# Paper Travels West

Trace an innovation and weigh its effects on people and resources.

**GHW.6.2** "Use a variety of texts (writing, maps, timelines, and/or other graphic representations) to show the origin and spread of specific innovations..."

NAME _____ DATE _____

## 1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

**YOUR JOB** Underline where papermaking began, number the places in the table from earliest to latest, and circle one benefit for people and one possible cost to local resources in the passage.

### The Journey of Paper

1 Paper began in China, where makers pressed wet plant fibers into thin sheets. Surviving paper from China dates to at least the second century BCE. Later, craftspeople improved methods for turning fibers into a surface for writing. Compared with clay tablets, paper sheets could be stacked and carried more easily along trade routes.

2 Merchants and craftspeople carried paper and papermaking skills west across Central Asia. By the ninth century, workshops in Baghdad made paper for a city of booksellers, scholars, and officials. Paper made it easier to copy books and keep written records. Yet a list of arrival dates cannot show every traveler or workshop that helped ideas move.

**SELECTED STOPS IN PAPERMAKING'S SPREAD**

| Location | Approximate period | Papermaking status |
|---|---|---|
| China | Second century BCE | Surviving paper exists |
| Samarkand | Eighth century CE | Paper made locally |
| Baghdad | Ninth century CE | Workshops produced paper |
| Xàtiva | Twelfth century CE | Paper made locally |

3 In places such as Xàtiva, in present-day Spain, papermaking supported skilled jobs and wider use of written records. Mills needed supplies of fiber and water to make pulp and wash sheets. Drawing water from local streams and collecting plant fibers could put pressure on nearby resources. The innovation changed access to information and local resource use.

## 2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. Use the table and passage to trace papermaking from its origin to Xàtiva. Name two places it reached between them, and explain what moved besides finished sheets.

2. How did papermaking's arrival in Baghdad change people's work or use of writing? Support your answer with one detail from the passage and one from the table.

3. Which physical resource might a town need more of when papermaking spreads there? Explain why using paragraph 3.

4. Why would counting new paper workshops alone give an incomplete picture of papermaking's impact in Xàtiva? Include one effect on people and one on local resources.

## 3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Imagine papermaking reaches a dry farming town after Xàtiva. In 4 to 5 sentences, trace its path from China through two stops in the table, propose a way the town could use less water, and assess one benefit and one possible cost in this new place.

# Paper Travels West



## PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Underline where papermaking began, number the places in the table from earliest to latest, and circle one benefit for people and one possible cost to local resources in the passage. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

## PART 2 · ANSWERS

| # | QUESTION | ANSWER |
|---|---|---|
| 1 | Use the table and passage to trace papermaking from its origin to Xàtiva. Name two places it reached between them, and explain what moved besides finished sheets. | **Papermaking began in China, then reached Samarkand and Baghdad before Xàtiva. Papermaking skills moved along with paper.** |
| 2 | How did papermaking's arrival in Baghdad change people's work or use of writing? Support your answer with one detail from the passage and one from the table. | **The passage says paper made it easier to copy books and keep records. The table shows that Baghdad workshops produced paper, creating work for papermakers.** |
| 3 | Which physical resource might a town need more of when papermaking spreads there? Explain why using paragraph 3. | **A town might need more water because mills used it to make pulp and wash sheets.** |
| 4 | Why would counting new paper workshops alone give an incomplete picture of papermaking's impact in Xàtiva? Include one effect on people and one on local resources. | **Workshops supported skilled jobs and wider use of records, but drawing water and collecting plant fibers could put pressure on local resources.** |

## PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

Papermaking began in China and later spread through Samarkand and Baghdad before reaching Xàtiva. Suppose it then reaches a dry farming town, where workers reuse water from one stage of production in another. A workshop might give residents jobs making sheets for local schools and record keepers. Even with water reuse, the workshop could draw from the same limited stream farmers need for crops. Town leaders would need to weigh the value of new jobs and writing supplies against reduced water for farms.

Accept other plausible water-saving methods and predicted effects if students explain how they connect to papermaking. The table shows selected stops, not every place or traveler involved in its spread.