

Document A

Ibn Battuta, was a Muslim historian who travelled through West Africa and in 1325 reached the Northern African city of Taghaza during the Mali empire.

... we reached Taghaza, an unattractive village, with the curious feature that its houses and mosques are built of blocks of salt, roofed with camel skins...There is nothing but sand. In the sand is a salt mine; the slaves who live there dig for the salt, and find it in thick slabs, lying one on top of the other. A camel will carry two of these slabs.... The business done at Taghaza, for all its meanness, amounts to an enormous figure in terms of hundredweights of gold,