

MANSA MUSA ACTIVITY



Central Historical Question: *Was Mansa Musa the richest person ever?*

- Using NoodleTools, create a project about Mansa Musa.**
 - Title: Last Name, First Name – Mansa Musa Richest Man
 - Make sure to find YOUR teacher's dropbox and share the project
 - Hartman 1 – Mansa Musa; Leavey 1 – Mansa Musa; Lin 2 – Mansa Musa
- Go to the South Lake Website**
 - Library => Pathfinders => *Mansa Musa*
- Using the document provided, create a citation for this book excerpt using the *Bibliography* function.**
 - Al-Umari, *Pathways of Vision in the Realms of the Metropolises*, 1337-1338
- Create three notecards (*Sourcing*, *Close Reading*, and *Reliability*) to address the guiding questions:**
 - Sourcing:** Who is Al-Umari? Do you think he is a reliable source of information on Mansa Musa's pilgrimage to Mecca? Why, or why not?
 - Close Reading:** How does the emir Abu describe Mansa Musa to Al-Umari? According to the emir Abu, what traits does Mansa Musa possess?
 - Reliability:** Do you think Al-Umari's description of Mansa Musa is accurate? Why or why not?
- Make sure to highlight important text/information and note main ideas/questions from the excerpt.**
- If you have time, you can research more on Mansa Musa and try to answer the central question of *Was Mansa Musa the richest person ever?***

Al-Umari's Account of Mansa Musa

Al-Umari was an Arab historian from Damascus, Syria. He visited the city of Cairo in Egypt several years after Mansa Musa passed through there on his pilgrimage in 1324 CE. He then wrote this account of Mansa Musa's visit, as told to him by the people of Cairo.

From the beginning of my coming to stay in Egypt I heard talk of the arrival of this **sultan** Musa on his Pilgrimage and found the people of Cairo eager to tell what they had seen of the Africans' extravagant spending. I asked the **emir** Abu and he told me of the **opulence**, manly virtues, and **piety** of his sultan. Abu said, "When I went out to meet him, Musa did me extreme honor and treated me with the greatest courtesy. He addressed me, however, only through an interpreter despite his perfect ability to speak in the Arabic tongue. Then he sent to the royal treasury many loads of unworked native gold and other valuables. I tried to persuade him to go up to the Citadel to meet the sultan of Cairo, but he refused persistently saying: 'I came for the Pilgrimage and nothing else. I do not wish to mix anything else with my Pilgrimage.'"

Mansa Musa flooded Cairo with his gifts. He left no emir or holder of a royal office without the gift of a load of gold. The people of Cairo made **incalculable** profits out of him and his caravan in buying and selling and giving and taking. They traded away gold until they **depressed** its value in Egypt and caused its price to fall. This has been the state of affairs for about twelve years until this day by reason of the large amount of gold which they brought into Egypt and spent there.

Source: *Al-Umari*, Pathways of Vision in the Realms of the Metropolises, 1337-1338.

Vocabulary

sultan: king

emir: a high ranking title

opulence: great wealth, especially shown by extravagant living

piety: religious devotion

incalculable: huge

depressed: lowered

Title (Main Idea)

Question Topic (ex: Sourcing) 

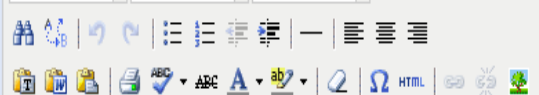
Source

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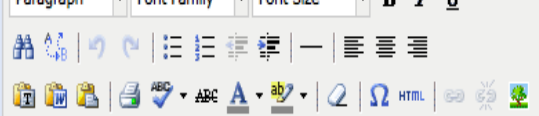


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Write and answer the questions here. Make any additional notes here.

My Ideas [How do I do this?](#)

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Main Ideas and Questions here