

Routes of Exchange

Trace how movement connected societies and spread cultures.

9.4c "Interregional travelers, traders, missionaries, and nomads carried products and natural resources, and brought with them enslaved people and ideas that led to cultural diffusion."

NAME _____

DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK _____ Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline products and resources. Circle groups of travelers. Mark D beside details showing ideas or practices spreading between societies.

More Than Goods Moved

- ① From about 600 to 1450, the Indian Ocean, Silk Roads, Trans-Saharan routes, and Mediterranean Sea linked distant regions. Merchants moved silk and porcelain from China, spices from South and Southeast Asia, gold from West Africa, and salt from the Sahara. Nomadic people also linked settlements by traveling with animal products and guiding some camel caravans. Trade depended on monsoon winds, ports, and market cities. As people traveled, they carried languages, artistic styles, technologies, and religious ideas. The movement of customs and beliefs between societies is called cultural diffusion.
- ② Trade networks also carried enslaved people by force. Indian Ocean routes brought people from East Africa to parts of Arabia, Persia, India, and Iraq. Enslaved people worked in varied roles, including domestic service, farming, and military service. Laws and conditions differed, but slavery denied people control over their lives and often separated families. People forced to move also carried knowledge, languages, and practices. These cultural exchanges occurred amid coercion and suffering.
- ③ Travelers and missionaries also connected societies. In the 1300s, Ibn Battuta traveled through North Africa, Southwest Asia, East Africa, and India. His account described distant Muslim communities, though historians question some parts of his reported journeys. In the early 1400s, Zheng He led Chinese fleets across the Indian Ocean, carrying goods and building diplomatic ties. Muslim merchants and missionaries helped spread Islam along coastal East Africa and across the Sahara. Communities often adapted new beliefs to local traditions rather than becoming identical.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE _____ Use the passage

- 1** Name two products or natural resources that moved through trade networks, and state where each came from.

- 2** How did nomadic people help connect settlements and trade routes?

- 3** What were two effects of the forced movement of enslaved people described in the passage?

- 4** How did Muslim merchants and missionaries contribute to cultural diffusion, and how did local communities respond?

3 YOUR TURN _____ Your own words

Write four sentences about exchange. Include a product, a traveling group, and a religious idea from the passage. Label the final sentence "Inference:" and explain how repeated contact could spread ideas.

PART 1 • READ AND MARK

Underline products and resources. Circle groups of travelers. Mark D beside details showing ideas or practices spreading between societies. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 • ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	Name two products or natural resources that moved through trade networks, and state where each came from.	Examples: silk or porcelain from China; spices from South and Southeast Asia; gold from West Africa; salt from the Sahara.
2	How did nomadic people help connect settlements and trade routes?	They traveled with animal products and guided some camel caravans.
3	What were two effects of the forced movement of enslaved people described in the passage?	Forced movement separated families and caused suffering. People also carried knowledge, languages, and practices to other places.
4	How did Muslim merchants and missionaries contribute to cultural diffusion, and how did local communities respond?	They helped Islam spread along coastal East Africa and across the Sahara. Local communities often adapted new beliefs and practices to their own traditions.

PART 3 • YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

Merchants carried Chinese porcelain on the Indian Ocean routes. Zheng He led voyages across the Indian Ocean and carried Chinese goods. Muslim merchants and missionaries helped Islam spread along coastal East Africa. Inference: Repeated contact among travelers and local communities could help religious ideas reach more people.

Accept any passage-supported product or resource, traveling group, and religious idea or practice. The final inference should be clearly labeled and should reasonably connect repeated contact to the spread or adaptation of ideas.