16—Crash Course World History Video Notes:

Mansa Musa and Islam in Africa

(West Africa)

1. Much of African history was preserved via \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ rather than written tradition.
2. But we do have a lot of interesting records for some African histories such as the tale of king \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_\_, who ruled the west African empire of \_\_\_\_\_\_\_, and in 1324ish he left his home and made the \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, the pilgrimage to \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.
3. He brought with him an entourage of over \_\_\_\_\_\_\_ and, most importantly, \_\_\_\_\_\_ camel loads of gold. Along the way Mansa Musa spent freely and gave away lots of his riches. Most famously, when he reached \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, he spent so much gold that he caused runaway \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ throughout the city that took years to recover from.
4. He built houses in \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ and in \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ to house his attendants, and as he traveled through the world, a lot of people—notably the merchants of \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_—spread tales of Mansa Musa’s ridiculous wealth, which helped create the myth in the minds of Europeans that West Africa was a \_\_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, an El Dorado.
5. So what’s so important about the story of Mansa Musa?
6. It tells us there were African kingdoms, ruled by fabulously wealthy African kings; which undermine one of the many stereotypes about Africa, that its people were poor and lived in tribes ruled by \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.
7. Since Mansa Musa was making the hajj, we know that he was \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ and relatively \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.
8. And this tells us that Africa, at least western Africa, was much more \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ to the parts of the world we’ve been talking about than we generally are led to believe.
9. The empire of Mali ran from the coast hundreds of miles into the interior and included many significant cities, the largest and best-known of which was \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.
10. The story of the Islamization of the Empire, however, is a bit more complicated. The \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ were early converts to Islam, and Islam spread along pre-existing \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ between North and West Africa.
11. The first converts in Mali were traders, who benefited from having a religious as well as \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ connection to their trading partners in the North and the rest of the Mediterranean.
12. The kings followed the traders, because sharing the religion of more established kingdoms in the north and east would give them \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, not to mention access to scholars and administrators who could help them cement their power.
13. African Muslim kings would often \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ traditional religion with Islam. For instance, giving women more \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ than was seen in Islam’s birthplace.
14. The first kings we have a record of adopting Islam were from \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, which was the first “empire” in western Africa and it was later replaced by Mali.
15. When Mansa Musa returned from his hajj, he brought back \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ to build mosques.
16. The reason we know a lot about Mali is because it was visited by \_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, the Moroccan cleric and scholar who traveled from Mali to \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ to India to \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ to Indonesia. Everywhere he went he was treated like a king and then he went home and wrote a really famous book called the \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, which people still read today.
17. The Malian Empire eventually fell to the \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, which was eventually overthrown for being insufficiently Islamic, meaning that centuries after his death Mansa Musa had succeeded at bringing Islamic piety to his people.

(East Africa)

1. The eastern coast of Africa saw the rise of what historians called the \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ civilization, which was not an empire or a kingdom but a collection of \_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_—like Zanzibar and Mombasa and Mogadishu--All of which formed a network of \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.
2. There was no \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_; each of these cities was autonomous; ruled usually by a king.
3. There were three things that linked these city states such that we can consider them a common culture: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.
4. The Swahili language is part of a language group called \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, and its original speakers were from West Africa. Modern day Swahili, by the way, is still a Bantu based language, although it’s been heavily influenced by \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.
5. Arab traders arrived in the 8th century seeking goods that they could trade in the vast \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ network, the Silk Road of the sea, and of course those merchants brought \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.
6. Most of the goods exported were raw materials, like \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, animal hides, timber; also \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ were exported, although not in HUGE numbers, and they exported gold. They imported finished luxury goods like \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.