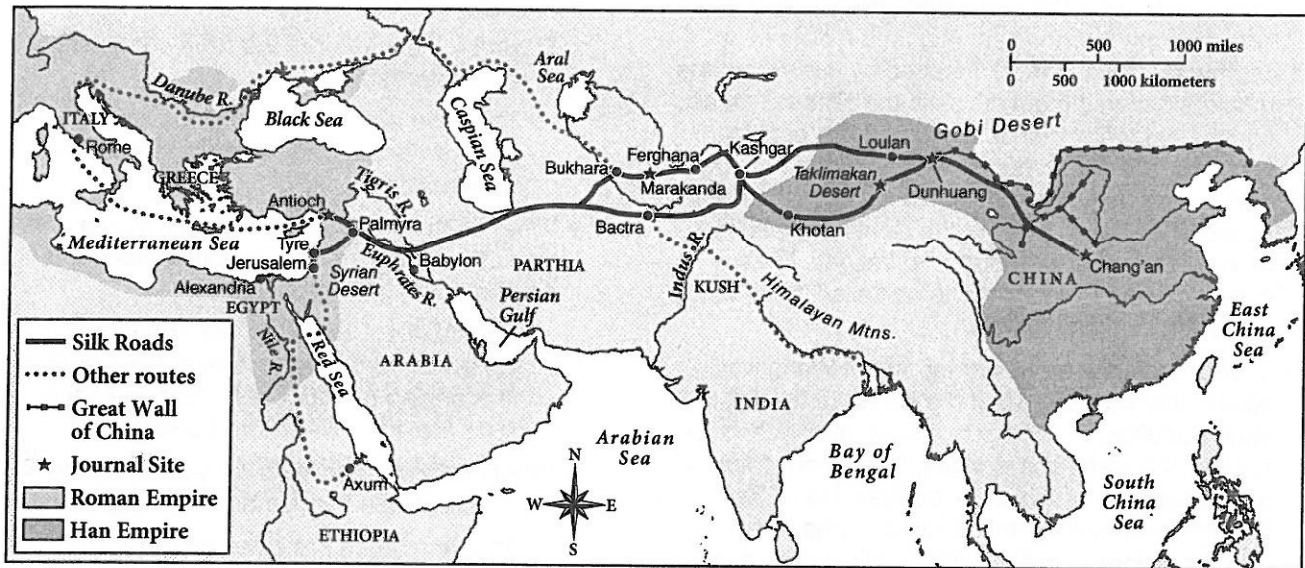


Document A

Source: Map created from various sources.

The Silk Roads in Han-Roman Times



CV

Note: Goods and ideas spread across the Silk Road for centuries. This process of sharing is called “cultural diffusion” by historians. Below are a few examples of goods and ideas that moved by way of the Silk Roads.

- From China: silk, iron, bronze, ceramics, orange trees, paper, gunpowder, Confucianism
- From Central Asia: Ferghana horses
- From Africa: ivory, rhinoceros horn
- From India: spices, Buddhism
- From Europe: music, glassware

Writing Journal Entry #1: Label your entry “Chang’an, April 5, 200, Dawn.” You are ready to head west from Chang’an, the easternmost city on The Silk Road. You look over the map to get a sense of what lies ahead of you. You will be taking the main Silk Road route, not the southern route. What difficulties do you think you will face? What else are you thinking as you wait to leave?

Document B

Source: Photo of the Dunhuang caves courtesy of the British Library, London, England.

Note: For travelers heading west, the oasis town of Dunhuang (“dun-wong”) was a place to rest and resupply before braving the western Gobi and the Taklimakan deserts. Soon after the fall of the Han Dynasty, Buddhist monks began to dig caves just ten miles outside of Dunhuang. In many of the caves, they built Buddhist shrines. Over the centuries, these caves also became storage vaults for many items brought to Dunhuang by Silk Road travelers.



The interior of a cave shrine at Dunhuang.

Source: Description of the Dunhuang caves in *Shadow of the Silk Road* by Colin Thubron, Harper Collins, 2007.

... (the cave) walls were carpeted with hundreds of miniature Buddhas.... In several shrines the ceiling teemed with Hindu angels and lotus flowers.

...[manuscripts] revealed a multicultural world, which had barely been suspected ... inventories, wills, legal deeds, private letters. Chinese ballads and poems came to light..., even a funeral address for a dead donkey... And beside the mass of Chinese prayers are documents in Sanskrit, Tibetan, Uighur, Sogdian, Khotanese, Turki in a mélange of scripts: a letter in Judeo-Persian, a Parthian fragment in Manichean script, a Turkic tantric tract in the Uighur alphabet.

Document Analysis

1. Describe the interior of the cave shrine shown in the photograph.
2. What do the manuscripts found in the cave tell you about the concerns and interests of the travelers along the Silk Road?
3. What do the manuscripts tell you about the homeland of the various Silk Road travelers?

Writing Journal Entry #2: Label your entry “Dunhuang, June 1, 200, Evening.” You have traveled more than 1,000 miles with the caravan. Around the campfire at Dunhuang, you listen to fellow travelers discussing the teachings of Buddhism, Hinduism, and Confucianism. You sit down to record your thoughts about Dunhuang, the conversation around the campfire, and the upcoming trek across the Gobi Desert. Why do you think you have come across so many different religions on the Silk Road? What effect do you think the Silk Road has on the spread of religion and ideas?

Document C

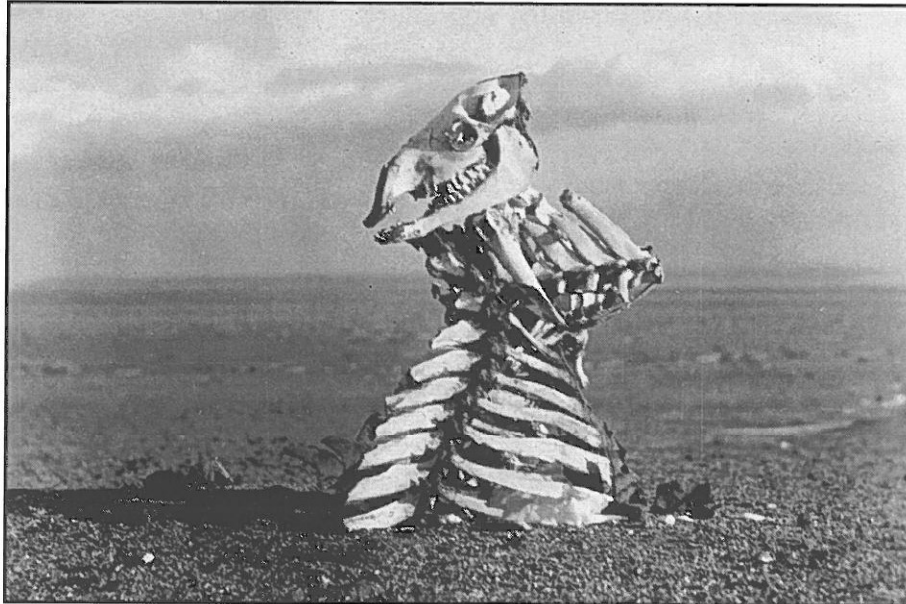
Source: An excerpt describing the Taklimakan Desert in *Encyclopedia*, a natural history of Asia written in the early 1300s by Chinese historian Ma Twan-lin.

Note: In ancient times, the Taklimakan Desert was sometimes referred to as the Gobi. Today, as then, the temperature in the desert reaches over 100° F and rainfall is minimal.

... you have to cross a plain of sand, extending for more than 100 leagues [about 300 miles]. You see nothing in any direction but the sky and the sands, without the slightest trace of road; and travelers find nothing to guide them but the bones of men and beasts and the droppings of camels. During the passage of this wilderness you hear sounds, sometimes of singing, sometimes of wailing; and it has often happened that travelers going aside to see what these sounds might be have strayed from their course and been entirely lost; for they were voices of spirits and goblins.

EV

Source: The Hedin Foundation, National Museum of Ethnography, Stockholm, Sweden.



A horse-skeleton road marker in the Gobi Desert.

Document Analysis

1. Describe the climate of the Gobi Desert.
2. According to Ma Twan-lin, what guided Silk Road travelers through the Gobi Desert? What caused many travelers to get lost there?
3. Why do you think road markers, such as the one in the photograph above, were set up in the Gobi Desert?

Writing Journal Entry #3: Label your entry “Gobi Desert, June 12, 200, Midday.” You have been traveling all day through the desert. The relentless sun and heat have made you sleepy as you trudge on. You have heard that travelers through the desert sometimes faint and, as a result, are accidentally left behind by the caravan. To stay alert, you decide to write in your journal. What are your thoughts as you make your way through the Gobi Desert? What is your impression of this land?

Document D

Source: A description of the Kushan Empire city of Marakanda in *Great Tang Records on the Western Regions*, a book about the Silk Road written by Xuanzang ("shweng-zang"), a Buddhist pilgrim, in 646 CE.

Note: After crossing the Gobi and Taklimakan deserts, travelers on the Silk Road's northern route had to traverse the rugged Pamir Mountains before arriving at this bustling city.

The precious merchandise of many foreign countries is stored here. The soil is rich and productive and yields abundant harvests. The forest trees afford a thick vegetation and flowers and fruit are plentiful.... Horses are bred there. The inhabitants' skill in the arts and trades exceeds that of other countries. The climate is agreeable and temperate and the people brave and energetic.

EV

Source: An artist's rendition of the ancient city of Marakanda.



Document Analysis

1. What mountains did westbound Silk Road travelers have to cross before reaching Marakanda?
2. According to Xuanzang, Marakanda was a prosperous city. Why do you think it was prosperous?
3. Judging from the picture, how was Marakanda protected?

Writing Journal Entry #4: Label your journal entry "Marakanda, September 23, 200, Afternoon." You arrived in the thriving city of Marakanda this morning. Once you leave, you will be on the long journey to Antioch, the western end of the Silk Road. What is your impression of Marakanda? How do you plan to spend your time there? Review the map of the Silk Road in Document A. What do you expect from the rest of your journey? Take a few moments to write your thoughts and concerns in your journal.

Document E

Source: Chart compiled from various sources.

Note: After leaving Marakanda, Silk Road travelers continued west into the Parthian Empire. This prosperous region served as a bridge or “middleman” between the eastern lands and the Roman Empire. The final destination was the large city of Antioch, which marked the western end of the Silk Road. Below is a hypothetical but historically accurate list of goods you traded on your journey.

EV

Location	Goods Given	Goods Received
Tunhuang	1 book of Confucian lessons	1 book of Buddhist prayers
Ferghana	100 bolts of silk	200 Ferghana horses (pick up on return)
Marakanda	10 ceramic vases	20 bags of Indian pepper (1 pound each)
Marakanda	10 bolts of silk	20 skeins of wool (from eastern Europe)
Rhague	500 seeds for orange trees	500 seeds for grape vines
Palmyra	50 sheets of paper	5 rhinoceros horns (from Ethiopia)
Antioch	500 bolts of silk	unspecified amounts of gold
Antioch	50 bars of iron	30 Roman colored glass vases
Lost in Gobi Desert: 1 camel and driver carrying 30 bolts of Chang'an silk		

Document Analysis

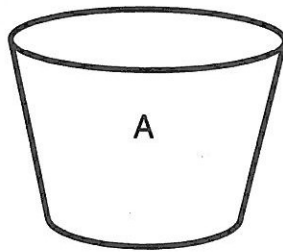
1. What region acted as a “middleman” in the trade between the Roman and Han empires?
2. Do you think Han officials would be pleased about trading 100 bolts of silk for 200 horses? Explain.
3. Review the map in Document A. How do you think pepper got to Marakanda? How do you think wool got there?
4. Review the map. How do you think the silk bought in Antioch got to Rome?

Writing Journal Entry #5: Label your journal entry “Antioch, April 22, 201, Evening.” The caravan has reached its final destination – Antioch, the western end of the Silk Road. You are one of the few people to travel the entire length of the route! Reflect on this once-in-a-lifetime achievement. Also, review the ledger, which lists some of the trade transactions that took place during your journey. Has the journey turned out the way you hoped? Was the long journey worth the difficulties you endured? How do you feel about the return journey? Record your thoughts in your journal.

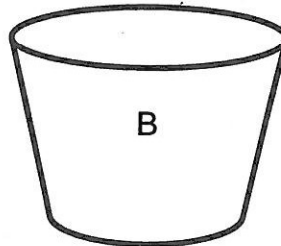
Step Five: Bucketing – Getting Ready To Write

Task One: Bucketing

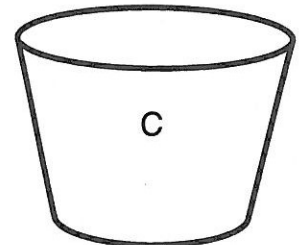
Teacher Note: Have students look over all the documents and organize them into their final buckets. They should write labels under each bucket and place the letters of the documents in the buckets where they belong. Each bucket will become a journal entry.



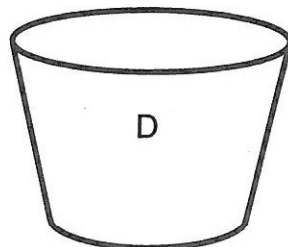
Entry #1



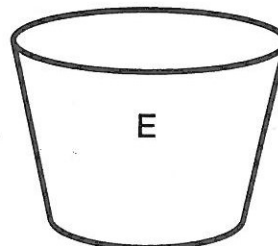
Entry #2



Entry #3



Entry #4



Entry #5

Task Two: Further Organization of the Journal

Teacher Note: Students are to write the time and date of each journal entry. Dates should be specific. The time can be exact or more general, such as morning or evening.

Entry #1: April 5, 200, Dawn _____

Entry #2: June 1, 200, Evening _____

Entry #3: June 12, 200, Midday _____

Entry #4: September 3, 200, Afternoon _____

Entry #5: April 22, 201, Twilight _____