

# Mansa Musa's Legacy

History

Lesson 4 of an enquiry of 4 lessons

Enquiry: What does the life of Mansa Musa reveal about medieval Mali?



# Recap: fill in the blanks

Studying Mansa Musa's life allows us to \_\_\_\_\_ behind the curtain and it \_\_\_\_\_ several things about \_\_\_\_\_.

Firstly, it reveals that medieval Mali was \_\_\_\_\_. We see this on a number of occasions. When Mansa Musa described how he became emperor, he mentioned that hundreds of \_\_\_\_ had been filled with \_\_\_\_\_ as part of the previous emperor's doomed voyage. Later, in Cairo, Mansa Musa gave out so much gold it made the price \_\_\_\_\_, suggesting how wealthy medieval Mali was.

**drop**

**peek**

**ships**

**reveals**

**gold**

**wealthy**

**medieval Mali**

**empire**



# Mansa Musa's Legacy

**Legacy:** something that remains from an earlier time

Empire

Wealth

Renown

Learning



# **Mansa Musa's legacy:** Empire

By the time Mansa Musa died, he had created a large empire.



# Mansa Musa's legacy: Timbuktu

The Sankore University in Timbuktu flourished during the time of Mansa Musa. It was one of the best in the Islamic world.

By the end of his reign, it had one of the largest collections of books in Africa. A position not held since the destruction of the Library of Alexandria in Egypt.

Many ancient manuscripts that were created still survive and are increasingly being scanned and put online.



# Mansa Musa's legacy: Catalan Atlas

The Catalan Atlas is often described as one of the finest medieval maps. It covers much of the world. It was made by Jewish Majorcan mapmakers. We think this beautiful map was made by a man called Cresques Abraham. By Mansa Musa it says:

*'This black Lord is called Musse Melly and is the sovereign of the land of the black people of Gineva. This king is the richest and noblest of all these lands due to the abundance of gold that is extracted from his lands.'*



# Questions

1. What does legacy mean?
2. What sort of city did Timbuktu become?
3. What is the name of the map that features Mansa Musa?
4. Who do we think created the map?
5. What does Mansa Musa featuring on the map reveal about medieval Mali?



# What does the life of Mansa Musa reveal about medieval Mali?

Write an essay that answers our enquiry question.

Essay structure	Possible examples
Paragraph 1: Wealthy <i>The life of Mansa Musa reveals that medieval Mali was wealthy....</i>	Mansa Musa's account of how he became emperor (Lesson 1)
Paragraph 2: Ambitious	Mansa Musa's Hajj (Lessons 2 & 3)
Paragraph 3: Muslim	Mansa Musa's time in Cairo (Lesson 2)
Paragraph 4: Connected	Mansa Musa's legacy and the Catalan Atlas (Lesson 4)



# Glossary

**Legacy** - something that remains from an earlier time

**Flourish** - to grow and do well

