

## Trade Goods and Manufacturing

While the production and transportation of foods led the trading business, there was also a large exchange of other goods from all parts of Europe, Asia, and Africa. The wealth of the Empire and many of its citizens caused there to be a need for luxurious and exotic imports. Silks from China and the Far East, cotton and spices from India, Ivory and wild animals from Africa, vast amounts of mined metals from Spain and Britain, fossilized amber gems from Germany and slaves from all over the world discovered that all roads did indeed "lead to Rome."

The importance of industry and manufacturing was not as important as agriculture. The largest industry in ancient Rome was mining, which provided the stones for the enormous building projects and metals for tools and the weapons that conquered the western world. Greece and northern Italy provided marble for the buildings that amazed the ancients and modern people alike. Large quantities of gold and silver were mined in Spain to make coins and create jewelry, while mines in Britain produced iron, lead and tin for weapons. Cities and towns throughout the empire established small-scale manufacturing plants which turned out hand-made pottery, glassware, weapons, tools, jewelry and textiles.



### Questions

1. What are two main ways that Rome benefited from the colonies (areas that the Roman empire controlled outside of the city of Rome)
2. How does this compare (similar or different) to your PRIOR KNOWLEDGE about Ancient Greece?
3. What is the SIGNIFICANCE of the goods on another system of PEGS (focus on the bottom portion of the reading)?