

Supporting Question 1: Student's Guide

Task #1

Geography played an important role in the development of ancient civilizations. Study the map of India and answer the following questions in complete sentences. Source A.



1. Circle 5 geographic features on this physical map of India.
2. Choose one of these features and explain in several sentences how this feature might have impacted trade during the development of this ancient civilization?

Task #2

Directions: Read the Paragraph

Merchants and sailors made use of the ocean to transport goods, too. Sailors needed a strong understanding of wind patterns and storm systems to successfully navigate the oceans. For example, in the Indian Ocean, monsoon winds blow from the northeast in the winter and from the southwest in the summer. With a southwestern wind pushing them east, merchants were able to travel from the Red Sea between Egypt and Arabia to India in the summer and then back to the Red Sea in the winter. This information was exchanged among sailors and made its way beyond the Indian Ocean.

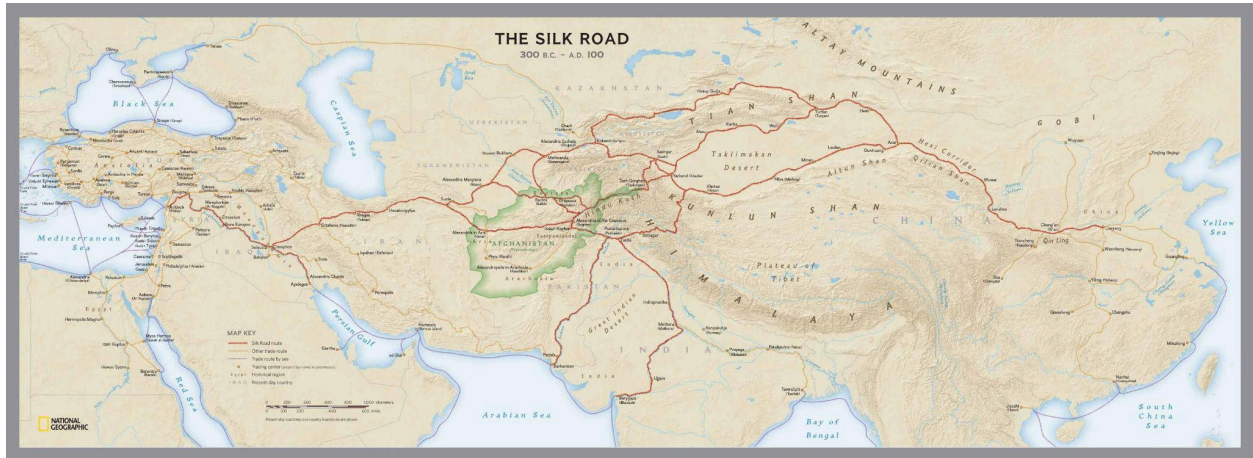
Source C: [The Silk Road \(article\) | Khan Academy](#)

After reading this paragraph, answer the following question in a complete sentence using text evidence.

1. How did environmental factors influence trade patterns along the Silk Road?
2. In your opinion, what other effects besides moving goods did trade have on Ancient India and other civilizations?

Task #3

Study the map of the routes ancient traders used to transport their goods from place to place. Answer the following questions in complete sentences by using this map and what you already have learned.



[Source B: Map of the Silk Road, courtesy National Geographic](#)

1. How was India involved in the Silk Road?
2. Why do you believe that the Silk Road was better for trade than the Indian Ocean?

Task #4

In this book, about the travels of a Chinese Buddhist monk who traveled the Silk Road on foot. He referred to the difficulty of traveling from China to India. Skim through his travels and then answer the questions that follow in complete sentences. (From Source D)

[The travels of Fa-Hian \(400 A.D.\)](#)

by Samuel Beal from English translation of the travel records of Fa-Hian (or, Faxian): a Chinese Buddhist monk who traveled by foot from China to India between A.D. 399 and A.D. 412. The full title is: The travels of Fa-Hian: Buddhist-country-records; By Fa-hian, the Sakya of the Sung (Dynasty) [Date, 400 A.D].

[From Chapter XIV](#)

After remaining here during two months of winter, [Fa-hian](#) and two companions went south across the Little Snowy Mountains. The Snowy Mountains, both in summer and winter, are covered ([heaped) with snow. On the north side of the mountains, in the shade, excessive cold came on suddenly, and all the men were struck mute with dread; Hwui-king alone was unable to proceed onwards.

[From Chapter XVI](#)

After crossing the Indus, the distance to the Southern Sea of South India is from four to five myriads of li; the land is level throughout, without great mountains or valleys, but still there are rivers.

[From Chapter XXIII](#)

This place having become desert, there was no one either to water it or sweep, but ever and anon a herd of elephants carrying water in their trunks piously watered the ground.

1. How did geography impact Fa-Hian's travels?
2. In your opinion, what would it be like to travel on foot along the Silk Road?

Name _____

Date _____

Task #5 - Summary Graphic Organizer

Directions: Use the following graphic organizer to write a summary paragraph. Make sure to include information that you have gathered from the above tasks.

How did geography impact trade in Ancient India's culture?

Topic Sentence (fact or statement, question, number statement, fan boy, etc,)
Detail #1 (sentence)
Detail #2 (sentence)
Detail #3 (sentence)
Closing Sentence (restate your topic sentence in a different way)