

Routes Before Atlantic

Identify major Afro-Eurasian trade networks and how they moved people and goods.

SS.68.AA.1.1 "Identify Afro-Eurasian trade routes and methods prior to the development of the Atlantic slave trade."

NAME _____

DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK _____ Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline each trade route or network name and circle the words that tell how people or cargo traveled. Number 1, 2, and 3 beside the three networks so you can match each route with its method.

Networks Across Afro-Eurasia

- ① Long before the Atlantic slave trade developed, merchants linked Africa, Europe, and Asia through Afro-Eurasian networks. The Silk Roads crossed Central Asia, connecting Chinese silk and other East Asian goods with markets in the Middle East and Europe. Traders usually traveled in caravans, groups that offered safety and shared supplies. They did not normally cross the entire route. Instead, goods moved from one trading group to another at market towns. Horses, camels, and pack animals carried loads over long land routes.
- ② Across northern Africa, the trans-Saharan trade routes joined West African cities to North Africa and the Mediterranean world. Camel caravans made this travel possible because camels could carry heavy loads and go for long periods with little water. Merchants carried gold, salt, leather, and other goods. Caravan leaders planned stops at wells and oasis settlements. Like the Silk Roads, this network depended on several groups of traders rather than one person making every part of a long journey. Trade helped cities such as Timbuktu become busy centers of exchange.
- ③ On the Indian Ocean, sailors connected East Africa, Arabia, India, and Southeast Asia by sea. They used seasonal monsoon winds, which blew in one direction during part of the year and reversed later. Knowing these wind patterns helped captains plan when to leave and return. Ships such as dhows carried cargo including ivory, cloth, spices, and porcelain between port cities. At coastal markets, merchants exchanged goods and information. Unlike the land routes, Indian Ocean travel relied on ships and winds, although both sea and land networks used trading centers.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE Use the passage

1 Which regions did the Silk Roads connect, according to the passage?

2 What method made trans-Saharan trade across northern Africa possible? Explain why it worked.

3 How did monsoon winds affect travel on the Indian Ocean network?

4 State one similarity and one difference between trans-Saharan trade and Indian Ocean trade.

3 YOUR TURN Your own words

Choose two trade networks from the passage. Write exactly four sentences that name the places each network connected, describe its main travel method, and explain one similarity or difference between the two networks.

PART 1 • READ AND MARK

Underline each trade route or network name and circle the words that tell how people or cargo traveled. Number 1, 2, and 3 beside the three networks so you can match each route with its method. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 • ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	Which regions did the Silk Roads connect, according to the passage?	They connected East Asian goods and Chinese silk with markets in the Middle East and Europe through Central Asia.
2	What method made trans-Saharan trade across northern Africa possible? Explain why it worked.	Camel caravans made it possible because camels could carry heavy loads and travel for long periods with little water.
3	How did monsoon winds affect travel on the Indian Ocean network?	Captains used the seasonal winds to plan when ships would leave and return.
4	State one similarity and one difference between trans-Saharan trade and Indian Ocean trade.	Both networks used trading centers. Trans-Saharan trade used camel caravans over land, while Indian Ocean trade used ships and monsoon winds.

PART 3 • YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

The trans-Saharan routes connected West African cities with North Africa and the Mediterranean world. Camel caravans carried goods across northern Africa. The Indian Ocean network connected East Africa, Arabia, India, and Southeast Asia. It used ships and monsoon winds, but both networks used trading centers.

Accept accurate route names, connected regions, and methods stated in the passage. In the open response, accept any two networks as long as all four required sentences are present and the comparison is supported by the passage.