

Document A

Source: Chart compiled from various sources.

Note: Many of these numbers are rough estimates drawn from oral history and a few written records.

Mansa Musa's *Hajj* by the Numbers

| | |
|---|---|
| Number of people on the <i>hajj</i> | 60,000 |
| Number of slaves who were Mansa Musa's personal servants | 12,000 |
| Number of slaves who carried gold | 500 |
| Number of miles traveled from Niani to Mecca | 4,000 |
| Time it took to cross Mali on a donkey | 4 months |
| Number of camels | 1,000 |
| Number of camels to carry gold | 80-100 |
| Amount of gold on each camel | 100-300 pounds |
| Distance a camel can travel without water | 100 miles |
| Distance a loaded camel can travel in a day | 20-25 miles |
| Total amount of gold (for alms giving, gifts, salaries, supplies) | 24,000 pounds |
| People in the caravan (in addition to Hook Exercise personae) | musicians, royal guards, flag bearers, doctors, teachers |

Document Analysis

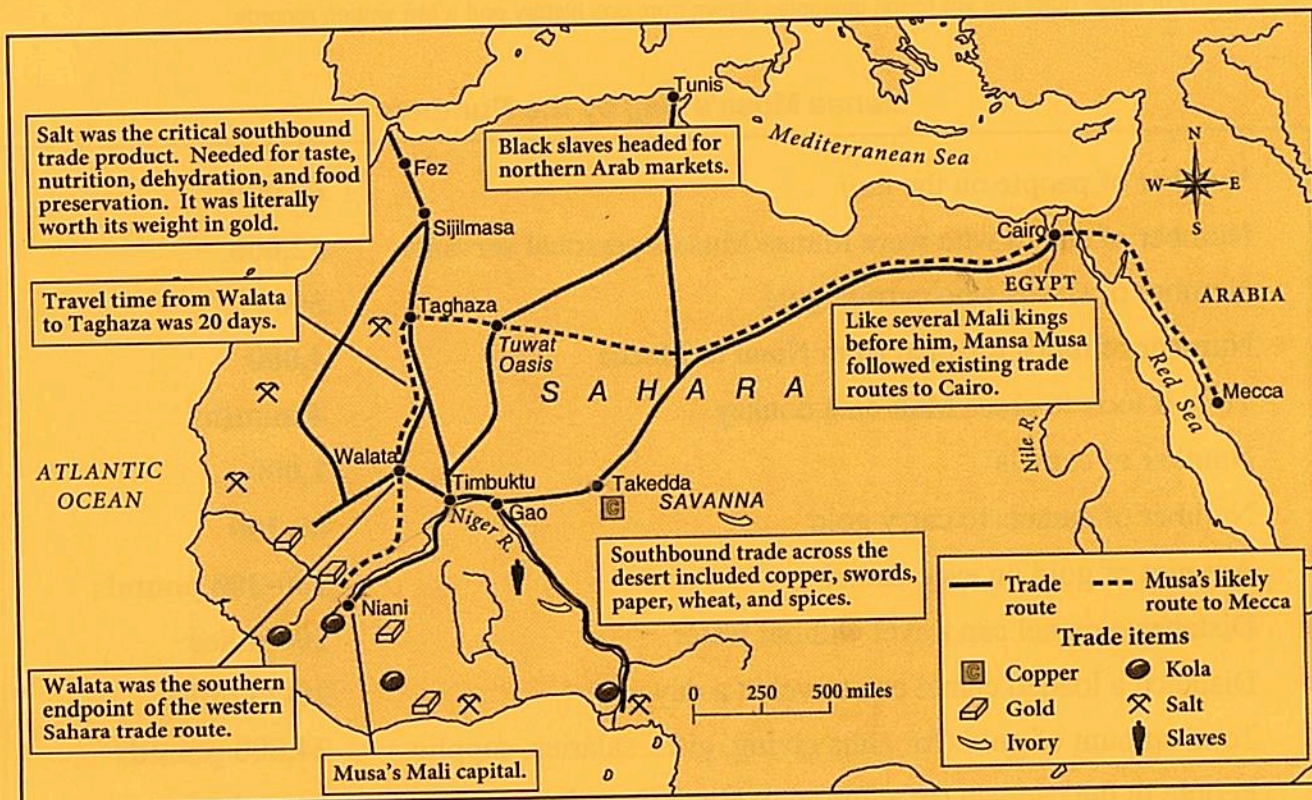
1. What percentage of travelers on the *hajj* were Mansa Musa's personal servants?
2. What information might reassure you (as your persona) about traveling the *hajj*?
3. What information might worry you about traveling in the *hajj*?
4. Which of the numbers in this chart might be exaggerations? Explain your thinking.

Writing Journal Entry #1: Label your entry "Niani, 1324, Morning."

It is early on the day you are to set off on the *hajj* with Mansa Musa. The number of travelers and animals is staggering. You will be following the trade route headed northeast across the grasslands to Walata, a good 600 miles away. You move to your position near the head of the caravan. What are your thoughts as you wait to leave? Be sure to include references from the document to support your writing.

Document B

Source: Map created from various sources.



EV

Document Analysis

- About how many miles was it from:
 - Niani to Walata?
 - From Walata to Taghaza?
 - From Taghaza to Tuwat?
 - From Tuwat to Cairo?
- What is your estimate on the time it would take Mansa Musa's caravan to travel from Niani to Cairo? How did you reach your estimate?
- Which two commodities seem most important to the trans-Saharan trade?

Writing Journal Entry #2: Label your journal entry "Walata, 1324, Morning."

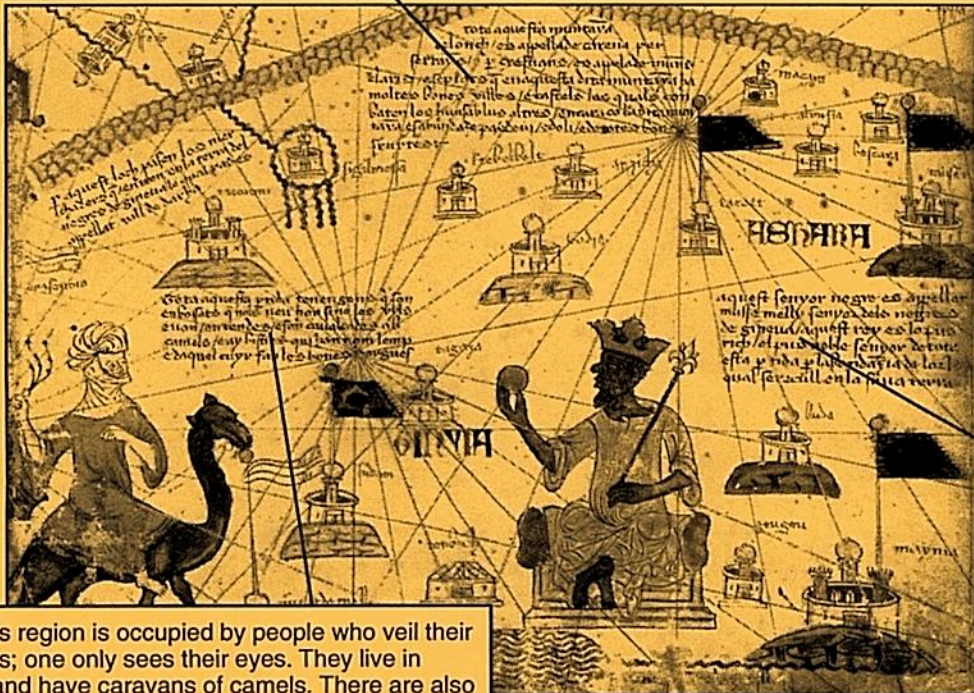
The caravan now stretches several days ahead of you and several days behind. Thank Allah for the water in this oasis town. Your next leg to Taghaza will be across waterless desert, and the water supply is critical. Luckily, the rainy season is beginning, although rainfall will be spotty at best. You are impressed by the trade activity in town. Blacks from the Sudan to the south meet with Berbers from northern Africa to exchange their goods. You sit in the shade of a date palm to record your thoughts and impressions.

Document F

Source: The Catalan Atlas, courtesy of the French National Library.

Note: The Catalan Atlas is a medieval map of the known world drawn in 1375 by Abraham Cresques, a Jewish map-maker from Majorca, a Mediterranean island off the coast of Spain. He had never been to West Africa. Rather, he relied on the stories of travelers to make the illustrations and write the captions that appear on the map.

“Through this place pass the merchants who travel to the land of (Mali).”



“This Negro lord is called Musa Mali, lord of all the Negroes of (the region of Mali). So abundant is the gold which is found in his country that he is the richest and most noble king in all the land.”

“All this region is occupied by people who veil their mouths; one only sees their eyes. They live in tents and have caravans of camels. There are also beasts called Lemp from the skins of which they make fine shields.”

Document Analysis

1. Describe the image of Mansa Musa seen on the map. What does he look like? What is he wearing? What is he holding?
2. How is Mansa Musa described in the caption to the right?
3. What important aspect of life in Mali is referenced in the top and bottom captions?
4. What might Europeans think about western Africa after viewing The Catalan Atlas?

Writing Journal Entry #6: Label your journal entry “Niani, 1375, Evening.”

It has been over 50 years since you began your journey as part of Mansa Musa’s historic *hajj*. As you gather some special belongings to pass along to your grandson, you discover the personal journal that you kept during the journey. Reflecting on that time and the recently published and very popular Catalan Atlas that described the *hajj*, you decide to write a final entry. Did the journey turn out the way you hoped? Was it worth the time and money it cost? What was the lasting significance of Mansa Musa’s journey? Record your thoughts in your journal.