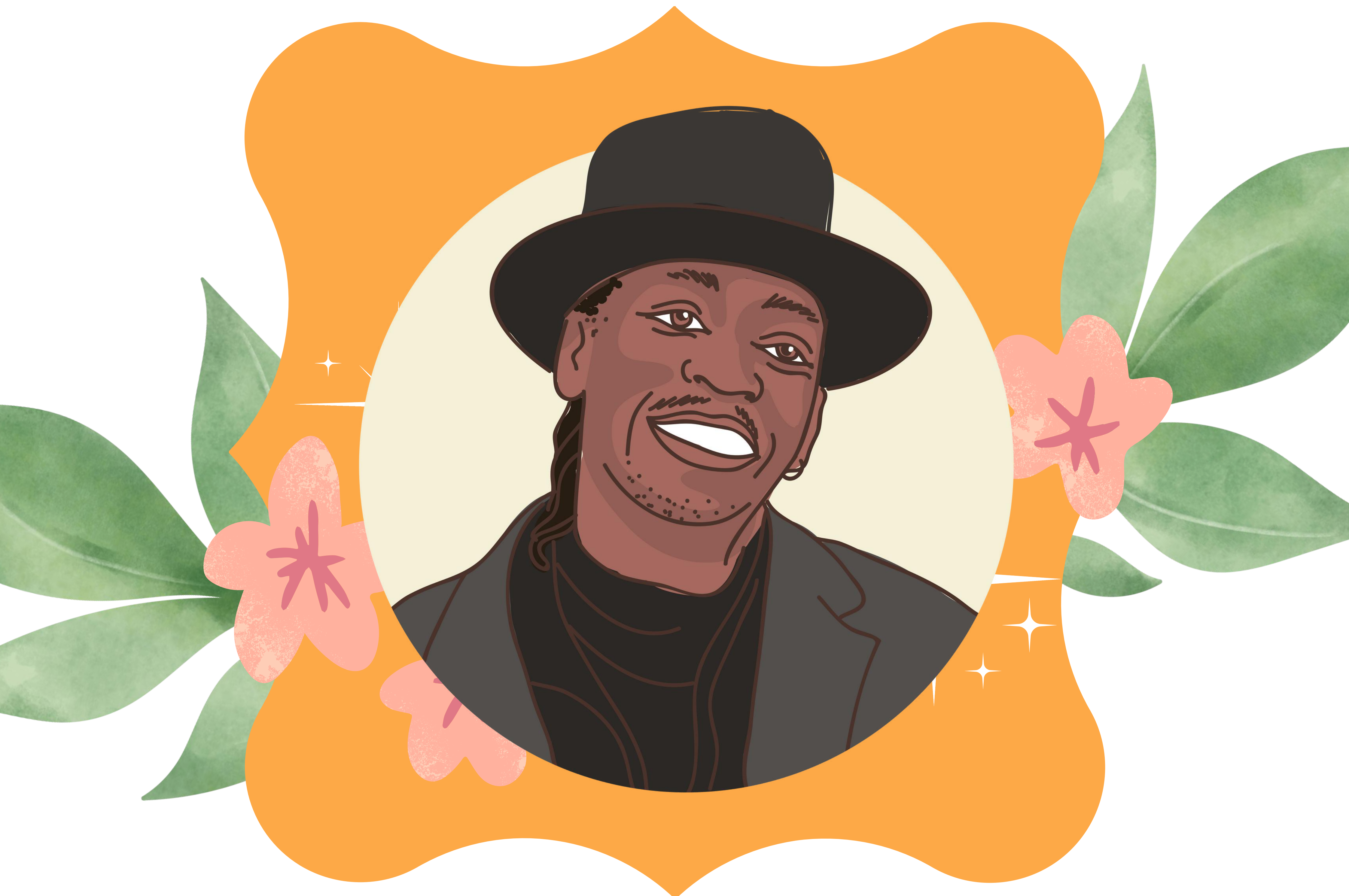
Modibo Keita was the first President of Mali (1960–1968) and the Prime Minister of the Mali Federation. He espoused a form of African socialism.

Modibo Keita devoted his entire life to African unity. He first played a part in the creation of the Federation of Mali with Léopold Sédar Senghor. After its collapse, he moved away from Léopold Sédar Senghor, but with Sékou Touré, the president of Guinea, and Kwame Nkrumah, the President of Ghana, he formed the Union of the States of Western Africa. In 1963, he played an important role in drafting the charter of the Organization of African Unity (OAU).

In 1963, he invited the king of Morocco and the president of Algeria to Bamako, in the hope of ending the Sand War, a frontier conflict between the two nations. Along with Emperor Haile Selassie of Ethiopia, Keita was successful in negotiating the Bamako Accords, which brought an end to the conflict. As a result, he won the Lenin Peace Prize that year. From 1963 to 1966, he normalized relations with the countries of Senegal, Upper Volta and Côte d'Ivoire. An advocate of the Non-Aligned Movement, Modibo defended the nationalist movements like the Algerian National Liberation Front (FLN).

HABIB DEMBÉLÉ

(19 April 1962)



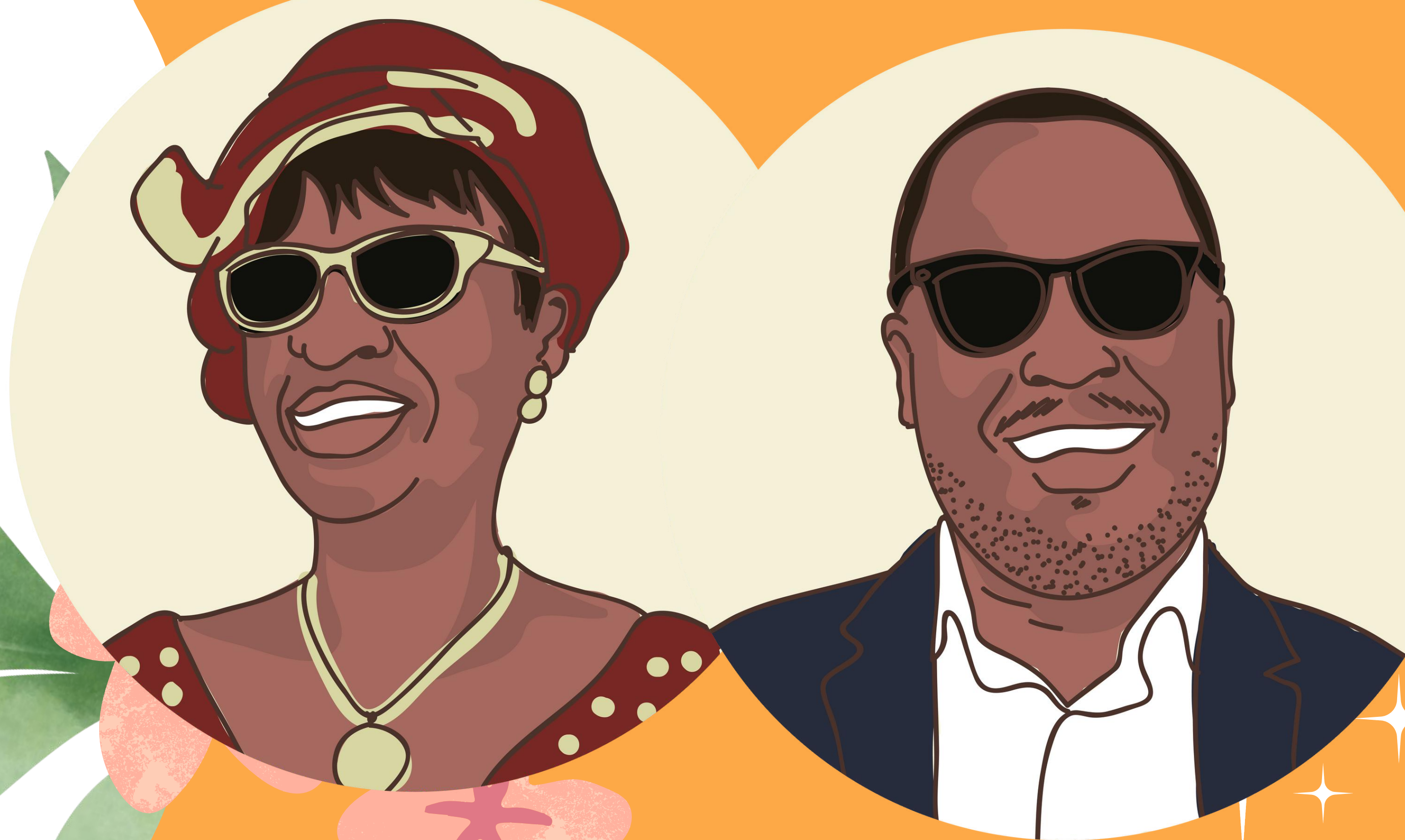
Habib Dembélé is a Malian actor, director, author and a candidate for the Malian Presidential elections of 2002 and 2018. Dembélé attended to Malian Institut National des Arts de Bamako (INA) after a school diploma.

He performs on both stage and screen. He founded the Gouakoulou Company, the Guimba National Company and the Mandenka International Theatre. He received Mali's Best Actor Award in 1984. His theatre credits include *The Strange Destiny of Wangrin*, *Hyène à jeun* and *Waari*. His film credits include *Guimba, le tyran* and *Finzan* (by Cheick Oumar Sissoko), *Filon d'or* (by Sidi Diabaté) and *Macadam Tribu* (by Zeca Laplaine). He was also the assistant director on Cheick Oumar's 1997 film *La genèse*.

Dembélé co-adapted and performed in Sophocles' *Antigone* and his writing credits include plays such as *A vous la nuit*, and a novel *Sacré Kaba*. Dembélé has worked with renowned theatre director Peter Brook in several plays, among them *Tragédie d'Hamlet*, *Tierno Bokar*, and *Sizwe Banzi is Dead*.

AMADOU & MARIAM

(24 October 1954 & 15 April 1958)



Amadou & Mariam are a musical duo from Mali, composed of the Bamako-born couple Amadou Bagayoko (guitar and vocals) and Mariam Doumbia (vocals).

Their album *Welcome To Mali* (2008) was nominated for a Grammy Award for Best Contemporary World Music Album.

Amadou lost his vision at the age of 16, while Mariam became blind at age 5 as a consequence of untreated measles. Known as "the blind couple from Mali", they met at Mali's Institute for the Young Blind, where they both performed at the Institute's Eclipse Orchestra, directed by Idrissa Soumaouro, and found they shared an interest in music.



TIMBUKTU MANUSCRIPTS

Timbuktu Manuscripts is a blanket term for the large number of historically important manuscripts that have been preserved for centuries in private households in Timbuktu, Mali. The collections include manuscripts about art, medicine, philosophy, and science, as well as copies of the Quran. The number of manuscripts in the collections has been estimated as high as 700,000.

The manuscripts are written in Arabic and local languages like Songhay and Tamasheq. The dates of the manuscripts range between the late 13th and the early 20th centuries (i.e., from the Islamisation of the Mali Empire until the decline of traditional education in French Sudan). Their subject matter ranges from scholarly works to short letters.

After the decline of the Mali empire, the manuscripts were kept in the homes of Timbuktu locals, before research and digitisation efforts began in the 20th and 21st century. The manuscripts, and other cultural heritage in Mali, were imperilled during the Mali War, prompting an evacuation effort from Timbuktu to other locations.

ADAME BA KONARÉ

(1 May 1947)

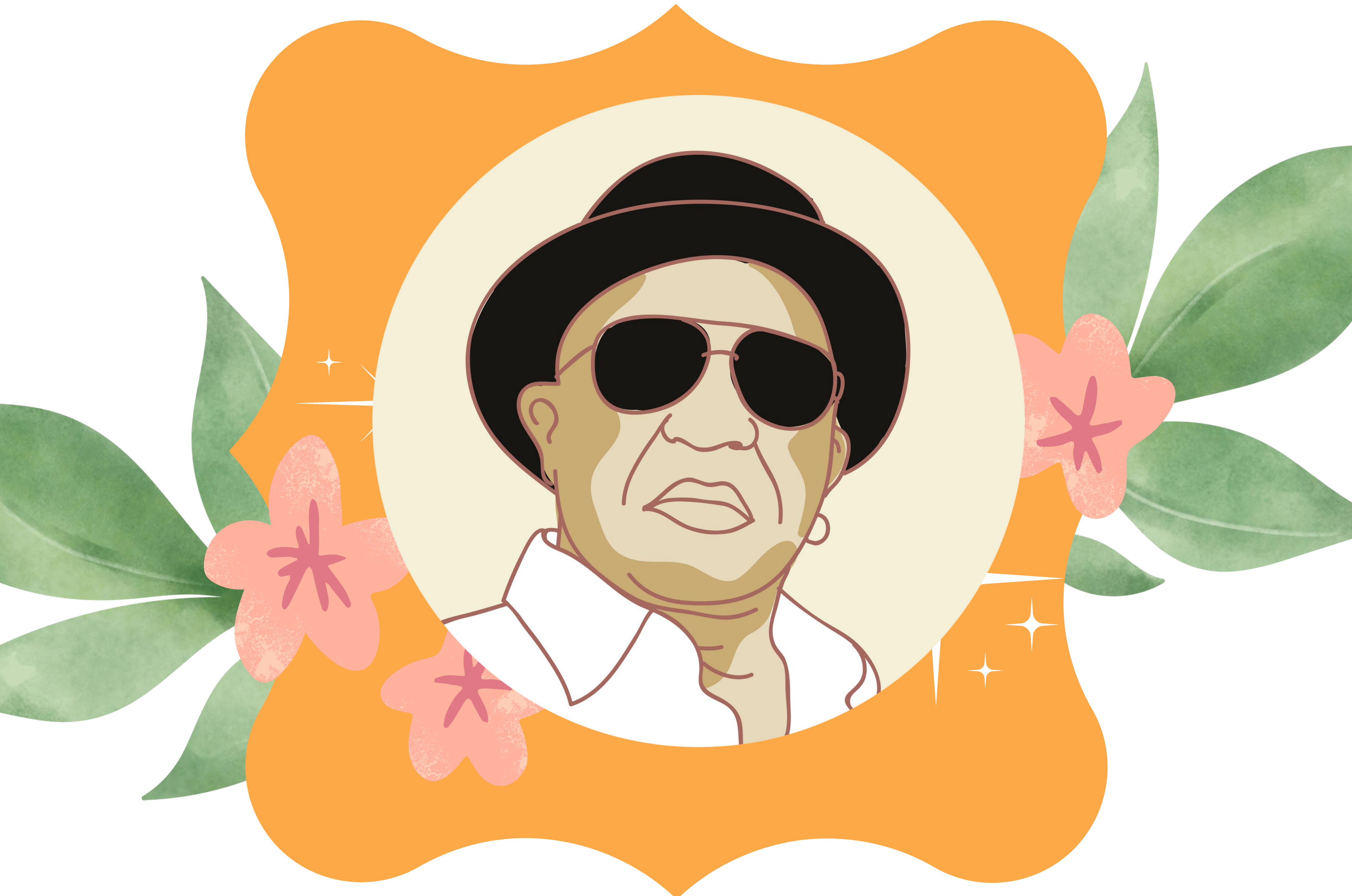


Adame Ba Konaré is a Malian historian and writer who is married to Alpha Oumar Konaré, former President of Mali.[2] She is active in several causes for newborns and refugees.

Adame Ba Konaré was born in Ségou to Marmadou Ba who was a dentist and his wife Kadiatou Thiam. Her parents hailed from a Fula family. She attended the highest education facility, the École Normale Supérieure in Bamako, along with her future husband, Alpha Oumar Konaré. They married on 15 September 1971. Her new husband was employed as a high school teacher but he was to be sent to the University of Warsaw to undertake doctoral research. They both obtained a PhD in History in 1976. She returned to Mali and became a history professor at her alma mata in Bamako.

SALIF KEITA

(25 August 1949)



Salif Keita is a Malian singer-songwriter, referred to as the "Golden Voice of Africa". He is a member of the Keita royal family of Mali.

Salif Keita was born a traditional prince in the village of Djoliba. He was born to the Keita royal family, who trace their lineage to Sundiata Keita, founder of the Mali Empire. He was cast out by his family and ostracized by the community because of his albinism, a sign of bad luck in Mandinka culture. He decided to pursue music in his teenage years, further distancing him from his family as that was against occupational prohibitions of his noble status. In 1967, he left Djoliba for Bamako, where he joined the government-sponsored Super Rail Band de Bamako. In 1973, Keita joined the group Les Ambassadeurs (du Motel de Bamako). Keita and Les Ambassadeurs fled political unrest in Mali during the mid-1970s and subsequently changed the group's name to Les Ambassadeurs Internationaux. The reputation of this band grew internationally in the late-1970s, leading to Keita pursuing a solo career in the following years.



BANDIAGARA ESCARPMENT

The Bandiagara Escarpment is an escarpment in the Dogon country of Mali. The sandstone cliff rises about 500 m (1,600 ft) above the lower sandy flats to the south. It has a length of approximately 150 km (90 mi).

The area of the escarpment is inhabited today by the Dogon people. Before the Dogon, the escarpment was inhabited by the Tellem and Toloy peoples. Many structures remain from the Tellem. The Bandiagara Escarpment was listed in the UNESCO World Heritage List in 1989.

The Cliffs of Bandiagara are a sandstone chain ranging from south to northeast over 200 km (120 mi) and extending to the Grandamia massif. The end of the massif is marked by the Hombori Tondo, Mali's highest peak at 1,155 m (3,789 ft). Because of its archaeological, ethnological and geological characteristics, the entire site is one of the most imposing in West Africa.

DANDARA TOURÉ

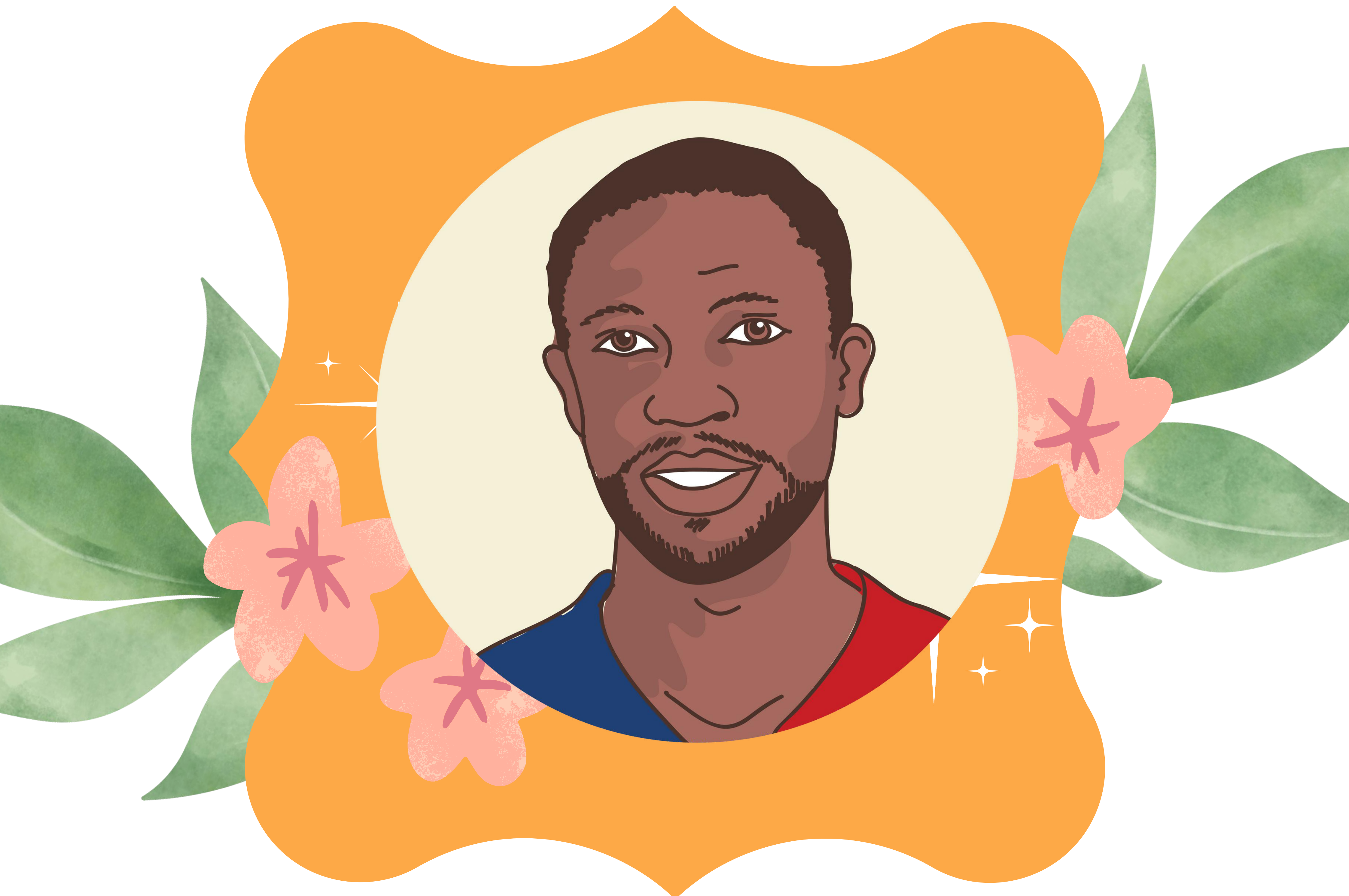
(1 October 1951)



Dandara Touré is a Malian politician. Touré has worked in education and women's rights for many years. She was appointed Minister for the Promotion of Women, Children and the Family in the cabinet of Cissé Mariam Kaïdama Sidibé on 16 February 2012. The 2012 Malian coup d'état meant that she was removed from office just 34 days later. Touré has since campaigned for democratic reforms in the country, opposing changes to the constitution which would have increased the powers of the president.

SEYDOU KEITA

16 January 1980)



Seydou Keita is a Malian former footballer. A versatile midfielder, he operated as both a central or defensive midfielder.

He most notably played for Lens (five seasons) and Barcelona (four), winning 14 titles with the latter club after signing in 2008. He started his youth career in Mali and his professional career with Marseille. His career would take him to clubs in France, Spain, China, Italy and Qatar. Keita represented Mali since the age of 18, appearing in seven Africa Cup of Nations tournaments and winning 102 caps.



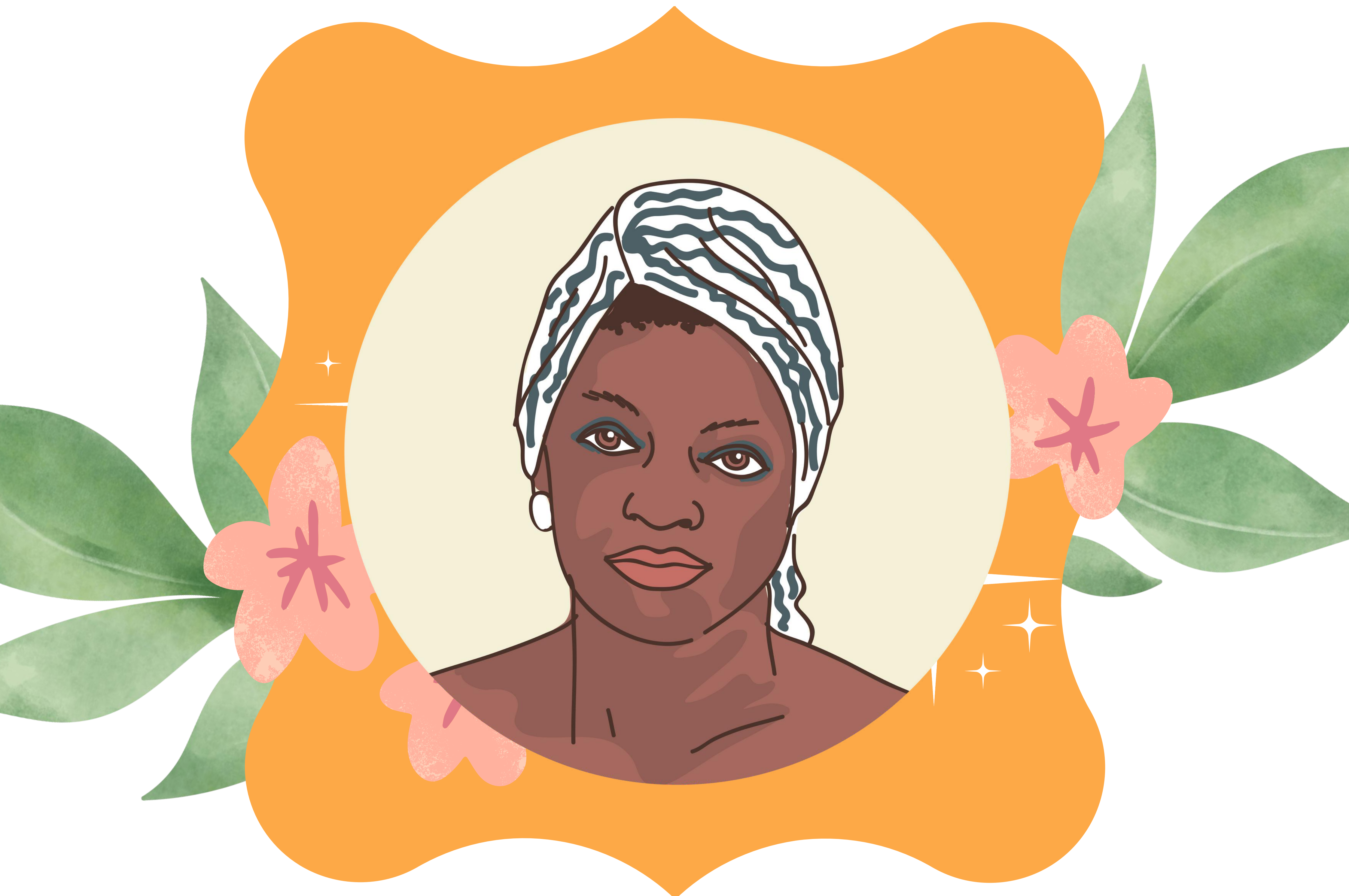
NATIONAL MUSEUM OF MALI

The National Museum of Mali is an archaeological and anthropological museum located in Bamako, the capital of Mali. It presents permanent and temporary exhibits on the history of Mali, as well as the musical instruments, dress, and ritual objects associated with Mali's various ethnic groups.

Concrete models of several important cultural landmarks, such as the mosques of Djenné and Timbuktu are displayed outside on the grounds of the museum.

SIDIBÉ AMINATA DIALLO

(1950)



Sidibé Aminata Diallo (born 1950) is a Malian academic and politician.

Diallo gained her doctorate in development and urban studies from the University of Toulouse in 1984. She is a member of the faculty of Economic Sciences and Management at the University of Bamako, where she specializes in land management.

On 12 March 2007, Diallo declared her candidacy for the position of President. She was one of 8 candidates contesting the April 2007 presidential election. She was also the first female presidential candidate ever in Mali and was running as the candidate of the Movement for Environmental Education and Sustainable Development. Her primary interest is sustainability and environmental protection. Diallo received over 12,000 votes in the election, 0.55% of the total.

Following the election, Diallo was appointed as Minister of Basic Education, Literacy, and the National Languages on 3 October 2007. She held that position until being replaced by Salikou Sanogo on 9 April 2009.

TUAREG



The Tuareg people are a large Berber ethnic group that principally inhabit the Sahara in a vast area stretching from far southwestern Libya to southern Algeria, Niger, Mali, and Burkina Faso. Traditionally nomadic pastoralists, small groups of Tuareg are also found in northern Nigeria.

The Tuareg speak languages of the same name (also known as Tamasheq), which belong to the Berber branch of the Afroasiatic family.

The Tuaregs have been called the "blue people" for the indigo dye coloured clothes they traditionally wear and which stains their skin. They are a semi-nomadic people who practice Islam, and are descended from the indigenous Berber communities of Northern Africa, which have been described as a mosaic of local Northern African (Taforalt), Middle Eastern, European, and Sub-Saharan African-related ancestries, prior to the Arab expansion, which "had an important cultural and genetic impact in North Africa".



BÒGÒLANFINI WEAR

Bògòlanfini or bogolan sometimes called mud-dyed cloth or mud-painted cloth in English is a handmade Malian cotton fabric traditionally dyed with fermented mud. It has an important place in traditional Malian culture and has, more recently, become a symbol of Malian cultural identity. The cloth is exported worldwide for use in fashion, fine art and decoration.

The dye technique is associated with several Malian ethnic groups, but the Bamana version has become best known outside Mali. In the Bambara language, the word bògòlanfini is a composite of bɔgɔ, meaning "earth" or "mud"; lan, meaning "with" or "by means of"; and fini, meaning "cloth". Although usually translated as "mud cloth," bògòlan actually refers to slip clay with a high iron content. The iron in the clay will stain handspun and handwoven cotton textiles black.

The center of bògòlanfini production, and the source of the highest quality cloth, is the town of San.



MISIRE MOSQUÉE

The classic Sahel-style Misire Mosquée, built in 1933, towers over the old part of town. Just before the rains in May or June the lower, mud-covered part of the mosque is re-rendered. The mosque is off-limits to non-Muslims, but money can buy you a good view from a nearby rooftop.

QUESTIONS

Who is your favourite icon?

What did your favourite icon achieve to put Mali on the global map?

Which icon has had the most impact?

Where in Mali was your favourite icon from?

When was your favourite icon born and when did they achieve their success?

Why do you think your favourite icon's achievements/ work is important or useful to the world today?