

Routes, Power, and Change

Trace how ocean trade and gunpowder reshaped empires.

9.10e "The Eastern Hemisphere trade networks were disrupted by the European development of new transoceanic trade across the Indian, Pacific, and Atlantic Oceans..."

NAME _____

DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK _____ Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline a trade change. Circle one benefit and one harm of trade shifts or gunpowder. Label who experienced each effect.

When Trade Routes Shifted

- ① Before 1500, merchants already linked Asia, Africa, and Europe. Silk Road routes carried goods across Eurasia. Indian Ocean sailors used monsoon winds to connect East Africa, Arabia, India, and Southeast Asia. Trans-Saharan caravans carried gold and salt. Rulers collected revenue from ports and trading cities, and goods often passed through several merchants before reaching buyers.
- ② Portuguese voyages around Africa opened a direct sea connection between Europe and Indian Ocean ports. Portuguese forces seized strategic ports and used armed ships to control commerce; Dutch and English companies later competed for trade. Some profits shifted toward Atlantic European states, while conquest and coercion harmed communities. Older networks continued and adapted. In the Pacific, Spanish ships linked Manila and Acapulco, exchanging American silver for Asian goods. European governments pursued mercantilist policies: colonies, monopolies, and trade restrictions were intended to increase national wealth and power.
- ③ Gunpowder also changed power. Ottoman artillery helped capture Constantinople in 1453. Cannons helped rulers conquer and defend territory, but increased destruction and military costs. New ocean routes challenged some commerce through Ottoman lands, yet Ottoman rulers actively competed for Indian Ocean trade. Red Sea spice commerce revived during the sixteenth century. Trade shifts therefore did not simply destroy older routes or benefit only Europeans. Their effects varied across regions and over time.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE _____ Use the passage

1 How did older trade networks connect regions, and why did rulers value them?

2 How did the route around Africa change trade? Did older networks disappear?

3 What did mercantilist governments seek, and what policies did they use?

4 Describe one benefit and one cost of gunpowder weapons for empires or communities.

3 YOUR TURN _____ Your own words

In three or four sentences, explain a trade change and identify one benefit and one harm. Use two passage details and name who was affected.

PART 1 • READ AND MARK

Underline a trade change. Circle one benefit and one harm of trade shifts or gunpowder. Label who experienced each effect. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 • ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	How did older trade networks connect regions, and why did rulers value them?	Older networks used routes such as the Silk Road, Indian Ocean sea lanes, and Trans-Saharan caravans to connect regions. Rulers valued control because it brought taxes, wealth, and influence.
2	How did the route around Africa change trade? Did older networks disappear?	It directly connected Europe to Indian Ocean ports by sea and shifted some profits toward Atlantic European states. Older networks continued and adapted.
3	What did mercantilist governments seek, and what policies did they use?	They sought national wealth and power through colonies, monopolies, and trade restrictions.
4	Describe one benefit and one cost of gunpowder weapons for empires or communities.	Gunpowder weapons helped states defend cities, expand territory, and helped the Ottomans capture Constantinople. They also made warfare more destructive and costly, harming many communities.

PART 3 • YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

The route around Africa directly linked Europe to Indian Ocean ports. Some Atlantic European states gained trade profits. Portuguese seizures of ports and coercive control harmed communities, while older trading networks continued to adapt.

Accept supported explanations of differing effects on rulers, merchants, or communities. Students need not claim that all older routes declined or that only Europeans benefited.