

The Silk Roads

Sources and Credits

Grade 6 free lesson pack - version 4

This source and asset record accompanies the 22-slide lesson. It identifies the historical references, classroom maps and teaching images, with the limits students should apply when using them.

Historical sources and classroom maps

UNESCO - About the Silk Roads

Slides 1, 3 and 22: many connected routes and the network framing.

Use: attribution and factual context.

<https://en.unesco.org/silkroad/about-silk-roads>

Asian Art Museum - Mapping the Silk Road

Slides 3, 6 and 14; student handout pages 2 and 5: the classroom map and geographic route reasoning.

The classroom map covers 300 BCE-100 CE. Route lines are simplified and approximate, not exact reconstructions.

<https://education.asianart.org/resources/mapping-the-silk-road/>

University of Washington - Silk Road Seattle

Slides 7-10: the Han envoy mission and reporting context.

The Grade 6 source passage is adapted, not a verbatim quotation. A printed-text photograph is contextual, not the original Han manuscript.

<https://depts.washington.edu/silkroad/texts/hhshu/notes1.html>

Encyclopaedia Britannica - Zhang Qian

Slide 7 and the teacher guide: envoy role and mission context.

Use: factual reference. The lesson identifies Zhang Qian as a Han envoy.

<https://www.britannica.com/biography/Zhang-Qian>

Museum references

The Metropolitan Museum of Art - The Silk Roads

Slides 8, 12 and 13: exchange networks and historical context.

Use: attribution and factual context. The exchange collage represents a long history, not one caravan or one year.

<https://www.metmuseum.org/essays/the-silk-roads>

British Museum - An introduction to the Silk Roads

Slide 12: the many people and handoffs involved in exchange.

Use: attribution and factual context. Goods could travel farther than any individual trader.

<https://www.britishmuseum.org/blog/introduction-silk-roads>

The Metropolitan Museum of Art - Roman glass bowl

Slides 13, 17 and 18: artifact observation and limits of evidence. Museum object 17.194.75, late 1st-early 3rd century CE.

Image credit: The Metropolitan Museum of Art. Public Domain. The web collection number 249320 is not the object accession number.

<https://www.metmuseum.org/art/collection/search/249320>

UNESCO World Heritage - Mogao Caves

Slide 5: Dunhuang and Mogao Caves context.

Use: factual reference. Distinguish a contextual image from direct evidence of a particular ancient journey.

<https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/440/>

Teaching images and models

Images supplied with the lesson

The original source record credits the instructor-supplied Silk Roads presentation 6 for caravan, terrain, oasis, Dunhuang, source-text, timeline, food and silk imagery used in slides 1-5, 8-9, 11, 13, 15, 17 and 19-20. These visuals were adapted for an English classroom and are illustrative or contextual.

The original English lesson package supplies the envoy mural, textile and rider-object imagery used in slides 7, 12 and 13. These are retained as contextual teaching visuals.

Classroom diagrams

The evidence matrix (slide 10), relay-trade diagram (slide 12), CER organizer (slide 16) and simulation sequence (slide 20) are classroom models. They do not reproduce every ancient journey, exact route, price or traveler experience.

Care with historical evidence

Teach plural routes and a network, rather than one continuous paved road. Zhang Qian was a Han envoy. The deck uses c. 138 BCE for departure and c. 126 BCE for return; the teacher guide notes that some sources use 139 BCE for departure. Most traders traveled sections, with goods and information moving through handoffs.

One object supports limited claims. It cannot by itself establish a named carrier, an entire route or a direct Rome-Han journey. Maps are simplified and approximate.

Use and attribution

The student handout and quiz retain their original notice: "Copyright 2026 - Classroom use." Preserve the source references and any notices on individual materials. No blanket license or third-party ownership transfer is added by this source record.

For teaching sequence and answers, start with the Teacher Guide + Answer Key. Speaker notes are retained on all 22 PowerPoint slides.