



**Social Studies Virtual Learning**

# **6th Grade: Lesson #25**

**Date: April 24 , 2020**



6th Grade/Social Studies  
Lesson 25: April 24, 2020

**Objective/Learning Target:**

Describe the role of the Silk Roads in the economy of early China.

# Warm Up

Oh no! The illustrator hired for this comic quit after drawing the first square.

Good news! You were just hired to finish the comic strip.

Recreate the first square on your paper.

Then add 5 illustrations with text (either narration or dialogue) on your paper. Your boxes can be any size. See a sample to the right.



# Warm Up

[Click here to learn](#) why people might really boil caterpillar cocoons.

How does this video compare to your cartoon? Jot down how your comic is similar or different from reality on you piece of paper.

# Lesson Activity

Today we will learn what it was like to be a trader along the famed Silk Roads during the Han Empire in China.

You will collect evidence from sources to write a journal from the perspective of a Han trader.

Each journal entry should be at least a paragraph (3 to 5 sentences). Feel free to write more if you feel creatively inspired.

The Han Empire reigned from 206 BCE to 220 CE. You can date your journal entries using any of the years in between.

# Lesson Activity

[Click here to read](#) Source 1.

[Click here to listen](#) to Source 1 read aloud.

Write a journal entry that describes:

- Some of the landforms and/or bodies of water you travel through
- Some of the cities you visit along your expeditions

# Lesson Activity

Did your journal entry include some of these places?

Some landforms you might see along the Silk Roads include:

- Taklimakan Desert
- Hindu Kush Mountains

Some bodies of water you might see along the Silk Roads include:

- South China Sea
- Red Sea
- Caspian Sea
- Bay of Bengal
- Persian Gulf
- Black Sea
- Arabian Sea
- Mediterranean Sea

Some cities you might stop in along the Silk Roads include:

- Nanjing
- Anxi
- Khatan
- Merv
- Tyre
- Chang'an
- Dunhuang
- Samarqand
- Baghdad
- Delhi
- Lanzhou
- Turfan
- Tashkent
- Antioch

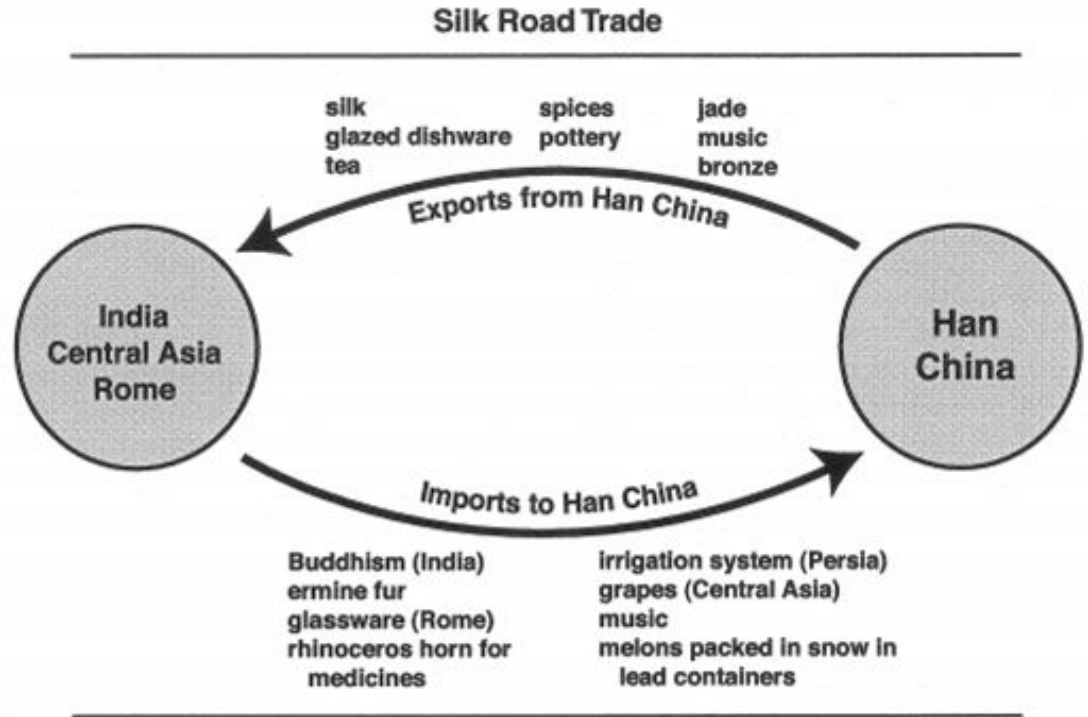
# Lesson Activity

Next, look at Source 2.

Write a second journal entry that describes:

- At least two of the goods or ideas you exported (traded away)
- At least two of the goods or ideas you imported (traded for)

\*Remember that you are a trader from Han China.





# Lesson Activity

Did your journal include some of these goods and ideas? This list includes items from Source 1 and 2.

## Exports

### Goods:

Silk  
Glazed Dishware  
Tea  
Spices  
Pottery  
Jade  
Bronze

### Ideas:

Music

## Imports

### Goods:

Ermine Fur	Gems
Glassware	Cedar
Rhinoceros Horn	Pearls
Grapes	Wool
Melons	Purple Dyes

### Ideas:

Buddhism  
Irrigation Systems  
Music

# Practice

Continue to add to your journal entry using Sources 3 and 4.

Write a journal entry that describes:

- At least one danger you faced on one of your expeditions (must be a danger described in the text)
- How you survived the danger or “lived to tell the tale”

Read Source 3 below.

## Source 3 ([click here for a read aloud](#))

Marco Polo, reprinted in Howard Spodek, The World's History 3rd Edition, Volume II: Since 1100, Pearson Publishing, 2006, 415-416

Among the people of these kingdoms there are many who are brutal and bloodthirsty. They are forever slaughtering one another; and, were it not for fear of the government...they would do great mischief to traveling merchants. The government imposes severe penalties upon them and has ordered that along all dangerous routes the inhabitants at the request of the merchants shall supply good and efficient escorts from district to district for their safe conduct on payment of two or three groats for each loaded beast according to the length of the journey. Yet, for all that the government can do, these brigands are not to be deterred from frequent depredations (attacks). Unless the merchants are well armed and equipped with bows, they slay and harry (keep attacking) them unsparingly.

[Click here to view](#) Source 4. (Go to Site Settings to turn on Flash Player if you receive an error.)

# Practice

Did your journal entry include some of these dangers?

Some environmental dangers you might face along the Silk Roads include:

- Sandstorms in the Taklimakan Desert
- Lack of water in the Taklimakan Desert
- Rocky Ledges in the Pamir Mountains
- Snowstorms and avalanches in the Pamir Mountains

Some human dangers you might face along the Silk Roads include:

- Attacks from robbers and bandits

# Reflection

The Silk Roads proved important to the economy of Han China. Today, trade continues to play a large role in the Chinese economy.

Create a T-Chart that lists goods you know were imported and exported along the Silk Roads. Label one side “Imports” and the other side “Exports.”

Compare this T-Chart to the list of the biggest imports and exports from China today.

[Click here to see a list](#) of China’s biggest exports today.

After creating your T-Chart, reflect on what you learned by summarizing your notes with a 3-2-1.

3- Write down three similarities you see.

2- Write down two differences you see.

1- Write down one question you still have about trade in China, either in the past or present.

# Reflection

China is the largest exporter of goods in the world today.

In the past, the trade routes coming in and out of China were nicknamed the Silk Roads.

If you were to give the trade routes coming out of China today a nickname, what would it be? Explain why you think that this would be a good nickname.

