

## Trade Routes Jigsaw

### Indian Ocean Trade Routes Fact Sheet

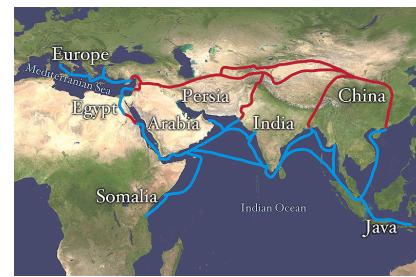
**Directions:** Study the following information about the Indian Ocean trade routes. After you have read this individually, you will have the opportunity to work in an expert group to discuss major trade routes in world history. Afterward, you will be responsible to teach another group about the Indian Ocean trade routes. Your group will take notes on the Student Resource: Jigsaw Graphic Organizer.

As you study the following think about this question:

1. In what ways did the Indian Ocean trade routes lead to economic, religious, cultural, and technological diffusion in the pre-modern world?

The Indian Ocean trade routes (blue on the map) provided an exchange network that included Eastern Africa, the Middle East, the Eastern Mediterranean Sea, South Asia, East Asia, and Southeast Asia.

At different points in time, Indian Ocean trade was dominated by different groups of people. As early as the 1<sup>st</sup> century BCE the Greeks dominated parts of the Western Indian Ocean trade routes only to be replaced in the 4<sup>th</sup> century by Ethiopians and Persians. Arabs, Indians, Malaysians, Indonesians, and Chinese later came to dominate the Indian Ocean trade.



Regardless of which groups dominated trade, similar patterns of exchange emerged. The Malaysians were probably the most advanced in the use of sails, ship building techniques, and understanding the movement in monsoon seasons. The Chinese used the mariner's compass and junks, the largest ships of its day, while the Arabs used the astrolabe to pinpoint their nautical locations. Different groups of traders adopted this knowledge to improve their own sailing abilities. As more advanced navigation knowledge developed, the extent of trade networks expanded.

Throughout time, certain regions became especially known for certain commodities. Silk, porcelain, and tea from China; cinnamon, pepper, and nutmeg from the Spice Islands; wood, indigo, and yarn from India; coffee, spices, and horses from Arabia; and gold, ivory, and slaves from East Africa all intermingled throughout the Indian Ocean. As these goods were traded, wealth for the traders, merchants, and regions followed. This wealth led to increased building and investments in port cities and infrastructure.

As different groups interacted due to trade, cultural aspects such as religion and language spread. Arabs spread Islam to trade centers along the Eastern coast of Africa. Their influence was so great in Eastern Africa that many Arab words are now part of the Swahili language. Indians spread Hinduism and Buddhism throughout South and Southeast Asia. This influence was so great that some of the most magnificent Hindu temples are found in parts of Southeast Asia.

Image Source: This image from [http://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Silk\\_route.jpg](http://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Silk_route.jpg) is in the public domain.

### **Silk Roads Trade Routes Fact Sheet**

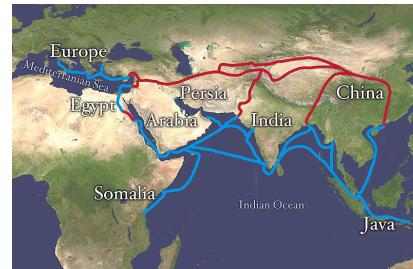
**Directions:** Study the following information about the Silk Roads trade routes. After you have read this individually, you will have the opportunity to work in an expert group to discuss major trade routes in world history. Afterward, you will be responsible to teach another group about the Silk Roads trade routes. Your group will take notes on the Jigsaw Graphic Organizer.

As you study the following think about this question:

1. In what ways did the Silk Roads trade routes lead to economic, religious, cultural, and technological diffusion in the pre-modern world?

The Silk Roads trade routes (red on the map) was a series of land routes that connected Asian, Middle Eastern, and European trade networks. Many of the routes led to the sea routes of the Indian Ocean Trade Routes (blue on the map).

The Silk Roads connected China on the east to the Roman Empire on the west. The Silk Roads began to take shape as early as the Alexander the Great era. Alexander's Hellenistic Empire stretched from Greece to modern-day Afghanistan. When Alexander conquered the Persian Empire he gained reserves filled with massive treasures. Alexander used this wealth to build roads, cities (most were named Alexandria), and seaports. These developments led to opportunities for trade and increased wealth and a demand for more trade with East Asia.



As time went on, the western Silk Roads were secured by the Romans in the west and the Han Empire in the east. Caravans of traders on camels dominated the Silk Roads. Precious goods from the east, such as silk, precious stones, and tea traveled along the routes to the west as cloth, wine, and olive oil traveled east from Europe. Other food items such as nuts, fish, honey, and different vegetables also traveled along the routes. Technological advancements such as the compass, paper making, and gunpowder spread from China to the Middle East and Europe.

The Han Empire expanded its borders to secure the Silk Roads. The financial gain from the trade routes made the costs of expanding its empire worth the cost. In addition to securing more land, the Han also paid other states tribute. Tribute was in the form of silk or other goods that would secure peace between other states and the Han.

Due to the expansive range of the Silk Roads, a variety of people came into contact with each other. One result of this interaction was the spread of religion. Christian, Buddhist, and Muslim missionaries traveled along the routes encouraging converts. Today, both Buddhism and Islam are common in China as a result of these early efforts.

A major negative effect of trade along the Silk Roads was the Black Death, a deadly virus that originated in Asia and spread along the Silk Roads and other trade routes. This led to populations in Europe and other areas being decimated during the 14<sup>th</sup> century.

Image Source: This image from [http://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Silk\\_route.jpg](http://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Silk_route.jpg) is in the public domain.

Unit 1: Redefining World Society and Culture  
Lesson E: By Land and By Sea – Travel and Trade in the Pre-Modern Era  
Student Resource: Trade Routes Jigsaw  
**Saharan Trade Routes Fact Sheet**

---

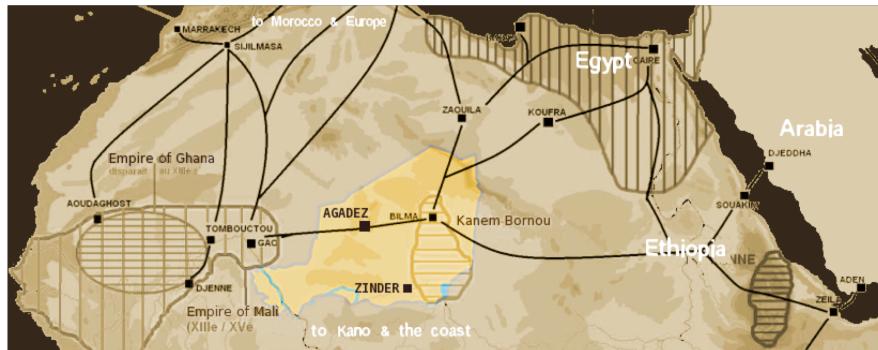
**Directions:** Study the following information about the Saharan trade routes. After you have read this individually, you will have the opportunity to work in an expert group to discuss major trade routes in world history. Afterward, you will be responsible to teach another group about the Saharan trade routes. Your group will take notes on the Jigsaw Graphic Organizer.

As you study the following think about this question:

1. In what ways did the Saharan trade routes lead to economic, religious, cultural, and technological diffusion in the pre-modern world?

The Saharan trade routes was a series of overland trade routes from Western Africa north through the Saharan desert. These overland routes ended in port cities where goods were put on ships and sent to European and Middle Eastern ports.

Around the 5<sup>th</sup> century, camels became domesticated animals. This meant that humans had tamed camels and were using them for their own uses. Camels can live for a few weeks without water, so they made great forms of transportation across the desert. The domestication of the camel allowed for trade through the Saharan desert to occur.



Although West Africans probably participated in trade for thousands of years, the first written records of their trade comes from Muslim records at the start of the 8<sup>th</sup> century. Western African kingdoms of Ghana, Mali, and Songhai were major centers of trade. From West Africa, gold, ebony, slaves, cloth, ivory, pepper, and nuts were sent north where they were traded for salt, horses, leather, textiles, copper, and brass. In addition to these goods, these Saharan trade routes were also tied to the Indian Ocean and Silk Roads trade routes. During the Middle Ages, Africa provided over half of the Afro-Eurasian supply of gold. This gold made the West Africans so rich that the ruler of Mali, Mansa Musa, was the wealthiest monarch in the world.

The result of trade between West Africans and Arabs was the conversion of most West Africans to Islam. The first group to convert was merchants who would convert in order to build relationships with their major customers – Islamic Arab traders. After merchants, rulers were the next to convert. Like merchants, rulers normally converted for practical purposes such as increased wealth, economic, or political situations. The last to convert were the common people. Normally, they converted after interactions with missionaries who arrived with traders and merchants.

Image Source: This image from [http://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Niger\\_saharan\\_medieval\\_trade\\_routes.PNG](http://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Niger_saharan_medieval_trade_routes.PNG) is in the public domain.

Unit 1: Redefining World Society and Culture  
Lesson E: By Land and By Sea – Travel and Trade in the Pre-Modern Era  
Student Resource: Trade Routes Jigsaw  
**European Trade Routes Fact Sheet**

---

**Directions:** Study the following information about the European Trade Routes. After you have read this individually, you will have the opportunity to work in an expert group to discuss major trade routes in world history. Afterward, you will be responsible to teach another group about the European Trade Routes. Your group will take notes on the Jigsaw Graphic Organizer.

As you study the following think about this question:

1. In what ways did the European trade routes lead to economic, religious, cultural, and technological diffusion in the pre-modern world?

During the Middle Ages, Europeans created a vast system of trade networks. Many of these trade networks connected to other trade routes, such as the Saharan Trade Routes and the Silk Roads.

During the time of the Roman Empire, there were extensive trade routes and roads throughout the Roman Empire. However, after the fall of Rome, some of the trade routes were suspended for a time.

Beginning with the Vikings during the 8<sup>th</sup>, 9<sup>th</sup>, and 10<sup>th</sup> centuries, trade routes were established throughout the Baltic Sea. The Vikings established trading centers along the Sea and along river systems in what is now Russia. These Viking trade routes extended along water ways throughout Europe and eventually included Sicily and Byzantium.

During the same time period, Venetian trade began to dominate parts of the Mediterranean and parts of Europe. The Venetian trade networks moved goods that arrived in Europe from the Middle East, Africa, and Asia throughout parts of Europe. This trade included luxury goods such as spices and jewelry from the East as well as raw materials from different parts of Europe. These goods included timber, furs, salt, wine, fruit, and oil.

In the 11<sup>th</sup> century, wool came to dominate the trade in northern Europe. Wool brought great wealth to Flanders and England and became highly valued in other parts of Europe as well. The demand for wool allowed for northern Europe to gain massive wealth and to compete with the Mediterranean world in terms of economics.

Since Europe was already almost entirely united by religion, trade routes did not spread a particular religion; however, the wealth that accompanied trade allowed for towns and cities to build cathedrals and churches for pilgrims who traveled along trade routes to use for worship.

Image Source: This image from [http://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Late\\_Medieval\\_Trade\\_Routes.jpg](http://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Late_Medieval_Trade_Routes.jpg) is in the public domain.