Routes of Change

Trace how trade connected economies and cultures across continents.

SS24.7.13d "Analyze how the establishment of the Silk Road fostered economic and cultural development across multiple continents."

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline two ways people earned money through trade, circle two cultural changes, and write 1 beside a sentence that connects places on different continents. Use your marks to explain how trade led to change.

What Traveled the Silk Road?

1. Imagine a bolt of silk leaving a workshop in China. After the Silk Road routes grew during the Han dynasty, merchants carried goods between China, Central Asia, and lands near the Mediterranean Sea. The Silk Road was a network of land routes, not one road. Most traders traveled only part of the distance, selling to other merchants at busy stops. At these stops, people bought food, hired guides, and paid for places to store goods. Trade brought income to towns along the routes and linked markets in Asia and Europe.

2. Demand for silk in western markets gave Chinese producers a reason to make cloth for sale. In return, horses from Central Asia reached China, where rulers valued them for travel and warfare. Merchants also carried spices from South Asia toward western Asia and Europe through routes connected to the Silk Road. Some goods moved between land routes and sea routes across the Indian Ocean, connecting ports in eastern Africa to wider trade networks. Because buyers in different regions wanted different products, traders and craftspeople could earn a living by meeting those demands.

3. Travelers carried ideas as well as goods. Buddhist teachers and merchants moved from India through Central Asia toward China. In towns along the routes, they shared teachings and helped establish Buddhist communities. As Buddhism spread, some communities in China built temples and translated Buddhist texts into Chinese. Cultural exchange worked in more than one direction: patterns from western Asia appeared on objects made in China, while Chinese silk influenced clothing far to the west. These changes happened because trade routes brought people with different skills and beliefs into contact.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. How did merchants who stopped along the routes help towns earn income?

2. How did demand in western markets affect work in China? Explain the link.

3. How could links between land and sea routes help ports in eastern Africa take part in wider trade?

4. How did travelers along the Silk Road change religious life in China? Name a cause and an effect.

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Imagine a new stop opens where traders from Asia and Europe meet. Write one paragraph predicting an economic change and a cultural change the stop could cause. Explain how contact at the stop leads to each change, using examples not given in the passage.

ANSWER KEY

Routes of Change

GRADE 7 · SS24.7.13d

PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Underline two ways people earned money through trade, circle two cultural changes, and write 1 beside a sentence that connects places on different continents. Use your marks to explain how trade led to change. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	How did merchants who stopped along the routes help towns earn income?	**Merchants bought food, hired guides, and paid to store goods, bringing income to towns along the routes.**
2	How did demand in western markets affect work in China? Explain the link.	**Western demand for silk gave Chinese producers a reason to make cloth for sale.**
3	How could links between land and sea routes help ports in eastern Africa take part in wider trade?	**Goods could move between Silk Road land routes and Indian Ocean sea routes, connecting eastern African ports to traders in other regions.**
4	How did travelers along the Silk Road change religious life in China? Name a cause and an effect.	**Buddhist teachers and merchants shared teachings as they traveled toward China. Some communities there built temples and translated Buddhist texts into Chinese.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

At the new stop, local potters could sell water jars to traders who need supplies for the next journey. If more traders stop there, the potters might hire helpers, creating jobs and income. A traveler could also teach local musicians a song from another region. The musicians might add their own instruments and perform a new version at the market. Both changes would happen because the stop brings travelers and local people together.

Accept other passage-supported explanations that connect trade or travel to an economic or cultural effect. For Part 3, look for two distinct, plausible changes and a clear cause for each.