

Routes of Exchange

Trace how trade networks connected Afro-Eurasia.

6.7a "The Silk Roads, the Indian Ocean, and the Trans-Saharan routes formed the major Afro-Eurasian trade networks connecting the East and the West. Ideas, people, technologies, products, and diseases moved along these routes."

NAME _____

DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK _____ Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline the name of each trade network, circle words or phrases that tell what moved, and write 1, 2, or 3 beside each route name to number the networks.

Networks That Connected Worlds

- ① Across Asia, the Silk Roads linked Chinese cities with Central Asia, Southwest Asia, and the Mediterranean world. They were not one road but connected land routes. Merchants carried Chinese silk west and brought horses and other goods east. Buddhist teachers and travelers also used these routes. As they stopped in towns and oases, they shared religious ideas, languages, and customs. Trade connected people who lived far apart, even when they never traveled the entire distance.
- ② Indian Ocean trade joined ports in East Africa, the Arabian Peninsula, India, Southeast Asia, and China. Sailors learned to use seasonal monsoon winds, which blew in one direction for part of the year and then changed. Ships carried spices, cotton cloth, porcelain, and other products. Port cities became meeting places for merchants, sailors, and travelers. Islam spread to many coastal communities as Muslim traders settled and built connections there. These exchanges tied distant shores together.
- ③ The Trans-Saharan routes crossed the Sahara Desert between West Africa and North Africa. Camel caravans made the journey possible because camels could travel long distances with little water. West African traders exchanged gold for salt, cloth, and other goods from the north. Mansa Musa, ruler of Mali, traveled through this network on his pilgrimage to Mecca. Trade also had harmful results. Diseases could move with travelers and goods, and outbreaks could affect communities far from where an illness began.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE Use the passage

1 How did the Silk Roads connect the East and the West?

2 How did monsoon winds help Indian Ocean trade?

3 What is one way the Silk Roads and Indian Ocean trade both spread more than products? Use evidence from the passage.

4 According to the passage, what was one harmful result of trade networks?

3 YOUR TURN Your own words

Choose one trade network from the passage. In three sentences, describe a historically accurate exchange not named in the passage, including what moved, where it moved from and to, and one effect of the exchange.

PART 1 • READ AND MARK

Underline the name of each trade network, circle words or phrases that tell what moved, and write 1, 2, or 3 beside each route name to number the networks. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 • ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	How did the Silk Roads connect the East and the West?	They linked Chinese cities with Central Asia, Southwest Asia, and the Mediterranean world through connected land routes.
2	How did monsoon winds help Indian Ocean trade?	Sailors used the seasonal winds, which blew in one direction for part of the year and then changed.
3	What is one way the Silk Roads and Indian Ocean trade both spread more than products? Use evidence from the passage.	Both spread ideas and beliefs. Buddhist teachers traveled on the Silk Roads, and Islam spread to coastal communities through Muslim traders.
4	According to the passage, what was one harmful result of trade networks?	Diseases could travel with people and goods, causing outbreaks in communities far from where an illness began.

PART 3 • YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

On the Silk Roads, papermaking knowledge moved from China westward to cities such as Samarkand and Baghdad. Craftspeople used this knowledge to make paper. More paper helped people copy books and share ideas.

Accept accurate exchanges that are not named in the passage and clearly identify a route, movement between places, and an effect. For the short answers, accept equivalent wording supported by the passage.