

Name _____

Date _____



Trade in the Mali Empire

Have you heard of the Mali Empire?

Flooded with gold, homie

Had valuable goods

Got the world so salty

Forever expanding, it wouldn't quit

With the tools in its hand,

made the whole empire get rich

Have you heard about Mansa Musa?

Flooded with gold, homie

Ruler of Mali

Got the world so salty

Forever expanding, he wouldn't quit

With the tools in his hand,

made the whole empire get rich

From the 13th century to the 16th,

Mali was the empire doing big things

Mansa Musa was the ruler making all of the maneuvers

Called the wealthiest person throughout history

Partly due to high taxes placed on every trade

Musa had exclusive rights to gold within Mali's domain

Three gold mines within the borders Mali claimed

Brought a whole bunch of wealth and a whole bunch of chains

What could be more valuable than gold? Of course

So common within households today, that's salt

It's rare to come across in sub-Saharan Africa

Many reasons salt within these parts was always lacking

First, there were no fresh plants or animal life

Which was a good source of salt so demand was so high
The ocean was another source since salt had lived within it
But was too far to access if we speak in terms of distance
Lastly, this area was always dry and hot
So the salt that was lost through their sweat was a lot
For the traders in the empire, they quickly understood
Salt had grown to be one of the most valued goods
Now, Mali was rich in gold but also was rich in salt
Always in demand, what the people would want
In Taghaza and Taodenni, you could get it by the slab
So abundant, it was used to build the houses that they had
Caravans of traders that had camels by the thousands
Traveled the Sahara, if you needed salt they got it
Then and now, salt is very necessary in our diet
The value placed on salt kept raising higher and higher
In the south, salt could be exchanged for ivory, leather
Also gold, pound for pound, salt was on the same level
Today, not worth as much as gold but still brings profits, see
Salt is still important to West African economy
Have you heard of the Mali Empire?
Flooded with gold, homie
Had valuable goods
Got the world so salty
Forever expanding, it wouldn't quit
With the tools in its' hand,
made the whole empire get rich
Have you heard about Mansa Musa
Flooded with gold, homie
Ruler of Mali
Got the world so salty
Forever expanding, he wouldn't quit
With the tools in his hand,

made the whole empire get rich.