

Phoenician Sea Connections

Trace how Phoenician voyages spread goods, communities, and ideas.

SS.6.W.3.1 "Analyze the cultural impact the ancient Phoenicians had on the Mediterranean world with regard to colonization (Carthage), exploration, maritime commerce (purple dye, tin), and written communication (alphabet)."

NAME _____

DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK _____ Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline one detail about colonization, exploration, commerce, and written communication. Number the four underlined details 1 through 4 in that order to show how Phoenician ideas and goods spread.

Connections Across the Mediterranean

- ① The Phoenicians lived in independent city-states along the eastern Mediterranean coast. From ports such as Tyre and Sidon, they built sturdy ships and learned to navigate by stars, winds, and coastlines. Their voyages carried them across the Mediterranean and beyond its western entrance. Phoenician settlers established colonies, or new communities, that supplied ships and supported trade. Carthage, founded by settlers from Tyre on the North African coast, grew into a major city. Colonies helped Phoenician language, religious practices, craft skills, and trading connections reach distant shores.
- ② Sea travel made Phoenician merchants important partners in maritime commerce. They sold prized purple cloth dyed with liquid from murex sea snails. Because making the dye required many snails and much work, purple cloth was costly and became a sign of wealth and power in many Mediterranean societies. Merchants also helped move tin through long-distance trade networks, including routes linked to the western Mediterranean. Craftspeople mixed tin with copper to make bronze. By connecting ports and goods, Phoenician trade influenced what people wore, made, and valued.
- ③ Phoenician traders needed a quick way to record names, cargoes, and agreements. Their alphabet used signs mainly for consonant sounds, making it easier to learn than systems with hundreds of picture-like signs. As merchants and settlers met other peoples, the alphabet traveled with trade and colonization. Greeks adapted Phoenician letter forms and added symbols for vowel sounds. The Greek alphabet later influenced the Latin alphabet used by the Romans. Thus, a tool from Phoenician commerce shaped written communication far beyond Phoenician cities.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE _____ Use the passage

1 Why did colonies such as Carthage increase the cultural impact of the Phoenicians? Name two things that could spread through colonies.

2 How did Phoenician exploration and navigation help expand their influence around the Mediterranean?

3 How did purple dye and tin affect other Mediterranean societies in different ways?

4 Explain the path by which the Phoenician alphabet influenced written communication beyond Phoenician cities.

3 YOUR TURN _____ Your own words

Write exactly three sentences for a museum caption that connects at least two Phoenician contributions. Explain how the contributions worked together and describe one cultural effect on the Mediterranean world.

PART 1 • READ AND MARK

Underline one detail about colonization, exploration, commerce, and written communication. Number the four underlined details 1 through 4 in that order to show how Phoenician ideas and goods spread. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 • ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	Why did colonies such as Carthage increase the cultural impact of the Phoenicians? Name two things that could spread through colonies.	Colonies created distant communities that supported ships and trade. They helped spread Phoenician language, religious practices, craft skills, and trading connections.
2	How did Phoenician exploration and navigation help expand their influence around the Mediterranean?	Their sailing skills let them travel across the Mediterranean and beyond its western entrance, connecting distant shores through voyages, colonies, and trade.
3	How did purple dye and tin affect other Mediterranean societies in different ways?	Costly purple cloth became a sign of wealth and power. Tin was mixed with copper to make bronze, affecting the materials craftspeople could make.
4	Explain the path by which the Phoenician alphabet influenced written communication beyond Phoenician cities.	Trade and colonization carried the alphabet to other peoples. Greeks adapted its letter forms and added vowel symbols, and the Greek alphabet later influenced the Romans' Latin alphabet.

PART 3 • YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

Phoenician sailors explored new routes, which connected distant ports. At these ports, merchants traded purple cloth and carried their alphabet to other peoples. These connections changed both the goods people valued and the ways they could write.

Accept accurate cause-and-effect explanations supported by the passage. For the museum caption, accept any two or more Phoenician contributions if the student clearly explains their connection and a Mediterranean cultural effect.