**Document A: Blog Post**

*The following is an excerpt from a blog post that appeared in* The

Huffington Post *on October 17, 2012. It describes a study on the wealthiest*

*people in world history done by Brian Warner, the founder of* Celebrity Net

Worth*, an online publication that investigates the lifestyles of the rich and*

*famous.*

**Mansa Musa of Mali Named World’s Richest Man of All Time; Gates**

**and Buffet Also Make List**

You've probably never heard of him, but Mansa Musa is the richest person

ever.

The 14th century emperor from West Africa was worth a staggering $400

billion, after adjusting for inflation, as calculated by *Celebrity Net Worth*. To

put that number into perspective – if that's even possible – *Net Worth's*

calculations mean Musa's fortune far **outstrips** that of the current world's

richest man Carlos Slim Helú and family. . . .

According to the Encyclopedia Britannica, when Musa died sometime in the

1330s, he left behind an empire filled with palaces and mosques, some of

which still stand today. But the emperor really turned historic heads for the

over-the-top extravagances of his 1324 pilgrimage to Mecca.

The trip, which he embarked upon during the 17th year of the monarch's

glittering reign, was hosted by the leaders of both Mecca and Cairo and

apparently was so brilliant, it "almost put Africa’s sun to shame."

Musa’s wealth was a result of his country’s vast natural resources. The

West African nation was responsible for more than half of the world’s salt

and gold supply, according to *Net Worth*. Of course, the entry also notes

that the fortune was also fleeting. Just two generations later, his net worth

was gone – wasted by invaders and infighting.

***Source:*** The Huffington Post*, October 17, 2012.*

**Vocabulary**

outstrips: exceeds

**Document B: Catalan Atlas**

*The Catalan Atlas is a medieval map from Spain drawn in 1375 by a*

*mapmaker named Abraham Cresques. Cresques had never visited West*

*Africa but relied on the accounts of travelers and traders to make his map.*



“This Black lord is called Musa Mali, Lord of the Black people of Mali. So

abundant is the gold which is found in his country that he is the richest and

most noble king in all the land.”—*Catalan Atlas inscription*

***Source:*** *Abraham Cresques, 1375.*

**Document C: Al-Umari**

*Al-Umari was an Arab historian from Damascus, Syria. He visited the city of*

*Cairo in Egypt several years after Mansa Musa passed through there on*

*his pilgrimage in 1324 CE. He then wrote this account of Mansa Musa’s*

*visit, as told to him by the people of Cairo.*

From the beginning of my coming to stay in Egypt I heard talk of the arrival

of this **sultan** Musa on his Pilgrimage and found the people of Cairo eager

to tell what they had seen of the Africans’ extravagant spending. I asked

the **emir** Abu and he told me of the **opulence**, manly virtues, and **piety** of

his sultan. Abu said, “When I went out to meet him, Musa did me extreme

honor and treated me with the greatest courtesy. He addressed me,

however, only through an interpreter despite his perfect ability to speak in

the Arabic tongue. Then he sent to the royal treasury many loads of

unworked native gold and other valuables. I tried to persuade him to go up

to the Citadel to meet the sultan of Cairo, but he refused persistently

saying: ‘I came for the Pilgrimage and nothing else. I do not wish to mix

anything else with my Pilgrimage.’”

Mansa Musa flooded Cairo with his gifts. He left no emir or holder of a royal

office without the gift of a load of gold. The people of Cairo made

**incalculable** profits out of him and his caravan in buying and selling and

giving and taking. They traded away gold until they **depressed** its value in

Egypt and caused its price to fall. This has been the state of affairs for

about twelve years until this day by reason of the large amount of gold

which they brought into Egypt and spent there.

***Source:*** *Al-Umari,* Pathways of Vision in the Realms of the Metropolises, *1337-1338.*

**Vocabulary**

sultan: king

emir**:** a high ranking title

opulence**:** great wealth, especially shown

by extravagant living

piety**:** religious devotion

incalculable**:** huge

depressed**:** lowered