Qur’an: Sacred Scripture of Islam
Timbuktu Viewing Guide

After viewing the video segment “Timbuktu,” work with your partner on the questions below.

1. Several examples of primary source evidence were mentioned in the program that helped historians and archeologists understand what Timbuktu was like in the 11th century. Identify and describe this evidence and explain why scholars believe it can reliably describe Timbuktu as a center of learning.

2. Taking into account this evidence and the images from the video program, write a brief description of what Timbuktu might have looked like and provide a description of the type of people who went there during the 11th century.

3. Trace the possible routes people took from the cities on your map and describe the methods of transportation they would need to go from these cities to Timbuktu.

4. What is happening to the historical evidence that explains Timbuktu’s past?

5. What are some of the actions by individuals that make this evidence rare to find and study?