

ACTIVITY 12.1

What Do These Words Mean?

Word	Economic definition	Definition in your own words	Picture	Use in a sentence
Inflation				
Purchasing power				

## ACTIVITY 12.2

**Mansa Musa—Ruler of Mali (1312–1337)**

Mansa Musa became king of Mali in 1312. During his rule, he expanded his kingdom, promoted trade, brought peace and order, promoted education, and made Mali known throughout Europe and the Muslim world.

One of the five duties of a devout Muslim is to visit the holy city of Mecca. In 1324, Mansa Musa set out on a hajj, a holy pilgrimage. He left Timbuktu with a great caravan. According to al-Umari, a 14th century Arab historian, the caravan had 80 to 100 camels, each loaded with 300 pounds of gold. Today, this would be valued at \$583 to \$718 million. Mansa Musa took thousands of his subjects: bearers to carry his personal effects, soldiers, officials, and dignitaries. Five hundred slaves rode in front of the king, each carrying a gold staff weighing four pounds.

Mansa Musa stayed for months in Egypt and his trip was remembered for centuries for his generous gifts and expenditures. Twelve years later, when historian al-Umari visited Cairo, he wrote that Mansa Musa gave large quantities of gold to all dignitaries, those who held a royal office, and others he met. He gave away so much gold that it lost its value.

By the time Mansa Musa left Egypt, the value of gold had fallen 10 to 25 percent. When he left Egypt to return home, he was penniless and had to borrow gold to travel back to Mali.

**SOURCES**

Landes, D. 1998. *The Wealth and Poverty of Nations: Why Some Are So Rich and Some So Poor*. New York: W.W.Norton & Company, Inc.

Boahen, A., Ajayi, J., and Tidy, M. 1986. *Topics in West African History*. England: Longman Group Limited.

ACTIVITY 12.3

**Middle School Consumer Price Index**

Item	2005 Price	2010 Price
Bag of potato chips (1.875 oz.)	\$ .88	\$ .93
Chocolate candy bar (1.55 oz.)	\$ .79	\$ .86
Bottle of cola (20 oz.)	\$ 1.46	\$ 1.64
1 movie ticket	\$ 8.04	\$ 8.80
Package of gum (15 sticks)	\$ 1.22	\$ 1.28
Hamburger, fries, and a small drink	\$ 2.68	\$ 3.01
Small (10-inch) pizza	\$ 4.46	\$ 4.64

You receive an allowance of \$12 per week. Listed above are some items you would like to buy and the price of each. You don't have to spend all your allowance; you may save some.

Using 2005 prices, decide with your partners how to spend your weekly allowance. All group members must agree on the items and quantities to purchase. List the items you wish to buy. Determine the quantity you plan to purchase. Find the cost of the items and enter the information in the appropriate column below. For savings, enter the dollar amount you wish to save. The total amount you spend added to the amount you save should equal your allowance.

Item	Quantity	Cost (2005 prices)	Cost (2010 prices)
		\$	\$
		\$	\$
		\$	\$
		\$	\$
		\$	\$
		\$	\$
Savings		\$	\$
Total allowance		\$ 12.00	\$