

Evidence for the Border Team

Group: _____ Members: _____

Starting condition
The fort already has guards and a basic amount of food. Four new problems are marked on the projected map. Your group can improve two things.

Research note 1: keeping people supplied

Ming troops needed supplies to be produced, delivered, stored, and distributed. Roads and organized deliveries helped keep border posts supplied. This suggests that a strong wall alone could not keep guards at their posts.

Research note 2: movement through passes

Some Ming garrisons also supervised markets and movement. A border post could help manage exchange as well as defense. This does not mean that trade guaranteed peace.

Adapted from David M. Robinson, Why Military Institutions Matter for Ming History (2017). These are research summaries, not quotations.

Evidence finder

Find and mark	Write the words you marked	What the detail may show
Underline one supply detail	_____	_____
Circle one crossing detail	_____	_____

What the map already shows

Problem	Map clue
A	A section of wall is damaged.
B	A tower has no watcher.
C	The road to the fort is broken.
D	People and goods are crowding at the pass.

A fictional Ming border post, late 1500s. The map combines realistic problems so your group can reason about how a defense system works.

Choose Two: Group Plan

Group: _____ Recorder: _____ Reporter: _____

Option	Action	Direct effect
A	Repair the damaged wall.	Close a weak section.
B	Put guards on watch.	Spot danger and send a warning.
C	Fix the supply road.	Help food and equipment reach the fort.
D	Organize the crossing.	Make movement easier to check.

Your task
Choose two different improvements. Use two specific details from the map, visuals, or research notes. Then name one risk that would remain.

We choose option _____ and option _____.

Reason 1: Our first choice helps because...

Reason 2: Our second choice helps because...

One risk still remains because...

Prepare to report: We chose ____ and ____. Our evidence is ____.

A risk still remains because ____.