Building Vocabulary

Tricky Terms in The Bling King

Read “The Bling King,” then follow the directions to help you master the tough terms in this article.

Part 1: Context Clues
Fill in the letter of the best definition of each bolded term in these lines from “The Bling King.”

1. The fertile soil produced abundant crops and the area teemed with natural resources.
   A few
   B plentiful
   C popular

2. Salt was a hot commodity in the ancient world. It could be used to preserve meat and other foods. That was especially important, since refrigerators weren’t invented for another 500-plus years.
   A product
   B ingredient
   C underused resource

3. “The lavish display of wealth was designed to advertise his kingdom as a trade destination, and to a large extent, it worked.”
   A luxurious
   B moderate
   C unusual

4. Mansa Musa’s net worth was more than three times that much—an amount unfathomable to most people.
   A comparable
   B measurable
   C measurable

5. Islam is still the dominant religion in Mali, but that may be the only aspect Mansa Musa would recognize about the country today.
   A historic
   B leading
   C secondary

Part 2: Words to Know
Read the following definitions and example sentences of the bolded vocabulary words from “The Bling King.” Then, for each word, write your own additional example sentence.

net worth (n): the total value of something after debts and other costs have been deducted
• example: After taking into account the large amount of money he owed to the bank, the businessman’s net worth was half of what he expected.

• your example: ______________________________
  __________________________________________
  __________________________________________
  __________________________________________

monopolize (v): to gain or hold complete control over
• example: Once the diva got ahold of the microphone, she monopolized the stage for two hours, refusing to let

• your example: ______________________________
  __________________________________________
  __________________________________________
  __________________________________________