# Essential Questions:
- What does it mean to “flatten the curve” and how is it being used to fight COVID-19?
- How are the efforts towards flattening the curve affecting the economy?
- What was the Songhai culture like during the height of the empire?
- How did trade impact the Songhai empire?

# Procedures:
- **Assignment #1** - Read the Songhai Empire text.
  - Using the information from the text to complete the crossword puzzle.
- **Assignment #2** - Read the article “Why everything is closing for coronavirus: It’s Called ‘flattening the curve’”
  - Read the journal entry prompt. On your own paper, construct a diary or journal entry that answers the questions in the prompt. Be sure to date it and format it as a diary/journal entry.

# Work To Be Returned:
- Crossword Puzzle
- Journal Entries

# Resources:
- Text for the crossword puzzle, Article on Flattening the Curve

# Time Allocated:
- 2 (30) minute Assignments

**Assignment #1**

**Directions:** Read the following text and then complete the crossword puzzle using information from the reading.

**Sourcing Information:** This excerpt was taken from the South African History Online site. South African History Online (SAHO) was established in 2000, as a not for profit Section 21 organization, to address the biased way in which South Africa’s history and heritage, as well as the history and heritage of Africa, is represented in our educational and cultural institutions. Information for the site is gathered by senior researchers and editorial team, interns, individuals, and educational institutional partners who contribute new content for our website.

**The Songhai Empire** (Crossword Reading)

The start of the Songhai Kingdom was when Sunni Ali came to power. This made the Sunni Dynasty the first of the Songhai kingdom. During the time of the Songhai kingdom the King was the one who held the position of the head of state or in other words, led the kingdom. Sunni Ali would have been the first king of Songhai. Sunni Ali had a son who was named Sonnibaru who had a son named Muhammad Toure. In 1492 Muhammad Toure came to power as the emperor or king of Songhai. Muhammad was a well-known leader and soon gained the name of Askia Muhammed also known as Muhammad the great. Muhammad the Great established many new trade laws and taxation to the kingdom of Songhai. He also tried to encourage trade merchants to pass through by providing them accommodations when passing through or staying in Songhai.

The culture of Songhai had differing views of what men and women could or could not do. An activity that both men and women played an important role in was trading. Trading in this part of the world was important and regardless of gender it was important for everyone to play a part in it be it selling or buying. Women who were known to be educated during this time were known to be wealthy and hold more money due to their education and understanding of the trading system. The kingdom of Songhai was known for following the religion of Islam. This led to the main group of people during this time and up until the 16th century that opposed the use of women’s rights were the Muslims due to their religious beliefs.

Along with trading, the kingdom of Songhai had a different style of architecture which mixed Islamic building style with traditional African building styles. These building styles could be seen across the kingdom but also were seen within the city of Timbuktu. Timbuktu was known as one of two centers for learning in the kingdom of Songhai. The city of Timbuktu also helped link Sub-Saharan Africa to North Africa and Arabia. Within the city of Timbuktu, there were many universities. The university named Sankore was one that taught advanced subjects to those who attended. Despite all of the advances, Songhai did see they did come to a fall. The kingdom of Songhai did get defeated by the country of Morocco.
Crossword Puzzle Directions: Below you will find a crossword puzzle. The clues for the puzzle are below it. Read each clue and use the information from the reading to help you determine the answer. Be sure to fill in each answer going up and down or across using the number in the puzzle that corresponds to the number on the clue. HINT: If a letter overlaps in two words and is different than what you think the answer should be, make sure to go back and check the clues AND your spelling. You may have the answer incorrect OR you may just have misspelled the word. Each box should contain only ONE letter.

Songhai Empire

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| 1. Which scholars opposed the existing rights of women before the 16th century?  
6. To encourage trade merchants were provided with?  
9. Askia Muhammed established new trade laws and?  
12. The building used a combination of Islamic and what other design?  
13. What religion was practiced in Songhai?  
14. What was Muhammad Toure alternative name?  
15. What was the financial state of women that were well educated? | 2. What activity were both men and women important in?  
3. Which university in Timbuktu taught advanced subjects?  
4. Who was Sonni Ali’s son?  
5. Who acted as the head of state? (position)  
7. What was the name of the emperor in 1492  
8. Which country defeated the Songhai Empire in the late 16th century?  
10. Timbuktu linked Sub-Saharan African to North Africa and?  
11. What dynasty came first? |

Optional: Link for Crossword Puzzle in Google Classroom
https://docs.google.com/presentation/d/1yy9NnJVtdMHfzyzKF6FJJsuxaQy4I/Vfpy6F3N3khg/edit?usp=sharing
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 Pandemic of 2020.” The article you are about to read talks about “flattening the curve” and how many agencies have done just that. As you read, think about what “flattening the curve” looks like to you. Think about how you can help “flatten the curve” in your home town?

Source Information: This article was adapted from a news story written in Forbes Magazine on March 17, 2020. Newsela is a database of current events stories tailor-made for classroom use. Newsela uses multiple news sources such as The New York Post and The Washington Times to gather information for their articles amongst many others. Information from these news sources are from news anchors and reporters conducting interviews of people involved in the situations. Information is also gathered through research with US departments working closely with the COVID-19 crisis.

Why everything is closing for coronavirus: It’s Called “flattening the curve”
By Forbes, adapted by Newsela staff on March 17, 2020

South by Southwest (SXSW) is a huge music/film/tech/education festival. It brings hundreds of thousands of visitors to Austin, Texas, every March. When organizers canceled the festival it was only a matter of time before other major events also canceled.

As of March 13, many sports leagues have suspended their seasons. The National Basketball Association (NBA), National Hockey League (NHL) and Major League Soccer have suspended play. Major League Baseball (MLB) has pushed back the season start. The National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA) canceled March Madness. March Madness is a college basketball competition every spring. If a team loses a game they are out of the competition. People fill out brackets with who they think will keep advancing to the championships. Several universities have canceled spring football games. The Professional Golfers’ Association (PGA) Tour canceled the Players Championship. And the future of the 2020 Summer Olympics in Japan is in doubt. And that's just sports.

School districts from Seattle, Washington, to Baltimore, Maryland, have closed schools. So have entire states, including Maryland, Michigan, and Ohio. More than 100 colleges and universities have canceled all in-person classes and moved online. The huge music festival Coachella has been postponed. So have a long list of concerts and music tours and all Broadway shows through April 12. Movie theaters may be next.

Even all Disney parks have closed their gates. This is only the third time Disneyland has closed the park. The first time was after U.S. President John F. Kennedy was assassinated in 1963. The second time was after 9/11 terrorist attacks on September 11, 2001, hit the Twin Towers in New York and the Pentagon in Washington, D.C.

Economic Impacts
The economic impacts of all these closures will be incredibly high. Canceling SXSW will mean a loss of more than $350 million. This includes thousands of low-income workers' lost tips and wages. However, that won't even be close to how much it will cost sports teams and amusement parks to close down. So the decision to suspend seasons, cancel events and close up shop is not being made lightly.

And yet, there have only been about 1,660 cases of COVID-19 diagnosed in the United States. COVID-19 is short for coronavirus disease in 2019. There have also been fewer than 50 deaths because of it in the United States. The coronavirus is a flu-like illness that began in China and has been spreading across the globe since December 2019.

Many people talk about the flu. Every year the flu sickens millions and kills tens of thousands of people. It is expected to sicken nearly 50 million people in the United States this year and kill as many as 52,000 this flu season. So why
is everyone making such a big deal about coronavirus? Why are events being canceled? Why are schools moving to online instruction? Especially when there are so few cases right now.

**Slowing The Spread**

There’s a good reason to "cancel everything." All these decisions by public officials and businesses are aimed at one goal: slowing down the spread of the virus to avoid overburdening a health care system that doesn’t have the infrastructure to handle a sudden surge of tens of thousands of cases at once. Without mass closings, that surge is exactly what will happen, just as it has in Italy. It’s called "flattening the curve." And that’s exactly what it is when you see it visually.

Epidemiologists study diseases and how they spread. They can somewhat predict how many cases of a disease are going to occur based on how the disease is behaving. Continuing business-as-usual allows cases to escalate rapidly in just a few weeks, spiking so high at once that they completely overwhelm hospitals. In such a scenario — such as Italy is facing now — more deaths are likely because there simply aren’t enough hospital beds, enough face masks, enough IV bags, even enough healthy doctors and nurses to care for everyone at once.

However, if that same number of cases can be stretched out over months, never quite exceeding the health care system’s capacity, then people will get the care they need. More health care providers can avoid illness and burnout, and fewer people are likely to die — as South Korea has shown.

But are we really headed for that many cases? Yes.

As former Food and Drug Administration (FDA) Commissioner Scott Gottlieb explained in a recent interview, the novel coronavirus — just declared a pandemic by the World Health Organization — is beyond containment. If it’s not already in your community, it’s coming soon. The only reason total U.S. cases aren’t already skyrocketing is that coronavirus testing has been such a mess that too few people — just 77 by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) in the whole week of March 8 — are being tested. You can’t count cases you haven't identified yet. But every indication is that the United States is on track to see the same exponential increase other countries are seeing, as scientist Mark Handley has been tracking on Twitter.

**People Are Listening**

So what do we do to avert disaster? We have to flatten the curve. Fortunately, people are listening and the idea has caught so well among armchair epidemiologists that the #flatteningthecurve and #FlattenTheCurve hashtags have trended several times on Twitter in recent days. Clearly, public officials and businesses are listening to the warnings of public health officials, as evidenced by all the closings and cancellations. But to be effective, ordinary people need to do their part by avoiding as much as possible any crowds and places where large numbers of people congregate, such as movie theaters, malls, and events that haven’t been canceled yet.

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**TO DO**

Read the text and source information about flattening the curve. Use the information you read to help you answer the following prompts for your week 7 journal. Answer both of these on your own paper.

1) **PROMPT:** In the reading, you learned about what is happening in order to flatten the curve of COVID-19. In a paragraph or two please explain your thoughts about this action. Discuss whether or not you agree with these actions and if they are making a difference. Do you believe there is more that could be done to flatten the curve? Do you think the outcomes of shutting down states and businesses are worth the hardships that might occur? Answer these questions and include any other thoughts you might have in one to two paragraphs on your own paper.

2) **SOURCING:** Using the sourcing information please explain what would make this source credible or non-credible. Use 2-3 pieces of evidence from the sourcing information to support your answer. Answer on your own piece of paper.