

WHAT'S IN YOUR SUITCASE?

Purpose

Step into the role of a traveling merchant and make decisions about what to bring on your journey based on what you think would sell or trade best in faraway regions. This will get you thinking about the kinds of goods being exchanged on the trade routes you'll learn about in this lesson.

Process

1. Imagine you're a merchant about to set off on a trading journey along the Silk Roads, Indian Ocean, or Trans-Saharan trade routes. Which route would you choose to travel? Why?

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2. Time to pack! Inside the suitcase, list five items you'd pack to sell or trade. Think about what might have been in high demand in other parts of Afro-Eurasia!



1.
2.
3.
4.
5.

3. If you can, discuss with a partner:
 - Which item do you think would be most valuable? Why?
 - Which item might surprise people from a distant land?
 - What do your trade items suggest about what people needed, wanted, or valued?