**Mansa Musa Travel Journal**

***Directions:*** You now have a chance to become part of this historic caravan! Often, when a person embarks on a long journey, he or she creates a journal to save memories and record specific information about their daily adventures. Using the voice of one of the travelers, write four entries documenting your experiences traveling with Mansa Musa on his hajj (pilgrimage) to Mecca. Your last entry will be from Cairo, Egypt. Use the Travel Journal information below, and answer the questions for each of your entries.

***Travel Journal Information:***

**Post #1:** Label your entry**: "Niani, January, 1324, Morning."**

It is early on the day you are to set off on the hajj with Mansa Musa. The number of travelers and animals is staggering. You will be following the trade route headed northeast across the grasslands to Walata, a good 500 miles away. You move to your position near the head of the caravan. **What are your thoughts as you wait to leave? What do you see around you? Hear? Smell?** Be sure to include references from **Document A** to support your writing.

**Post #2:** Label your entry: **"Walata, February, 1324, Morning."**

The caravan now stretches several days ahead of you and several days behind. You are at Walata, the southern endpoint of the western trade route. Your next destination is Taghaza. You look at your map. **How far must you travel? And how much longer until you reach Cairo? Mecca? What goods did you bring from Niani to trade once you reach Taghaza? What would you trade these goods for?** Be sure to include references from **Document B** to support your writing.

**Post #3:** Label your entry: **"Taghaza, March, 1324, dusk."**

As you make camp in Taghaza, you hear grumblings in the hajj. Questions are being asked about this route that was taken to Taghaza. You are both intimidated and fascinated by this town made of salt. **What do you think of it? What are some things you have learned about the people of Taghaza? While there, you observed the people of Taghaza and the Sudan trading. Explain this transaction, what were they trading?** Be sure to include references from **Document C** to support your writing.

**Post #4**: Label your entry: **"Cairo, July, 1324, Afternoon."**

You arrived in Cairo this morning and the city was abuzz with activity and excitement. There are rumors swirling that Mansa Musa will not meet with the local sultan. Meanwhile, great amounts of gold are being given to the people of Cairo. **What are your thoughts about how much gold is being distributed? What do you think might happen to the value of gold as so much has been given away? And why won’t the honored guest, Mansa Musa, meet with the Sultan? What are your feelings about Mansa Musa’s denial?** Be sure to include references from **Document D** to support your writing.

***Travelers on Mansa Musa’s hajj:***

***Ferba***

To govern more efficiently, Mansa Musa divided his empire into provinces. Over each province, he appointed a governor called a "ferba." He typically chose relatives or other people he trusted for this position. Ferbas oversaw the day-to-day running of the government. They had to rule according to strict instructions given them by Mansa Musa. Many ferbas went on the hajj. Perhaps this was a way to keep them from plotting rebellion during the king's long absence.

***Griot ("gree-oh")***

Mansa Musa and the other officials brought many griots on the hajj to serve as oral historians. A griot's job was very hard and took a long time to learn well. Griots had to serve as the living memory for an individual, village, or clan. They combined history, music, poetry, dance, and drama to capture these memories and then entertain their audiences.

***Muslim Scholar***

Scholars went on the hajj to offer advice and record observations of the journey. Many scholars were educated in Niani, the capital of Mali, where Mansa Musa had established a mosque and school. Scholars could read and write. They were fluent in both Arabic and various African languages. Scholars gave advice that helped Mansa Musa and his officials in difficult situations. The written observations of scholars became important records once the caravan returned to Mali.

***Soldier***

According to tradition, Mansa Musa kept an army of 100,000 soldiers in his empire. Some of these rode on horseback or camels. Because Mansa Musa carried so much gold on the hajj, part of his army went along to protect the caravan. In addition, the size of a ruler's army demonstrated his status. A king as wealthy and powerful as Mansa Musa would never travel without a large armed escort.

***Guidelines***

1. Create an aesthetically pleasing journal.
2. Before any entries, explain in at least 2 sentences who you are: Ferba, Griot, Muslim Scholar, or Soldier. Use the information above.
3. Then, begin your four entries. Each post must be a solid paragraph (4-6 sentences minimum) and include:
4. Description of your location AND the date.
5. Details from your travels - use your Mansa Musa handout, or Documents A, B, C, D.
6. Answer each bolded question in the Travel Journal information above for each post.
7. NOTE: you do not need to site since Document A must go with Post 1, Document B must go with Post 2, etc.
8. At the end of your Travel Journal, include one illustration or image during your pilgrimage. Choose an image that stands out to you. Make sure it is relevant and hand drawn. Include a one-sentence description of the image/illustration.
9. You can use the example below as a guideline for formatting, but do not copy what is written.
10. 20 points possible (4.5 points per entry - 2 points for illustration/description).

# Example:

**Abu Emir’s Travels to Mecca**

**LOCATION:** **"Niani, January, 1324, Morning."**

**Post #1 -** Hello friends and family! I look forward to sharing my travels with you. You are never going to believe the experiences I have had traveling with Mansa Musa... I am a Muslim Scholar, who was educated at Niani, and am fluent in Arabic. I often give advice to Mansa Musa and his officials. **What are your thoughts as you wait to leave? What do you see around you? Hear? Smell?** (4-6 sentences)

***Here is a picture of a single traveler with camels in tow from our immense caravan of 60,000 setting out on the hajj.***

