Routes to Cities

How trade helped cities grow and cultures meet

6.H.5 "Identify trade routes and discuss their impact on the rise of cultural centers and trade cities in Europe and Mesoamerica."

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline ways goods moved, circle Venice and Tenochtitlan, and write 1 to 4 beside four effects of trade, two for each city.

Two Cities, Two Trade Networks

1 In the 1400s, a ship sailing from Venice crossed the Adriatic Sea toward ports in the eastern Mediterranean. Traders at those ports sold spices and silk that had passed through networks reaching Asia. Venetian merchants carried these goods home and sold them in busy markets. The route brought money to Venice, supporting shipbuilders, shopkeepers, and other workers. Visitors from many places also met in its streets. They exchanged ideas about art, building, and ways to keep records. Trade helped Venice become both a wealthy city and a cultural center.

2 Across the Atlantic, another trade network helped Tenochtitlan grow in the 1400s. This Aztec capital stood on an island in Lake Texcoco, in Mesoamerica. Canoes carried goods across the lake, while causeways linked the island to the shore. Merchants also followed land routes from distant areas, bringing cotton from warm regions and cacao from lands farther south. At the nearby market of Tlatelolco, sellers offered goods from many places. The flow of goods and people supported a large urban population, skilled crafts, and a lively market culture.

3 Venice and Tenochtitlan were not stops on the same trade route. Each city drew on a different network, but both gained more than goods. Regular shipments supported jobs for merchants, builders, and craft workers. When people gathered to buy and sell, they could also exchange techniques and customs. Yet a trade route alone did not create a city. People also had to build boats, roads, and markets and organize the work of moving goods. These choices helped both cities thrive.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. Trace the sea route that brought Asian goods to Venice. Where did Venetian ships sail, and how had the goods reached those ports?

2. Which water and land routes carried goods into Tenochtitlan, and how did they help its market?

3. How did trade help Venice become a cultural center, not just a wealthy city?

4. How did trade support jobs and cultural exchange in both cities? Give one detail about each city.

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Imagine a new market town on one trade route in the passage. In four sentences, name its location and route, identify two goods it could receive, explain how trade could make it grow, and describe how visitors might change its culture.

ANSWER KEY

Routes to Cities

GRADE 6 · 6.H.5

PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Underline ways goods moved, circle Venice and Tenochtitlan, and write 1 to 4 beside four effects of trade, two for each city. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	Trace the sea route that brought Asian goods to Venice. Where did Venetian ships sail, and how had the goods reached those ports?	**Venetian ships crossed the Adriatic Sea toward eastern Mediterranean ports. Spices and silk had reached those ports through trade networks reaching Asia.**
2	Which water and land routes carried goods into Tenochtitlan, and how did they help its market?	**Canoes crossed Lake Texcoco, while causeways and longer land routes connected the city to other places. These routes brought goods from many regions to the nearby Tlatelolco market.**
3	How did trade help Venice become a cultural center, not just a wealthy city?	**Trade brought visitors who exchanged ideas about art, building, and record keeping.**
4	How did trade support jobs and cultural exchange in both cities? Give one detail about each city.	**In Venice, trade supported shipbuilders and brought visitors who shared ideas. In Tenochtitlan, trade supported skilled crafts, and people meeting at markets could exchange techniques and customs.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

My market town sits at an Adriatic port on the sea route between Venice and eastern Mediterranean ports. Ships bring glass from Venice and spices that traveled through Asian and eastern Mediterranean trade networks. Sellers and ship workers come for these goods, so shops and homes spread near the harbor. Visitors share songs and ways of making things, helping the town become a cultural center.

Accept other accurate route details and reasonable effects supported by the passage. For the open task, the proposed goods and cultural exchange should fit the chosen route.