

## ANCIENT TRADE ROUTES

### Why were Ancient Trade Routes created?

Trade is the **exchange** of information and supplies. Today we use a lot of different ways to trade goods with other people. We can put a product on a plane, train or truck and it will be delivered within a few days if not sooner.

In the past, different places needed to trade goods with other people but they did not have planes or automobiles. Merchants would have to take long journeys to other lands in order to get other goods. Trading goods was not such an easy task. Merchants faced many difficulties that stopped them from trading with other people. Sometimes the land was impossible to cross or it took so long that they would not make it the whole way.



**PREVIEW**

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**Trade routes** created a system where merchants could safely trade with other people. Merchants created stopping points along the way where people could rest and get supplies. Trade routes were mapped so travelers knew where they were going and did not risk getting lost.

Today, we can still use the same routes that ancient travelers did to trade our goods by land or sea.