

Name:

Date:

Grade: 4

Moral Education Choice Activities - Week 9 - Term 3

Choice 1 – Story

Read the story and respond to the questions:

Ghana is situated in West Africa, with salt mines to the north of the country and gold mines to the south. Many years ago, the ancient kingdom of Ghana was one of the world's most important trading centres. Its king was a very clever man. He allowed traders to pass through and trade in Ghana and he made money by offering them protection from bandits in return for a fee. To do this, he made sure his army was very strong.

Even though his country possessed neither salt nor gold, the king decreed the rules of trade – people had to trade an ounce of gold for an ounce of salt. He also set up a system whereby traders did not even have to meet each other face-to-face. They would leave goods like gold in a prearranged spot where it was collected. Payment was then left in the same spot. As long as payments were made trade continued. This system made it possible to trade with people who spoke different languages or who you might not know or trust.

The trade of gold and salt was so successful in Ghana that traders from the east started coming to Ghana to trade silks and spices. This clever king made more money for his country by charging these new traders a tax to enter and leave his country.

- a. Why do you think salt was considered to be as valuable as gold?

- b. What do you think about what the king of Ghana did? Was it a good idea?

- c. Why do you think that gold is worth so much more than salt today?