

Paths to Renaissance

Trace how knowledge and technology moved into western Europe.

9.9a "The Renaissance was influenced by the diffusion of technology and ideas. The Islamic caliphates played an important role in this diffusion."

NAME _____

DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK _____ Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline routes or methods of sharing knowledge. Circle examples of knowledge or technology and mark E beside effects in Europe.

Networks of Knowledge

- ① Medieval networks across Islamic societies linked Spain, North Africa, and Asia. Merchants and scholars carried books and knowledge. Abbasid patrons in Baghdad supported translation and research drawing on Greek, Persian, and Indian traditions. Scholars preserved earlier works and made new contributions. Arabic became a major scholarly language. Later Latin translations and Mediterranean contacts brought this learning to western Europe. Exchange involved many communities, not one route or institution.
- ② Papermaking began in China and spread through Central Asia to Islamic societies. Its use supported copied books, libraries, and government records. Mediterranean contacts, including those through Muslim-ruled Spain, helped bring papermaking to Europe. Paper was often less costly than parchment made from animal skins. As European paper production grew, more material became available for writing. In the fifteenth century, paper helped support the expansion of printing with movable type in Europe.
- ③ Europeans translated Arabic works on mathematics, medicine, and astronomy. Al-Khwarizmi's writings helped transmit algebra and Hindu-Arabic numerals. Ibn Sina's Canon of Medicine became a text in European medical education. Astrolabes drew on earlier traditions and developments in Islamic societies, supporting astronomy and navigation. Such exchanges expanded Renaissance thinkers' tools and sources. Other influences included European social changes, patronage, and renewed study of classical texts.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE Use the passage

1 How did scholarship in Abbasid Baghdad contribute to later European learning?

2 Trace paper's path from its origin to Europe. Include one way Islamic societies helped its diffusion.

3 How did Latin translations of Arabic-language works change the knowledge available to European scholars?

4 Why does the passage say that these exchanges did not create the Renaissance by themselves?

3 YOUR TURN Your own words

In 3–4 sentences, trace papermaking from China to Europe. Explain the role of Islamic societies and one effect on the availability of texts in Europe.

PART 1 • READ AND MARK

Underline routes or methods of sharing knowledge. Circle examples of knowledge or technology and mark E beside effects in Europe. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 • ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	How did scholarship in Abbasid Baghdad contribute to later European learning?	Patrons supported translation and research drawing on Greek, Persian, and Indian learning. Later Latin translations helped European readers access preserved knowledge and new contributions.
2	Trace paper's path from its origin to Europe. Include one way Islamic societies helped its diffusion.	Papermaking began in China, spread through Central Asia to Islamic societies, and reached Europe through Mediterranean contacts including Muslim-ruled Spain.
3	How did Latin translations of Arabic-language works change the knowledge available to European scholars?	Translations gave European scholars access to learning in mathematics, medicine, and astronomy, including algebra, Hindu-Arabic numerals, and medical works such as Ibn Sina's Canon of Medicine.
4	Why does the passage say that these exchanges did not create the Renaissance by themselves?	The exchanges were an important influence, but they were only one cause. They expanded the sources, tools, and questions available to Renaissance thinkers.

PART 3 • YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

Papermaking began in China and spread through Central Asia to Islamic societies. There it supported books, libraries, and records. Mediterranean contacts helped bring it to Europe. Growing paper production later supported European printing and the availability of texts.

Accept accurate paraphrases of the passage. The final response should trace papermaking's movement, explain an Islamic-world connection, and identify an effect in Europe.