More Than Cargo

How trade and colonies changed Mediterranean communities

SS24.7.15b "Explain the social and cultural outcomes of economic activities within the Mediterranean region, including the establishment of colonies that influenced each other culturally."

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline two economic reasons Cumae was founded, then circle two cultural changes linked to exchange. Write 1 beside a detail showing Greek influence on Etruscans and 2 beside a detail showing Italian influence on Greeks.

A Port Where Cultures Met

1. Imagine a ship arriving at Cumae, a Greek settlement on Italy's coast, around 700 BCE. Greek settlers had crossed the Mediterranean seeking farmland and places to trade. Cumae grew into a busy port, but the land was not empty when they arrived. Other peoples already lived nearby, including the Etruscans farther north. Farmers, sailors, and merchants met at the port to exchange grain, metal goods, and painted pottery. A colony could open markets for its settlers while creating new relationships, and sometimes disputes, with neighbors.

2. Etruscan merchants bought Greek painted pots. Etruscan potters also copied some of their shapes and designs. As goods moved, ideas traveled with them. Etruscans learned Greek letter forms through contact with Greek settlers and changed the letters to fit their own language. A painted pot could display a new style at a feast, while writing helped people record names and messages. Trade changed more than what people owned. It changed how some people decorated objects and communicated.

3. Influence did not run in only one direction. Greek settlers used pottery made by their Italian neighbors alongside pottery brought from Greece. Shared markets gave people reasons to learn about unfamiliar foods, tools, and customs. Later, Romans adapted an alphabet used by the Etruscans, whose letters had been shaped by contact with Greeks. These changes took generations, not a single voyage. Trade and settlement could also bring fights over land and control of ports. Across the Mediterranean, colonies linked communities, but each community made its own choices about what to adopt.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. How did the reasons for founding Cumae lead settlers into contact with nearby peoples?

2. How did trade in painted pots affect Etruscan culture?

3. How did contact with Greek settlers eventually affect Roman writing?

4. What details show that cultural influence between Greek settlers and Italian peoples moved in both directions?

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Imagine a new port colony where newcomers trade salt for cloth with nearby communities. In 3 to 4 sentences, explain one social outcome and one cultural outcome that could result, showing how people on both sides might influence each other. Do not use pottery or alphabets.

ANSWER KEY

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GRADE 7 · SS24.7.15b

PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Underline two economic reasons Cumae was founded, then circle two cultural changes linked to exchange. Write 1 beside a detail showing Greek influence on Etruscans and 2 beside a detail showing Italian influence on Greeks. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	How did the reasons for founding Cumae lead settlers into contact with nearby peoples?	**Settlers sought farmland and places to trade. At the new port, they exchanged goods with people who already lived nearby.**
2	How did trade in painted pots affect Etruscan culture?	**Etruscan potters copied shapes and designs from Greek pots, bringing new styles to objects used in their community.**
3	How did contact with Greek settlers eventually affect Roman writing?	**Etruscans adapted Greek letter forms for their language. Romans later adapted an alphabet used by the Etruscans.**
4	What details show that cultural influence between Greek settlers and Italian peoples moved in both directions?	**Etruscans adapted Greek letters and pottery styles, while Greek settlers used pottery made by their Italian neighbors.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

Nearby families and newcomers meet often to trade salt for cloth, so they may form partnerships or disagree over market rules. Neighbors might adopt a newcomer method of preserving fish with salt. Newcomers might use local cloth patterns in their own clothing, so exchange changes customs on both sides.

Accept other passage-supported explanations of how trade or settlement changed relationships and customs. For Your Turn, look for a plausible social outcome and a cultural change adopted by each group.