

Routes and Riches

Trace how traditional economies created trade and merchant opportunities.

SS.6.E.3.3 "Describe traditional economies (e.g., Egypt, Greece, Rome, Kush) and elements of those economies that led to the rise of a merchant class and trading partners."

NAME _____

DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK _____ Read it twice

YOUR JOB Write **Egypt and Kush** beside paragraph 1, **Greece** beside paragraph 2, and **Rome** beside paragraph 3. Then underline the one sentence in each paragraph that begins with "Because" and states why merchants or trade grew.

From Local Work to Long-Distance Trade

- ① In ancient Egypt, most people farmed along the Nile River. Families followed seasonal flooding and used customary jobs, so the economy was traditional. Farmers produced grain, flax for linen, and papyrus. Egypt exchanged grain and manufactured goods for cedar wood from the eastern Mediterranean and luxury goods from Nubia. Kush, south of Egypt, supplied gold, ivory, ebony, and animal skins through Nile travel and caravan routes. Because surpluses and dependable travel connected producers with distant buyers, traders could carry goods between Egypt, Kush, and other partners.
- ② Ancient Greece had rocky land, so many communities could not grow enough grain for everyone. Greek farmers raised olives and grapes, while craftspeople made pottery, metal tools, and cloth. City-states such as Athens used busy harbors to send olive oil, wine, and pottery across the Aegean Sea. In return, they received grain, timber, and metals from other regions. Because coastal ports, skilled crafts, and a need for imported grain brought regular exchange, merchants became important links between Greek producers and foreign trading partners.
- ③ Rome first relied on farming and household production, but its growing republic and later empire connected many lands around the Mediterranean. Italian farms supplied grain, olives, wine, and wool. Roman workshops made pottery, glassware, tools, and cloth, while distant provinces provided goods such as metals, spices, and silk. Roads, sea routes, ports, and common Roman coins helped buyers and sellers conduct exchange over long distances. Because Roman rule protected many routes and created large markets, merchants, shippers, and bankers gained chances to earn wealth by moving goods among trading partners.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE _____ Use the passage

1 What details show that Egypt had a traditional economy?

2 What goods did Kush supply, and how did those goods travel to trading partners?

3 Why did merchants become important in ancient Greece? Use two details from the passage.

4 How did Roman roads, sea routes, ports, and coins help create opportunities for merchants?

3 YOUR TURN _____ Your own words

Create a made-up traditional economy in exactly three sentences. Name a local resource or craft, a trading partner, and one condition that would help merchants earn wealth.

PART 1 • READ AND MARK

Write **Egypt and Kush** beside paragraph 1, **Greece** beside paragraph 2, and **Rome** beside paragraph 3. Then underline the one sentence in each paragraph that begins with "Because" and states why merchants or trade grew. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 • ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	What details show that Egypt had a traditional economy?	Most people farmed along the Nile, and families followed seasonal flooding and customary jobs.
2	What goods did Kush supply, and how did those goods travel to trading partners?	Kush supplied gold, ivory, ebony, and animal skins. Goods traveled by Nile routes and caravan routes.
3	Why did merchants become important in ancient Greece? Use two details from the passage.	Greek ports, skilled crafts, and the need to import grain created regular exchange. Merchants linked Greek producers with foreign trading partners.
4	How did Roman roads, sea routes, ports, and coins help create opportunities for merchants?	They helped buyers and sellers exchange goods over long distances. Protected routes and large markets gave merchants opportunities to earn wealth by moving goods.

PART 3 • YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

In the river town of Luma, families follow customary work and weave reeds into baskets. Traders carry the baskets by boat to the mountain people, who exchange copper. A busy river landing and regular copper trade allow merchants to earn wealth by linking weavers and buyers.

Accept accurate responses that connect traditional work or local production to trade with another group. The response must also name a condition, such as a route, port, surplus, market, or need for imports, that gives merchants a role.