CONTEXTUALIZATION—MANSA MUSA EVENT CARDS

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| The Mali Empire was founded by Sundiata Keita in about 1230 CE. | Trade goods such as gold from West Africa and salt in East Africa drove trans- Saharan trade. | Ideas and beliefs like Islam traveled along trade routes throughout Africa, where, from the tenth through fifteenth centuries, many elites converted, and then blended  Islam with local belief systems. | One of the Five Pillars of Islam is the hajj, or  pilgrimage, to Mecca—Islam’s holiest city—which must  be made at least once in a person’s lifetime, if possible. |
| Mansa Musa departed Mali with a group of over 1,000 people, camels, and gold to travel to Mecca c. 1324 CE. | The trans-Saharan trading system reached its height during the thirteenth to fifteenth centuries, thanks to the desire for goods such as gold and salt along with the rise of powerful states like Mali and Songhai. | The domestication of the camel allowed trade to flourish across the Sahara desert. | Islamic empires expanded from the Iberian Peninsula (Spain/Portugal) in the west to Southeast Asia in the east. |
| Islam was founded in seventh-century Mecca by the prophet  Muhammad. | Sundiata’s nephew Mansa Musa became the ruler of the Mali Empire and reigned from c. 1312 to c. 1337 CE. | The city of Timbuktu in the kingdom of Mali began as a pitstop for camel caravans trading  across the desert. | The Mali Empire became very wealthy from  the trade of gold and enslaved people. |
|  | The connection between government/rulers and religion was very strong, especially in the Islamic world. | Both overland and sea routes along the Silk Road trade networks connected Asia to the Mediterranean. |  |