Baaba Maal

New Internationalist Easier English

Ready Elementary/Pre-Intermediate Lesson

(1)

This lesson

(2)

(3)

(4)

What do you think?

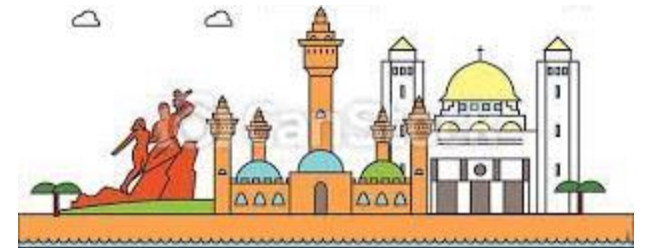**1) Which is the flag of Senegal and of France?**

(a)   (b)

2) How many people live in Senegal?
(a) about 6 million   (b) about 18 million

3) Most people in Senegal are Muslim? Yes/no?

4) Most people speak
(a) French?   (b) Wolof?

Match:
1) instruments
2) percussion
3) fisherman
4) musicians
5) solar power
6) farmer
7) band
8) uitarist
9) guitar

a)
b)
c)
d)
e)
f) They play music
g)
h)
i)

Match:

1) instruments
2) percussion
3) fisherman
4) musicians
5) solar power
6) farmer
7) band
8) guitarist
9) guitar

a)
b)
c)
d)
e)
f) They play music
g)
h)
i)

What do you think?

1) **Where is Baaba Maal from?**
2) **What work does he do?**
3) **How old is he?**
4) **How is he feeling?**

Now check

Baaba Maal is from Senegal. He writes and sings songs.

I ask Baaba Maal, "How are you feeling now you are nearly 70?"

"I feel good," he says. 'I can do something I love."
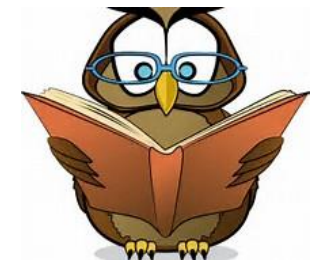
Before you read, what do you think?

1) Baaba Maal looks younger than 69 or 70. Yes/no?

2) Maal has some new music and songs. Yes/no?

3) These are old African instruments. Yes/no?

4) In Maal's songs the guitarists play 🥁🥁🎷/🎋 too. Yes/no?

5) The musicians sing in the old African way. Yes/no?

Now read and check

Maal doesn't look 70 years old. He doesn't sound 70. His new music album has old African instruments like the ngoni and kora. Maal says, "The West African guitar players play their music and use percussion and sing in a modern way."

ngoni

kora

Match the sentences:

(1) When he was a child,

(2) His family said,

(3) His father said,

(4) Podor has many people

(5) Maal listened

(a) from West Africa.

(b) Maal lived in Podor.

(c) to their songs.

(d) "Yes, he will be a fisherman."

(e) "OK, you can be a musician."

Now read and check

When he was a child, Maal lived in Podor on the Senegal river. His family said, "Yes, he will be a fisherman." Maal says, "It was difficult for my father to understand but he said OK, you can be a musician. In Podor, my mother and her friends wrote songs. Podor has many people from West Africa. I listened to their songs. I learned about West Africa."

Before you read, what do you think?

1) The film Black Panther is in Africa. Yes/no?

2) Maal is in the film. Yes/no?

3) The film shows the bad things about Africa. Yes/no?

4) Maal thinks Africa is possibly the future. Yes/no?

Now read and check

Maal worked on music for the film *Black Panther*. He says, "I am happy because the film doesn't show Africa with problems. The film shows African music and clothes. But the film also shows technology of the future. Perhaps Africa is the future."

Put the words in the correct spaces:

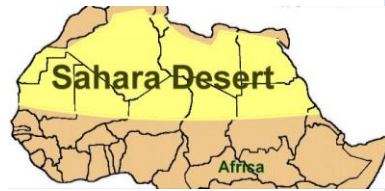(a) guitarist (b) Paris (c) now (d) world (e) called (f) home

Later Maal studied music in Senegal and then in (1) _____ . He made music with his friend, (2) _____ Mansour Seck. "Our band was (3) _____ Daande Lenol, it means "the voice of the people". My (4) _____ in Podor didn't have a voice in Senegal or in Africa. But they all said, "Yes, (5) _____ we have a band and a voice." We played all the music in Senegal for schools, farmers, and the (6) _____ ."

Before you read, what do you think?

1) **What is the problem of the Sahara Desert for Senegal?**
2) **How is Maal helping?**
3) **Why are young people leaving Senegal and going to Spain?**
4) **How is Maal helping the young people?**

Now read and check

Maal lives very near the Sahara Desert, and the Sahara Desert is getting bigger. So, he has a plan for solar power to bring water for farming in Senegal. "Young people go to Spain to find jobs. They don't want to be fishermen or farmers in Africa. But there are jobs in solar power. It makes me so happy I can help people and Africa."

Write three important things about Baaba Maal.

1) Baaba Maal…

2) He …

3) …