

# Rome's Trade Routes

See how land and water shaped Rome's economy.

**3.7.b** "connecting the geography of ancient Rome and its economy;"

NAME \_\_\_\_\_

DATE \_\_\_\_\_

## 1 READ AND MARK \_\_\_\_\_ Read it twice

**YOUR JOB** Underline each geographic feature, circle each way it helped Romans grow, make, move, buy, or sell goods, and number three feature-and-economy connections.

### Land, Water, and Trade

- ① Ancient Rome began beside the Tiber River in Italy. The river gave people fresh water and a way to move goods by boat. Rome was also near the Mediterranean Sea. Ships could carry items to and from faraway places. These waterways helped Rome grow from a small city into a busy trading center for many people.
- ② Rome stood among hills and near flat plains. The hills made it easier to watch for danger, so people could protect their homes and markets. Farmers used the plains and rich soil near volcanoes to grow wheat, grapes, and olives. They sold extra food in Rome or traded it for items they needed from others.
- ③ Italy is a peninsula, with water on three sides. Rome's location helped traders reach many Mediterranean lands. Romans built roads across land, and ports connected roads to sea travel. Merchants brought in goods such as silk and spices. In return, they sent out wine, olive oil, and pottery. Geography helped decide what Romans grew, made, bought, and sold.

**2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE** \_\_\_\_\_ Use the passage

**1** How did the Tiber River and the Mediterranean Sea help Rome trade?

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**2** How did the plains and rich soil help Rome's economy?

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**3** How did roads and ports work together to help merchants?

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**4** Name one good merchants brought into Rome and one good they sent out.

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**3 YOUR TURN** \_\_\_\_\_ Your own words

Imagine you are choosing a place for a new Roman town. Write two sentences. Name two geographic features, and explain one way each feature would help people grow, make, buy, sell, or move goods.

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**PART 1 • READ AND MARK**

Underline each geographic feature, circle each way it helped Romans grow, make, move, buy, or sell goods, and number three feature-and-economy connections. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

**PART 2 • ANSWERS**

| # | QUESTION                                                              | ANSWER                                                                                          |
|---|-----------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 1 | How did the Tiber River and the Mediterranean Sea help Rome trade?    | <b>They gave Romans waterways for moving goods by boat and ship to and from faraway places.</b> |
| 2 | How did the plains and rich soil help Rome's economy?                 | <b>Farmers grew wheat, grapes, and olives there. They sold or traded extra food.</b>            |
| 3 | How did roads and ports work together to help merchants?              | <b>Roads moved goods across land, and ports connected the roads to travel by sea.</b>           |
| 4 | Name one good merchants brought into Rome and one good they sent out. | <b>Brought in: silk or spices. Sent out: wine, olive oil, or pottery.</b>                       |

**PART 3 • YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)**

I would build our town near a river and flat plains. The river would move pottery to buyers, and the plains would help farmers grow wheat to sell.

Accept any two reasonable geographic features and accurate explanations of how each could support an economic activity. Students may use features from the passage or other sensible features, such as a coast, fertile soil, or a harbor.