**Topic 2.3 Indian Ocean Basin Trade Activity**



The Indian Ocean Trade Network facilitated massive cultural diffusion, syncretism, and economic activity. You’ll be using the website [**Indian Ocean History**](https://www.indianoceanhistory.org/), [**https://www.indianoceanhistory.org/**](https://www.indianoceanhistory.org/), to check out the importance of this route ca. 300-1450 CE. Even though our course begins in 1200 - this route began long before the Romans ever dominated the Mediterranean. However, the trade network became increasingly popular from 600-1450 CE.

**“Medieval Trade”**: We will spend time in the section on the website: **“**[**Medieval Trade**](https://www.indianoceanhistory.org/LessonPlan/MedievalEra.aspx)**,”** [**https://www.indianoceanhistory.org/LessonPlan/MedievalEra.aspx**](https://www.indianoceanhistory.org/LessonPlan/MedievalEra.aspx)**.**

* Pay attention to the Key on the map, it will help you answer the questions →
* Begin by scrolling your cursor over the various symbols. You’ll notice different documents, goods, etc. pop up with a title. You’ll click on those to answer the questions below. Start in East Asia - China specifically. The questions will move West from there!

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| Click on the technology “Chinese Junk, Song Dynasty, 1271CE” (China) | How did the junk affect and facilitate trade networks? |
| Click on the technology “Stern Rudder for Steering Ships.” (China) | How did the stern rudder affect and facilitate trade? |
| Click on the technology “Magnetic Compass” (China) | How did the compass diffuse to other parts of Afroeurasia, and what was its effect? |
| Click | How did the astrolabe affect and facilitate trade? |
| on the technology “Astrolabe” (jump over to the Middle East, along the Silk Roads) |
| Click on the technology “Arab Dhow”(Between Arabian Peninsula and India) | How did the dhow affect and facilitate trade networks? |
| Click on the technology“Lateen Sail”(Red Sea) | How did the lateen sail affect and facilitate trade? |
| Click on the document in “Blue and White Porcelain”(Jump back over to the Philippines) | Why was Ming porcelain a luxury item? |

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| Click on the document “Ming Voyages Stone Stele”(China) | What was the significance of these voyages to global interaction? |
| Click on the goods “Cloves” and “Nutmeg.” (SE Asia) | Why were these spices so sought after in the Indian Ocean Trade? |
| Click on the traveler “Zheng He’s First Expedition”(Java, Indonesia) | Describe Zheng He’s Expeditions as well as their purpose in the Indian Ocean. |
| Click on the place “Calicut” (Indian Peninsula) | Why was Calicut an important city of the Indian Ocean Basin Trade Network? |
| Click on the traveler “Allan Bin Hassun, A Jewish Merchant from Cairo”(By Somalia) | Read his document. What does his account show us about Indian Ocean Trade? |
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| Click on the objects “Mangrove Poles” and “Ivory”(East Africa) | Why were these a likely export from East Africa? |
| Click on the place“Kilwa”(East Africa) | What do you think Kilwa represents about the Indian Ocean Trade Network? |
| Click on the object “Giraffe of Treasure Ships”(East Africa) | What does the giraffe represent about trade relationships of the era? |
| Click on the good“Bananas”(East Africa) | How do Bananas represent the EFFECTS of international trade? |