

Artifact #4- Unpublished Document (Primary)
Prepared by Christine Ammirati
A Blog from Mali

Background Information: Despite its rich culture and ancient history, modern Mali is one of the world's poorest countries. More than half of its land is desert or very dry and 80% of workers either farm or fish earning very low incomes. International volunteers work in Mali schools, agriculture, hospitals, and work to build transportation, housing, and factories. The Peace Corps is a volunteer organization sponsored by the American government that helps peoples in developing countries throughout the world. More than 170 American Peace Corps volunteers are currently working in Mali.

Artifact: Students read two October 2010 entries from the blog of Mario F. Romero, Peace Corps volunteer currently in Mali. If Blogger is inaccessible, students can refer to hard copy (attached).

<http://mariofromero.blogspot.com/2010/10/pictures-from-homestay-soundougouba.html>

<http://mariofromero.blogspot.com/2010/10/more-homestay-pictures.html>

Independent Activity: Choose a blog photograph and write a short description of it. Draw a picture of a similar scene in your life. Write a short description of the similarities and differences between the life in a Mali village and life in your home.

Small Group Activity: In a group of 4-5 students, work together to choose 4-5 blog photographs (one for each student). Use these images for inspiration to create a brief story of a Malian child's typical morning in this village. Next, draw pictures and write a brief story of a child's typical morning in your own community. Mount these two related stories on a poster for classroom display titled "A Day In the Life of Two Children."

Whole Group Activity: As a class, review the blog photographs and captions individually. As a class, work together to classify photographs into groups. Categories may include education, housing, food, cooking techniques, methods of obtaining water, and sanitation, and family size and members. Share observations about the similarities and differences between your own daily lives and the lives of the Mali families documented on the blog. Given that the blog depicts only one village in a large country, discuss additional information that is important to consider when attempting to understand the differences and similarities between Malian and American cultures. Brainstorm questions that would increase your understanding of Malian village life.

Question:

1. In their daily lives, most residents of this Mali village are likely to work in _____:
 - a. factories
 - b. offices
 - c. farms
 - d. stores

Source:

Romero, Mario F. (2010, October 23). More homestay pictures. Retrieved from <http://mariofromero.blogspot.com/2010/10/pictures-from-homestay-soundougouba.html> (2010, October 16).

Romero, Mario F. (2010, October 23). Pictures from homestay – Soundougouba. Retrieved

from <http://mariofromero.blogspot.com/2010/10/pictures-from-homestay-soundougouba.html>

(2010, October 16).

Artifact #4- Unpublished Document (Intermediate)
Prepared by Christine Ammirati
A Blog from Mali

Background Information: Despite its rich culture and ancient history, modern Mali is one of the world's poorest countries. More than half of its land is desert or very dry and 80% of workers either farm or fish earning very low incomes. International volunteers work in Mali schools, agriculture, hospitals, and work to build transportation, housing, and factories. The Peace Corps is a volunteer organization sponsored by the American government that helps peoples in developing countries throughout the world. More than 170 American Peace Corps volunteers are currently working in Mali.

Artifact: Students read two October 2010 entries from the blog of Mario F. Romero, Peace Corps volunteer currently in Mali. If Blogger is inaccessible, students can refer to hard copy (attached).

<http://mariofromero.blogspot.com/2010/10/pictures-from-homestay-soundougouba.html>
<http://mariofromero.blogspot.com/2010/10/more-homestay-pictures.html>

Independent Activity: Choose a blog photograph and caption. Write your observations about Malian life and explain how this photograph is alike or different to a similar scene in your personal life. Write down a question prompted by this photograph and what other information you would like to learn about life in a Mali village. Find one unknown term used in the blog, research it, and write down definition.

Small Group Activity: In a group of 4-5 students, create a "compare and contrast chart" showing similarities and differences between your own daily lives and the lives of the Mali families documented on the blog. Categories may include but are not limited to education, housing, food, cooking techniques, methods of obtaining water, sanitation, and family size and members. Cut and paste blog photographs to support your Mali observations. In order to have complete information for your chart, research at least two unknown vocabulary terms used in the blog. Write these definitions under the corresponding blog photographs. To complete the U.S. section of your "compare and contrast chart," write a short paragraph describing your daily life and use personal photographs, magazine pictures, or drawings.

Whole Group Activity: As a class, brainstorm similarities and differences between your daily lives and the lives of the Mali families documented on the blog. Work together to organize class input into a "compare and contrast chart." Categories may include education, housing, food, cooking techniques, methods of obtaining water, sanitation, and family size and members. Use photographic evidence from the blog to support your observations of Malian daily life. Given that the blog depicts one village in a large country, determine additional information that is important to consider when comparing Malian and U.S. cultures. Using internet resources, research these questions as well as general country information that can be used to compare Mali and the U.S. Add these data to the "compare and contrast chart."

Question:

- 1) In their daily lives, most residents of this Mali village are likely to use _____:
- a. indoor toilets
 - b. farm animals
 - c. electric toothbrushes
 - d. dishwashers

Source:

Romero, Mario F. (2010, October 23). More homestay pictures. Retrieved from <http://mariofromero.blogspot.com/2010/10/pictures-from-homestay-soundougouba.html> (2010, October 16).

Romero, Mario F. (2010, October 23). Pictures from homestay – Soundougouba. Retrieved from <http://mariofromero.blogspot.com/2010/10/pictures-from-homestay-soundougouba.html> (2010, October 16).

Saturday, October 23, 2010

Pictures from homestay - Soundougouba, Mali



The soccer field. Play the game "where's the goal post?"



Kadri!

251658240



My host family - my host dad, his first wife sitting down, and his second wife on the left.



nyegen!

My



[251658240](https://www.facebook.com/251658240) Daow. This is one of my host brothers. I hung out with him a lot and we chatted in French. He's at the University of Bamako studying pre-law and owns a store in a town nearby. When I asked him what he wanted to do getting his degree, he wasn't sure,

but thought maybe he would either study more, keep working in the store, or work in the fields. His older brother has a degree in marketing and now owns a few hectares of corn field.



Everything a Malian woman needs to pound millet, toh, and shea butter.



The girls eating dinner of toh and okra sauce.



251658240

This is my host dad's mother, Tieman (my host dad's father) Diarra's 1st wife. She hangs out under her gwa all day and takes care of the little girls. My room is in the back left of the picture.



Kadi is Fanta's daughter, in her terrible twos, has been learning how to pound since she could walk, and

probably the chubbiest baby in Mali. Fanta is 17 years old and her husband died while she was still pregnant with Kadri.



My host dad's house is the white one and his wives' house is on the right. They aren't so much houses as they are sleeping rooms since everyone just spends time outside.



The water pump

251658240



Normally breakfast wasn't this good, but I had to take a picture of this one where Ryan brought over an egg sandwich with fries and oranges. I also included a full pack of 10 gazelle tea packages, the best tea in Mali according to my host family.



What I see outside my window. Including my 5:00am alarm clock, the family donkey...



[251658240](#)

The Michigan bear studying Bambara with his water bottle



My bed under the mosquito net.



Baby

goat

[251658240](#)



The kids of Soundougouba during the full moon.



This is what I like to call the full moon rabbit costume. The kids get underneath and dance around going from concession to concession getting small change and snacks. Kate (the other volunteer in the picture), and I got under the rabbit at one point and danced around a bit.



Rocks by Soundougouba

Posted by Mario at [4:04 PM 251658240](#)✎