

STUDENT FIELD JOURNAL

The Silk Roads

Name _____ Class _____ Date _____

MISSION

Explain how land, Han goals, and many travelers turned routes into a network of exchange.

Your three targets

I can...	Evidence I will use
Read a route map	barriers, branches, corridors, and oases
Explain a historical role	Zhang Qian as a Han envoy
Build a network explanation	intermediaries, relay trade, and exchange

Word bank

Term	Meaning
oasis	a place with water in a dry region
corridor	a narrow usable route between barriers
envoy	an official representative sent by a ruler
intermediary	a middle person who connects people or markets
relay trade	goods moving through a chain of handoffs
caravan	a group traveling together for safety

Circle two words you expect to use in your final answer.

MAP LAB

Routes follow possibilities - not straight lines

Use with slides 3-6. Route lines are simplified and approximate.



Q1 What visual evidence shows a network rather than one straight road?

Q2 Name one physical barrier and explain how it could shape a route.

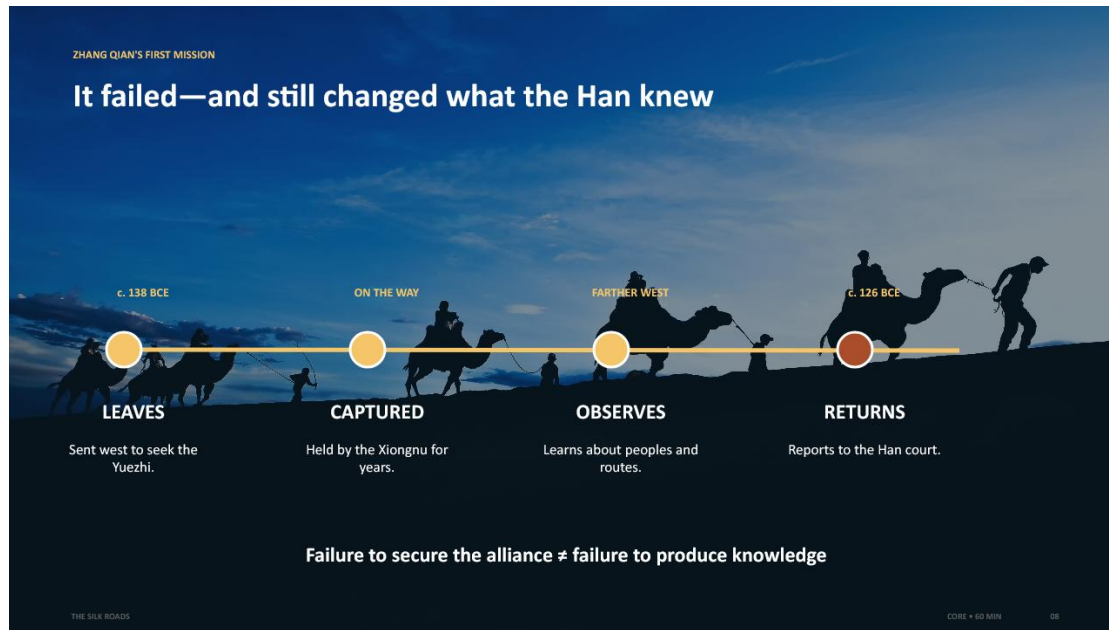
Q3 Choose the north or south route. Use two map clues and name one remaining risk.

Q4 How could one oasis shape a network much larger than itself?

SOURCE LAB

Zhang Qian: mission, evidence, and limits

Use with slides 7-10. The passage below is adapted, not a verbatim quotation.



**ADAPTED
SOURCE**

A Han court envoy reported on distant states, their products, and the routes between them.

Q5 How was Zhang Qian's job different from a merchant's job?

Q6 How could the first mission fail and still matter?

Q7 What was the original purpose of Zhang Qian's mission?

Q8 List two kinds of information the report gave the Han court.

Q9 What is one claim this adapted account cannot prove by itself?

NETWORK LAB

People, handoffs, and exchange

Use with slides 11-13. Goods could travel farther than any one person.

HOW GOODS MOVED

A bolt of silk traveled farther than its seller

RELAY TRADE
goods pass through several handoffs

1
PRODUCER
silk

2
LOCAL MARKET
food + news

3
OASIS TOWN
water + translation

4
DISTANT MARKET
new buyer

The object keeps moving. The people—and the information—change.

THE SILK ROADS

CORE • 60 MIN 12

Role	Main action
Envoy	represents a ruler
Merchant	buys and sells
Intermediary	connects languages and markets
Government	guards, taxes, or negotiates

Q10 Draw a line from each role to its action.

Q11 Why could a bolt of silk travel farther than its seller?

Q12 Give one example each of an object, a skill, and an idea that could move through networks.

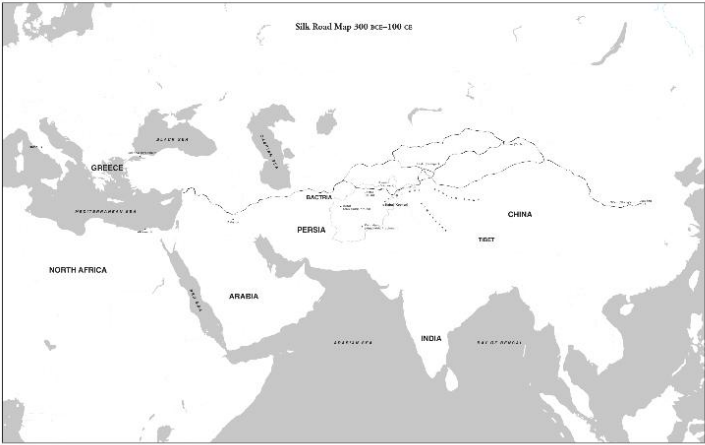
ROUTE CHALLENGE

Dunhuang to Kashgar

Use with slides 14-15. Cargo: silk and an official letter. Winter is approaching.

MAP CHALLENGE

Plan a route you can defend



DELIVERY

Dunhuang → Kashgar

Your caravan carries silk and an official letter. Winter is coming.

Mark:

1 route

2 stopping places

1 physical barrier

1 reason your plan works

THE SILK ROADS

CORE • 60 MIN14

Mark on the map	Your evidence
one route	
two stopping places	
one physical barrier	
one reason the plan works	

Q13 Plan a Dunhuang-to-Kashgar route and defend it with two geographic clues.

Q14 Complete: Water made places powerful because...

EXIT TICKET

Why did the Silk Roads become a network?

Use with slide 16. Include geography plus one person or process.

CLAIM

Answer the question in one complete sentence.

Q15 - CLAIM Write your answer.

EVIDENCE

Use one map detail and one lesson detail.

Q15 - EVIDENCE Name two accurate details.

REASONING

Explain how the evidence supports the claim.

Q15 - REASONING Connect the evidence using because, so, or therefore.

SELF-CHECK

I used two kinds of evidence. I explained a network, not one road.

OPTIONAL EXTENSIONS

Artifact detective and relay tracker

Use only if your teacher assigns slides 17-20.

OPTION A • 12 MIN

Artifact detective



OBSERVE

List three visible details. Do not infer yet.

INFER

What might material, shape, or technique suggest?

LIMIT

What cannot this object prove by itself?

Roman glass bowl • late 1st–early 3rd century CE • Met object 17.194.75

THE SILK ROADSOPTIONAL EXTENSION18

Q16 What can the Roman glass bowl show, and what can it not prove?

Handoff	From / to	What changed?
1		
2		
3		
4		

Q17 Who traveled farthest? What traveled farthest? What changed?

REMEMBER The simulation is a model. It does not reproduce exact ancient routes or prices.