

Enriched World History

Traveling the Silk Road

Historical Question: What was it like to travel along the Silk Road?

Directions: You and your group will be assigned on segment of the Silk Road. You will be provided information on your assigned segment and you will be required to create a poster that convinces traders you are the best caravan leader to get them across the Silk Road safely.

Creating the Poster:

You lead caravans of traders along the section of the Silk Road. Traders passing through this section of the Silk Road can choose from many caravan leaders, so you have to convince them that you are the best. Create a poster that convinces traders you are the best caravan leader they can find. This poster should demonstrate your knowledge of the region and your ability to lead travelers safely through the terrain they will encounter.

Include the following on your poster:

- The principal dangers that travelers face on this section of the Silk Road
- How you will help travelers avoid or minimize these dangers
- The special sights along the route that you can show travelers
- Your qualifications and experience as a caravan leader
- Types of goods traded along the this segment of the Silk Road

To meet the qualifications above your poster should have at visual (3-4 images [drawn or printed]) and written components to provide the information to your audience. Remember be specific.

After all groups have finished their posters they will be posted around the room and your group will now visit each segment of the Silk Road complete the table below "A Journey along the Silk Road."

Segment	Type of Terrain and Rate of Travel	Dangers	Interesting Sights	Qualifications of Leader	Type of Goods Traded
Chang'an to Dunhuang					
Dunhuang to Kashgar (Southern Route)					

Dunhuang to Kashgar (Northern Route)					
Across the Pamirs					
Ferghana Valley to Merv					
Merv to Antioch					

Processing Questions:

1. Why do you think that few travelers made it all the way along the Silk Road?

2. In later years the silk road declined and more transportation focuses on the Indian Ocean Trade. Why do you think this would happen? (Hint: think about land travel verses ocean travel.)

Products Traded along the Silk Road

Products	Area of Origin
Wool, gold, Silver, ivory, jewels, metals, figs, walnuts	Europe
Jars	Mediterranean
Glass	Mesopotamia and Egypt
Oil	Baku (Azerbaijan)
Dates, pistachios, peaches, tyrian purple, indigo, frankincense, myrrh, wine, glass, olive oil	Persia, Middle East
Incense	Southern Arabia
Household slaves, pets, exotic furs, cotton, gold, ivory, opium, glass	India
Cinnamon	India, Sri Lanka
Jade, Silk, Iron, weapons, porcelain, spices, ginseng	China

