

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

### Mansa Musa

Mansa Musa captured the attention of the Arab world when he left his home in the West African kingdom of Mali to make a pilgrimage to Mecca in 1324. Unlike his grandfather Sundiata, Mansa Musa was a devout Muslim. A Muslim is a person who practices Islam. Islamic law requires that all faithful Muslims make a hajj, or holy visit, to the city on the Arabian Peninsula where Islam developed.

Mansa Musa was a very rich king. He was said to have taken more than 500 people with him on the hajj, each carrying a staff of solid gold. When Mansa Musa passed through the Egyptian city of Cairo, legends say he gave away so much gold that the price of gold fell, and the economy was affected for more than twenty years. The appearance of a wealthy king from a



**A drawing of Mansa Musa on an early map of Africa**

faraway land made a deep impression on the people he encountered, causing Mali to appear on maps throughout the Middle East and Europe. For the first time, sub-Saharan Africa became well-known north of the great desert, as well.

The kingdom of Mali eventually weakened, and the neighboring kingdom of Songhai developed into the last black empire of pre-colonial West Africa. Songhai was destroyed after a bloody war with Morocco. Morocco's sultan wanted West African gold, so in 1590, he sent an army of 3000 men south across the Sahara Desert. The spears and lances of the Songhai warriors were no match for the cannons and muskets of the Moroccans, but the fighting continued long after the Songhai government had been destroyed. After ten years, the Sultan lost interest and abandoned his army in Songhai. The Moroccan soldiers were either killed or absorbed into the local population. The Moroccan invasion destroyed Songhai and the trade routes that had brought prosperity to the region for hundreds of years.

### Answer in Complete Sentences

1. How was Mansa Musa's religious faith different from that of Sundiata?

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\*2. Explain why the price of gold fell after Mansa Musa passed through Cairo?

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3. What kingdom replaced Mali in West Africa?

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## Fill in the Blanks

Mansa Musa was a M\_\_n\_\_i\_\_k\_\_n (language group) \*m\_\_n\_\_r\_\_h (another word for king, but not mansa) from M\_\_\_\_\_ (kingdom). He made a pilgrimage to M\_\_\_\_\_ (Islamic holy city) because he was a M\_\_\_\_\_ (religious faith).

Mansa M\_\_\_\_\_ was both rich and generous. The legends say he took more than \_\_\_\_\_ people with him, each carrying a s\_\_\_\_\_ of solid g\_\_\_\_\_. When M\_\_\_\_\_ Musa passed through the E\_\_\_\_\_ city of Cairo, he gave away so much gold that the p\_\_\_\_\_ fell and the e\_\_\_\_\_ was affected for more than t\_\_\_\_\_ years. The w\_\_\_\_\_ of Mansa M\_\_\_\_\_ caught the attention of the rest of the world. Soon, M\_\_\_\_\_ began to appear on m\_\_\_\_\_ throughout the Middle E\_\_\_\_\_ and E\_\_\_\_\_.

M\_\_\_\_\_ Musa's successors were less able, and in time, M\_\_\_\_\_ was replaced by another k\_\_\_\_\_ named S\_\_\_\_\_. Songhai flourished until fighting a bloody war with M\_\_\_\_\_. Three thousand Moroccan s\_\_\_\_\_ crossed the d\_\_\_\_\_ in 15\_\_\_\_\_. They were badly outnumbered, but the s\_\_\_\_\_ and l\_\_\_\_\_ of the S\_\_\_\_\_ warriors were no match for the c\_\_\_\_\_ and m\_\_\_\_\_ of the Moroccan army. The two sides fought for more than t\_\_\_\_\_ years, until the S\_\_\_\_\_ lost i\_\_\_\_\_ and a\_\_\_\_\_ his a\_\_\_\_\_ in S\_\_\_\_\_. The Moroccan i\_\_\_\_\_ was unsuccessful, but it destroyed S\_\_\_\_\_ the t\_\_\_\_\_ routes that brought p\_\_\_\_\_ to West Africa for hundreds of years.

## Answer in complete sentences

4. How was Songhai destroyed?

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5. Why were the warriors of Songhai outmatched despite having a larger army than Morocco?

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\*6. Why didn't another kingdom develop in West Africa after the fall of Songhai?

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\*This is a higher order learning question. Any reasonable answer will be graded as correct.

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