



Belt Work

1. List as many bullet points as you can about the Silk Roads.
2. **Challenge:** Why did people stop traveling the Silk Road?

Standard & Objective

- **I can explain and evaluate the significance of the re-opening of the Silk Road.**

SPI 7.45 Summarize the effects and implications of the reopening of the ancient Silk Road between Europe and China, including Marco Polo's travels and the location of his routes.



After the Black Death

- It seems strange that the Black Death had any positive results, but it did.
- The death toll was terrible, but the disease did not damage the farmland, buildings, ships, machines, or gold.
- **What do you think this led to?**



Trade began to increase and new goods became available.

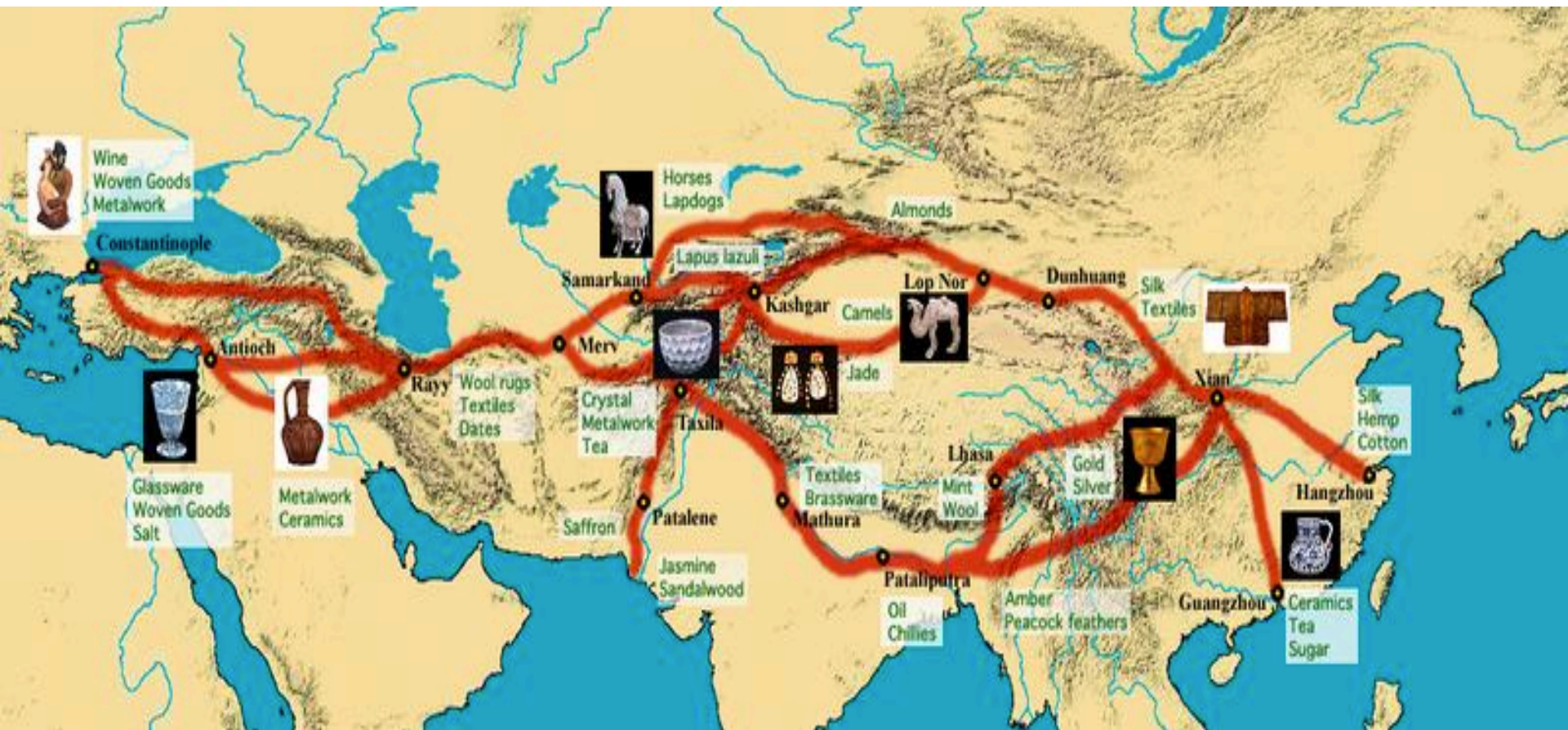
RECAP: What increased/decreased during the Middle Ages?

A map of the Silk Road routes, showing the land routes connecting the Mediterranean Sea in the west to the Indian Ocean in the east. The routes are highlighted in red and orange lines, passing through major regions like Turkey, Persia, and China. The title "The Silk Road Reopens" is overlaid in large, white, outlined text.

The Silk Road Reopens

- **The Chinese and Romans did business together from about 0-200AD.**
- **Products moved between east and west along the Silk Road.**
- **This route started in China and ended at the Mediterranean Sea**
- **RECAP: When did the Middle Ages occur?
What happened to trade along the Silk Road?**

Renaissance Silk Road & Goods Traded



The Silk Road Basics

- When the Roman Empire and the Han Dynasty fell, soldiers no longer protected travelers. So the use of the Silk Road declined.
- In the 1200s Mongols took over China. They once again made the roads safer to travel for travelers and traders. One of the travelers were Marco Polo.
- **RECALL: Who was Marco Polo?**

Marco Polo



- The Polos traveled from Europe and China where they saw many amazing things, such as paper money, and coals used for fuel.
- Kublai Khan invited Marco Polo to stay with them for awhile and made him a government official.

Marco Polo

- Polo wrote about China- this made Europeans very curious about Asia and they started to desire the Asian goods!
- Trade with Asia began again, so they opened the Silk Road again.
- Merchants organized a great deal of the trade.
- Florence, Genoa, Milan, and Venice began to become trading cities.

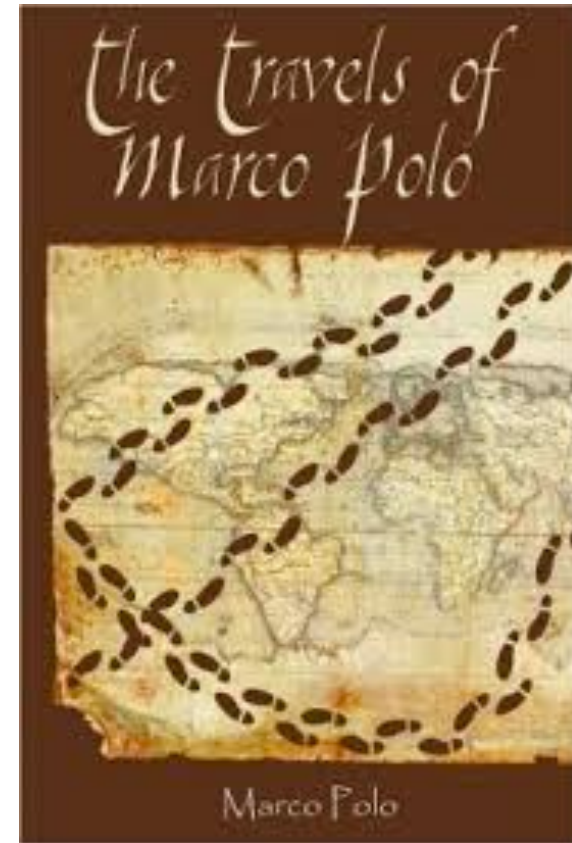
Italian Cities

- **The cities became very busy with traders and shoppers. They had ports on the Mediterranean Sea so the goods began to be traded and brought to the harbors of these cities. Merchants then shipped these goods all over Europe.**



The Travels of Marco Polo

- The Travels of Marco Polo is a story that tells of Marco Polo's travels through Asia, Persia, China, and Indonesia between 1276 and 1291.
- The book was written by romance writer **Rustichello da Pisa** when Marco Polo was imprisoned as a prisoner of war.
- Some believe the book is a sham while most believe it is accurate due to the Geographical accuracies.



Partner Work

- Create a definition for the term “trade cities”
- Why did the location of Genoa and Venice on the seacoast give them a commercial advantage over most inland cities? Use this map.



Table Top Twitter



- In groups of 4, each of you will be assigned a specific reading about Marco Polo.
- Read your assigned article silently and think about the significant information from the article (the main idea).
- Create a strong Tweet about your reading summarizing the main idea. This should be 1 sentence plus hashtags related to the topic.
- When I say “pass” we will switch articles clockwise until you have read all 4 articles and Tweeted 4 times.
- Group members will repeat these steps with each article. If you finish Tweeting early, comment on a previous post.



Sum It Up

Directions: Answer these question using 2-4 sentences.

1. What effect did reopening the silk road have on Europe?
2. How did Marco Polo contribute to the growth of European trade?