Central Historical Question:
What was the Muslim world like in the 1320s?

Directions: Use Ibn Battuta’s accounts of his travels to Tripoli, Cairo, Syria, Damascus and Mecca to complete the following chart about the Muslim world in the 1320s. You will not find information for every category in the accounts of each city, but the five cities should provide you with a good overview.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Political</th>
<th>Economic</th>
<th>Social/Cultural/Religious</th>
<th>Environmental</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Relating to the government, politics, people’s rights or the military</td>
<td>Relating to the economy, money, business or workers</td>
<td>Relating to the culture (traditions, art), beliefs (religion), values and relationships of people in a community</td>
<td>Relating to geography or physical characteristics</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
| • Tyrant ruler, lack of democracy (Cairo)  
• Governments in different areas might not get along because they require passports between countries to protect against spies (Syria) | • Travel in North Africa could be dangerous because of robbers along the roads (Tripoli)  
• Nile a key trade center with goods and provisions (Tripoli, Cairo)  
• Chains of bazaars running along the Nile (Tripoli)  
• Customs dues and taxes are collected from traders and travelers (Syria) | • Nile a key cultural center (Tripoli)  
• Cairo a key population center (Cairo)  
• Cairo a key intellectual center with madrasas and advanced hospitals (Cairo)  
• Damascus a key cultural center with a college and beautiful mosque (Damascus)  
• Mecca also key cultural/religious center (Mecca)  
• People of Mecca welcome and take care of poor religious travelers (Mecca) | • Incessant rains (Tripoli)  
• People traveled by camel through the dry desert (Damascus)  
• Climate/environment seems to vary depending on area |