

Trade-Route Map

Classroom-ready printable pack · Grades 3–8

Pack contents

schematic Afro-Eurasian route mats, commodity cards, geographic constraints, and source notes Two student sets are included.

Teacher directions

1. Give partners identical cards and mats; keep the model/challenge hidden from the Builder.
2. The Describer selects a historically scoped challenge and arranges the evidence or system.
3. Communicate dates, locations, roles, relationships, uncertainty, and evidence precisely.
4. Compare with the reference, correct unsupported links, and identify what the model leaves out.

Before class

- Print at 100% on US Letter paper. Use cardstock or laminate for reuse.
- Cut on the thick solid borders. Keep Set A and Set B separate.
- Give challenge/model cards only to the Describer.
- Use a folder, book, or tabletop barrier so partners cannot see each other's work.

Accessibility and accommodations

Reduce the card set; read labels aloud or use text-to-speech; provide the vocabulary strip and a completed example. Cards pair words with symbols/patterns and include write-in options.

Storage-envelope labels

Trade-Route Map

Set A — Describer

Count pieces before storing.

Trade-Route Map

Set B — Builder

Count pieces before storing.

Trade-Route Map

Challenge / model cards

Count pieces before storing.

Trade-Route Map

Teacher reference

Count pieces before storing.

Student language supports

Position: above · below · beside · between · near · far · left · right · clockwise**Clarify:** “Please repeat...” · “Is ___ beside ___?” · “What should I place next?”**Compare:** same · different · rotate · move · replace · sequence

Movable pieces

Set A

Cut on the solid borders. This set is identical to the partner set.



Movable pieces

Set B

Cut on the solid borders. This set is identical to the partner set.



Trade-Route Map evidence mat

Cut the page in half. Both partner mats are identical.

Set A — Trade-Route Map evidence mat

time / place • arrangement • relationship • evidence • uncertainty

top / far

center

bottom / near

Set B — Trade-Route Map evidence mat

time / place • arrangement • relationship • evidence • uncertainty

top / far

center

bottom / near

Describer-only challenge cards

Keep these cards hidden from the Builder.

Challenge 1

Silk Roads c. 600–1400 CE

Challenge 2

Indian Ocean networks c. 1200–1500 CE

Challenge 3

trans-Saharan routes c. 700–1500 CE

Challenge 4

compare land and sea constraints

Trade-Route Map reference

Scope, evidence, and source review

Routes are schematic networks, not single roads. Goods and ideas often moved through many intermediaries. Period labels are broad classroom scopes; local conditions and network intensity changed over time.

These packs simplify complex systems for barrier communication. Confirm terminology and scope against district-adopted sources before formal assessment; distinguish evidence, inference, uncertainty, and perspective.

Content review recorded 2026-08-05; educator and local-curriculum review recommended.

Quality check after a round

- Can each student identify pieces by shape or label without relying on color?
- Do both models match in pieces, order, orientation, and relative position?
- Which direction was most precise? Which should be revised?