

Routes and Relationships

Trace how contact among cultures led to exchange and tension.

6.13.D "identify and explain examples of conflict and cooperation between and among cultures."

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK _____ Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline each example of conflict and circle each example of cooperation. Number a nearby detail that explains why the conflict or cooperation happened or what it caused.

Contact Along Asian Trade Routes

- ① During the 1200s, the Mongol Empire controlled a wide stretch of Asia. Its rulers connected regions that had different languages, religions, and customs. Merchants from China, Central Asia, Persia, and Europe traveled sections of the Silk Roads. At busy trading cities, people exchanged silk, horses, metalwork, spices, and ideas. Mongol leaders often protected trade routes and issued travel documents. This cooperation did not erase cultural differences, but it gave many groups a reason to work together.
- ② Cooperation had limits. In Yuan China, Mongol rulers placed people into social groups and gave Mongols and some Central and West Asian people more privileges than many Chinese subjects. Some Chinese people resented foreign rule and heavy taxes. Rebellions grew in several areas across the empire during the 1300s. These conflicts were not caused by one cultural difference alone. Government power, taxes, and unequal treatment combined with differences among groups to create anger and resistance.
- ③ In the early 1400s, the Ming government sent fleets led by Admiral Zheng He to ports around the Indian Ocean. The crews met rulers and merchants in Southeast Asia, South Asia, Arabia, and East Africa. They exchanged gifts, traded goods, and used interpreters to communicate. These visits built diplomatic relationships, although Chinese fleets also showed military power when disputes occurred. The history of these routes shows that cultures can cooperate through exchange while conflict may grow when power and treatment are unequal.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE _____ Use the passage

1 Describe one example of cooperation along the Silk Roads. How did people from different cultures work together?

2 What conflict grew in Yuan China? Explain two conditions that helped cause it.

3 How did government actions affect cooperation in the first paragraph and conflict in the second paragraph?

4 Why were interpreters useful during Zheng He's voyages? What does their use show about cooperation among cultures?

3 YOUR TURN _____ Your own words

Invent a short situation involving two cultural groups in the same town. Write four sentences that include one example of cooperation and one example of conflict, and explain the cause or result of each.

PART 1 • READ AND MARK

Underline each example of conflict and circle each example of cooperation. Number a nearby detail that explains why the conflict or cooperation happened or what it caused. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 • ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	Describe one example of cooperation along the Silk Roads. How did people from different cultures work together?	Merchants from different regions exchanged goods and ideas in trading cities. Mongol leaders also protected routes and issued travel documents, helping merchants travel and trade.
2	What conflict grew in Yuan China? Explain two conditions that helped cause it.	Rebellions grew against Mongol rule. Foreign rule, heavy taxes, and unequal privileges and treatment of groups helped cause anger and resistance.
3	How did government actions affect cooperation in the first paragraph and conflict in the second paragraph?	Mongol leaders supported cooperation by protecting trade routes and issuing travel documents. In Yuan China, unequal privileges and heavy taxes helped create conflict and rebellion.
4	Why were interpreters useful during Zheng He's voyages? What does their use show about cooperation among cultures?	Interpreters helped people who spoke different languages communicate. Their use shows that rulers and merchants worked together to exchange gifts, trade goods, and build relationships.

PART 3 • YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

Families from the Hill culture and the River culture worked together to repair a bridge because both groups needed to cross the stream. They shared tools and learned words from each other's languages. Conflict began when River families were barred from selling food in the market. After the council changed the rule, both groups could sell their foods.

Accept equivalent explanations that connect cooperation to exchange, communication, or shared work and conflict to unequal power, treatment, or rules. For the open response, accept any clear invented situation with both a conflict and a cooperation example plus an explanation of each.