Chapter 5 Starting with a Story – "Trading Gold in Africa"

Read pages 148 and 149 and answer the following questions.

Trading Gold in Ancient Africa

In West Africa, Ghana produced and traded so much gold that it was called the Land of Gold. The gold was mined in the forests near the source of the Niger before being transported down the Niger in canoes. In market towns that grew up along the Niger, gold was traded for a variety of items. Because salt was unavailable in Ghana, some gold was transported by camel caravans across the Sahara to be traded for salt from the north.

1) Why was Ghana called the "Land of Gold"? Where was the gold found?
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2) Why did Ghana develop a "gold for salt" trading system?
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3. How did traders travel between North and West Africa? How was the camel used? (Page 148)
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4. What are the traders worried about as they caravan? Why do they need the salt? (Page 149)
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5. Describe what the traders expect to happen as they meet the Berber salt traders. List the events. (Page 149)
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6. What amazing thing occurs as the goods are being traded? (Page 149) Why was this action so amazing?
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7. How are Berbers characterized in this story? Use examples from the text to support your answer.
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