

Routes Made Possible

How travel technology widened trade networks

9.4b "New technologies facilitated and improved interregional travel during this era by allowing people to traverse previously prohibitive physical landscapes and waterways."

NAME _____

DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK _____ Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline technologies and travel methods. Circle physical barriers. Mark an E beside details explaining how travelers overcame a barrier.

Crossing Sea and Desert

- ① Between about 600 and 1450 CE, merchants linked East Africa, Arabia, India, and Southeast Asia across the Indian Ocean. Sailors faced changing winds, currents, and long distances without land. Lateen sails could be angled to use winds from different directions. Sailors also planned voyages around seasonal monsoon winds. Sail design and knowledge of winds made crossings more dependable, though storms and other risks remained. Crews stopped at ports for supplies, repairs, and trade.
- ② Heat, scarce water, and long distances made crossing the Sahara difficult. Camels were suited to desert conditions, but people also needed equipment and planning. Saddles and pack frames helped secure riders and loads. Traders organized caravans and planned stops at oases for water and rest. These methods supported exchanges of gold, salt, and textiles between West Africa and North Africa. No single invention created the routes; equipment, knowledge, and organization worked together.
- ③ On both networks, tools helped only when travelers knew how to use them. Sailors still had to choose suitable sailing seasons. Caravan leaders still needed to find water and manage supplies. A saddle did not remove the need for water, and a sail did not stop storms. More dependable journeys nevertheless helped merchants carry goods across difficult environments. Better equipment and planning widened exchange among distant producers, markets, and consumers.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE _____ Use the passage

1 How did the lateen sail help sailors deal with Indian Ocean winds?

2 What other knowledge made Indian Ocean voyages more predictable?

3 Name a barrier on each route and explain how equipment or planning helped travelers manage it.

4 According to the passage, why did more dependable journeys matter for trade networks?

3 YOUR TURN _____ Your own words

Choose the Indian Ocean or Sahara. Write four sentences explaining how equipment and planning helped travelers manage a physical barrier. Use two passage details and explain an effect on trade.

PART 1 • READ AND MARK

Underline technologies and travel methods. Circle physical barriers. Mark an E beside details explaining how travelers overcame a barrier. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 • ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	How did the lateen sail help sailors deal with Indian Ocean winds?	Its triangular sail could be angled to catch winds from different directions.
2	What other knowledge made Indian Ocean voyages more predictable?	Sailors planned voyages around seasonal monsoon winds.
3	Name a barrier on each route and explain how equipment or planning helped travelers manage it.	Ocean winds: adjustable sails and monsoon timing helped sailing. Sahara water shortages: caravan leaders planned oasis stops. Accept other supported barrier-and-response pairs.
4	According to the passage, why did more dependable journeys matter for trade networks?	They helped merchants carry goods across difficult environments and widened exchange among distant producers, markets, and consumers.

PART 3 • YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

On the Indian Ocean, shifting winds and long distances without land could delay sailors. The lateen sail could be angled to catch winds from different directions, while monsoon knowledge helped sailors choose a season to leave. Together, these tools and knowledge made crossings more predictable, even though the sea remained risky. Dependable voyages let ports and merchants exchange goods and news across distant regions.

Accept equivalent descriptions that connect a technology to a specific physical obstacle and then to improved travel. For the open response, look for accurate route details, a clear technology and organization connection, and an effect on exchange.