Name:\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Date:\_\_\_\_ Period:\_\_\_\_

West African Empires

*Unit 4: Week 1*

**Unit:** West African Empires

**CA State Standards:** **7.4.1 Describe the geography of West Africa and how that influenced trade in Ghana and Mali**

**SWBAT** define the important words needed to discuss Islam and the Middle East

**Vocabulary:**

1. Niger River
2. Sahara Desert
3. Savannah
4. Resource
5. Trans-Saharan
6. Caravan
7. Tribute
8. Ghana
9. Empire

**MONDAY: Word Pyramids**

***Directions****: In the space below, create a word pyramid for each vocabulary word.*

***Example:***

*S*

*St*

*Stu*

*Stud*

*Study*



**Tuesday : Vocabulary Definitions for MONEY words**

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Vocabulary** | **Definition** | **Definition in****YOUR OWN WORDS****Or from a dictionary**  | **Picture, or Example** |
| **Desert****Example: Sahara Desert**  | a large area of land where it is always very hot and dry, and there is a lot of sand |  |  |
| **River****Example: Niger River** | A flow of water through land, usually providing transportation or vegetation  |  |  |
| **Savannah** | A large area of grassy flat land, especially in Africa |  |  |
| **Resource** | something such as useful land, or minerals such as oil or coal, that exists in a country and can be used to increase its wealth |  |  |
| **Trans-Saharan** | Trans= across, or between 2 things or groupsSaharan= having to do with the Sahara Desert  |  |  |
| **Caravan**  | a group of people with animals or vehicles who travel together for safety, especially through a desert |  |  |
| **Tribute** | a payment of goods or money by one ruler/person or country to another more powerful one, especially in order to be protected |  |  |
| **Ghana** | An empire that grew in West Africa during Medieval times |  |  |
| **Empire** | An area of land or a group of kingdoms that are all controlled by one ruler or government |  |  |

**WEDNESDAY: Sentences**

***Directions****:*

1. *Use each of the MONEY words in a sentence that* ***demonstrates the meaning of the word****.*

*OR*

1. *Write an explanation about the land of West Africa using the MONEY WORDS*

*OR*

1. *Write a story pretending to be a trader in Ghana or Mali, using the MONEY WORDS*

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**THURSDAY: Summary Review Questions**

***Directions****: Use this week’s MONEY words to answer the questions from this week:*

1. *Describe the Sahara Desert.*
2. *Why was the Niger River important in West Africa?*
3. *What, and where, is Ghana?*
4. *How did Ghana grow wealthy (rich)?*

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Statement** | **True or False?** | **Why did you choose your answer?** |
| The Sahara Desert is an excellent place for life in West Africa. |  |  |
| The Niger River was important for trade, and it is part of the reason that Ghana and Mali became wealthy empires.  |  |  |
| Ghana and Mali had nothing to do with trade.  |  |  |

