### SCPS GUIDED LEARNING FOR SOCIAL STUDIES

**GRADE 7     WEEK #4**

| ESSENTIAL QUESTIONS: | - What were the resources and trade like in the Kingdom of Mali?  
| - How did trade help build up the kingdom of Mali?  
| - Thinking about how trade worked in Mali, how has the Coronavirus pandemic changed the way we access resources we need on a daily basis? |

| PROCEDURES: | - **Assignment #1** Look at the map of the trade routes in Mali.  
| - Read the text about goods and trade in Mali  
| - Write a diary entry from the given scenario. Make sure it addresses all the questions asked.  
| - **Assignment #2** Read the journal entry prompt.  
| - Interview someone living with you.  
| - Construct a journal entry that answers the questions in the prompt. |

| WORK TO BE RETURNED: | - Diary entry from the point of view of a trader in Mali  
| - Diary entry written based on your interview. |

| RESOURCES: | - Map, text and prompt; Journal entry prompt |

| TIME ALLOCATED: | - 2 (30) minute Assignments |

**Assignment #1** - Look at the map and then read the text. Next, read the scenario you have been given. Write a detailed diary entry, using what you have learned previously about Africa and the information presented to you below. Be sure to address each of the questions asked of you.

**Ancient Mali Gold Trade Routes**

![Map of Timbuktu: A Center for Trade](https://via.placeholder.com/150)

**Legend**
- Mansa Musa’s route to Mecca, 1324  
- Salt mine  
- Gold mine  
- Trade route

Ancient West African gold trade routes.
Goods and Trade in the Empire of Mali

In the ancient empire of Mali, the most important industry for trading was the gold industry. Much gold was traded through the Sahara Desert, to the countries on the North African coast. The traders would travel by caravans, on camels. The Sahara Desert, which is very unfriendly to travel through, is a very barren and dry place. However, it was the most important trade route for the empire's economy. It was control of the trans-Saharan trade routes that helped to keep the empire in power. In North Africa, they would give safe passage to the camel caravans. They even expanded the markets just for West African goods. Thanks to the Mamluks in Egypt and the Merinid Empire in North Africa, they were even able to get their gold sent all the way to the Mediterranean, which helped them expand their trade grounds even further.

Gold was very abundant in West Africa. It was used for currency, decorations, on articles of clothing - for the rich - and it was prized by many people. Worldwide, African gold was famous and many countries wanted it, and would trade for it. All of the things that Mali traded gold for helped them become very wealthy. Their main import was salt. The Akan lived in the forests of West Africa, they had few natural resources for salt and always needed to trade for it. They would use salt for many things. Salt was very abundant in the North of Mali, but they did not have much themselves. This is why they imported it. They would mainly use salt to preserve things, like meat and corpses. They would also use salt to season their food. Because this was not a resource they had a lot of themselves, they didn't have much salt in their diet. Only when they began to trade for salt did the people begin to have more access to it in their diet. Salt, which could be used to preserve food, also made bland food tasty. These qualities made salt very valuable. Camel caravans from North Africa carried bars of salt as well as cloth, tobacco, and metal tools across the Sahara to trading centers like Djenne and Timbuktu on the Niger River. They would also import things like glass, ceramics, and precious stones from North Africa.

Trade, Farming, and Resources:

- Mali was an important trade center. Salt from the Sahara Desert was traded for the gold found in Western Africa. Mali was in between these locations and that is why it was called a “trade center.” Mali was near rivers, so the goods were transported by boats. Camels were also used!
- Salt was a natural resource for the people of Mali. People used salt to stay healthy and for preserving foods. Salt was needed to survive in the Sahara Desert. In hot weather, people lose the salt in their bodies through sweating. They needed to get salt back into their bodies so this is why they traded for it. Salt was found in the Sahara Desert.
- Ancient Mali grew in wealth and power because of all the trading.
- A group of Malians who were riding camels through the desert on trade routes were called “caravans.”
- There were farmers, miners, and traders in Mali.
- These words describe ancient Mali’s Empire: rich, wealthy, prosperous
- Excellent farm fields were near the Niger (NIE-jher) River.

Capital resources, Natural Resources, and Human Resources of Mali:

Capital Resources (tools used): camels, carts, mining tools, boats
Human Resources (people): miners, farmers, and traders
Natural Resources (items found in nature): salt, gold
TO DO

Read the scenario below. Create a diary entry from the point of view of a trader who traveled back and forth to Mali. Be sure to explore the topics in your diary entry listed in the questions below. Your entry should include enough information that someone could answer the questions below after reading it.

SCENARIO: Imagine you are a trader who is moving goods across the Sahara Desert from North Africa to Mali. You have a son at home who would like to follow in your footsteps and become a trader when he gets a little older. However, he has never been on this trip and he does not know all he needs to, in order to make the trip successfully. Your task is to write a diary entry that you will give to him when you return that will tell him all the important information he needs to know to complete this journey successfully.

Below there are a list of questions your son has asked you. Use them to help prepare you for the journey and for writing down all he will need to know. Be very detailed. He will need your wisdom and experience to help him make his first successful trip alone.

- How will you get across the desert?
- What will you need to bring with you to survive?
- What will you bring with you to trade?
- How will you prepare for the hazards in the desert?
- Who will you bring with you?
- What goods will you be trading for to bring back home?
- What do you plan to do with your profits? (Do you plan to keep it for yourself or trade it off for different resources?)
- How long will the trip take?

Write your diary entry to your son on your own piece of paper.

Assignment #2

Creating a Primary Source Document

Remember over the next few weeks, you will be asked to write a diary/journal entry once a week about “Life during the Great Coronavirus Pandemic of 2020.”
Thinking about how trade worked in Mali, how has the Coronavirus pandemic changed the way we access resources we need to live everyday? What resources are not as available now as they were before this pandemic? Why weren’t they hard to get before, but are difficult to get now? Interview the people you live with about how a shortage of resources affects the way they shop. How is shopping for things different now than it used to be? Include this information in your diary/journal entry for this week.

Start your journal entry below and continue on your own piece of paper, if you need more room.

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