

Trans-Saharan Travel WebQuest

http://web.archive.org/web/20030801171158/http://www.bnf.fr/enluminures/images/jpeg/i8_0000m.jpg

1. This is a section of the Catalan Atlas, dated 1375, that shows a map of North Africa. Based on your knowledge of world geography, identify the body of water at the top of the map, and the body of water at the right (that is colored red).
2. The thick line extending from west to east represents the Atlas Mountains. Why might the mapmaker have considered it important to include the mountains on the map? Why might the mountains have been drawn to look like a wall?
3. Describe the people who are drawn on the map. Are they male or female? What kinds of clothes are they wearing? What are they wearing on their heads? Who might these people be?
4. What other objects or symbols can you see on the map?

Go to

http://web.archive.org/web/20030608142041/http://www.bnf.fr/enluminures/images/jpeg/i8_000dd.jpg

5. How did the artist show that this man is a King? What is Mansa Musa holding in his hands?
6. Scholars believe the map you have examined in this lesson was drawn by a European man, Cresques Abraham. Why might Europeans have wanted to make and use a map of Africa?

http://public.wsu.edu/~brians/world_civ/worldcivreader/world_civ_reader_2/leo_africanus.html

Read the paragraph that begins "*The women of the city...*"

7. What was plentiful in Timbuktu? What was in short supply?
8. Scroll down to the paragraph that begins "*Instead of coined money...*" What was used instead of money in Timbuktu? According to the text, a load of salt once sold for 80 ducats, and there are approximately 7 ducats in an ounce of gold. How many ounces of gold did the salt cost?
9. What are the advantages (benefits) and disadvantages (dangers) of trans-Saharan travel and trade. Write a summary statement in which you evaluate the benefits and dangers—was it worth the risks? Why or why not?