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| |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | | **Background** The various classical [**civilizations**](javascript:%20window.open('http://www.regentsprep.org/Regents/global/vocab/def.cfm?term=civilization','','status=no,resizable=yes,scrollbars=yes,%20width=400,height=200');%20void('');) established vast trading networks with one another. The exchange of goods and ideas occurred from the time of the early Indian Empire on the Indus River, all the way up to the [**Roman Empire**](javascript:%20window.open('http://www.regentsprep.org/Regents/global/vocab/def.cfm?term=roman%20empire','','status=no,resizable=yes,scrollbars=yes,%20width=400,height=200');%20void('');) on the Mediterranean.  **Phoenician Trade** The Phoenicians were an early trading civilization located in present day **Lebanon** and **Syria** along the **Mediterranean**. They produced various products, such as **glass**, **papyrus** **scrolls**, and **dyes**, and established [**trade**](javascript:%20window.open('http://www.regentsprep.org/Regents/global/vocab/def.cfm?term=trade','','status=no,resizable=yes,scrollbars=yes,%20width=400,height=200');%20void('');) across the entire Mediterranean Sea. As their trade expanded, they setup **colonies** throughout this region. The Phoenicians developed an **alphabet** to keep track of their business dealings. This alphabet is the basis for the western alphabet of today. Phoenician trade is responsible for the great exchange of ideas and [**culture**](javascript:%20window.open('http://www.regentsprep.org/Regents/global/vocab/def.cfm?term=culture','','status=no,resizable=yes,scrollbars=yes,%20width=400,height=200');%20void('');) that occurred during this time period.  **India** Trade had occurred between India and the Middle East since the first people settled along the Indus River. After [**Alexander the Great**](javascript:%20window.open('http://www.regentsprep.org/Regents/global/vocab/def.cfm?term=alexander%20the%20great','','status=no,resizable=yes,scrollbars=yes,%20width=400,height=200');%20void('');) conquered part of India in the **4th** **century** **BCE**, he established a permanent trade route between India and the Mediterranean. By the **100s** **BCE**, vast amounts of goods traveled from India into this region, such as **textiles**, **gems**, and **various** **spices**. This contributed to the new [**Hellenistic**](javascript:%20window.open('http://www.regentsprep.org/Regents/global/vocab/def.cfm?term=hellenistic','','status=no,resizable=yes,scrollbars=yes,%20width=400,height=200');%20void('');) culture, which was a blending of **Greek**, **Persian**, **Egyptian**, and **Indian** ways of life. New trade routes were established both overland into central Asia and China, and across the seas into the Middle East, Egypt, East Africa, and Southeast Asia.  **China** The **Han** **Dynasty** established a trade route known as the [**Silk Road**](javascript:%20window.open('http://www.regentsprep.org/Regents/global/vocab/def.cfm?term=silk%20road','','status=no,resizable=yes,scrollbars=yes,%20width=400,height=200');%20void('');). This trade route reached as far as **Mesopotamia**, and was a main conduit for the exchange of goods and ideas between China and other civilizations. Over time the trade route reached **4,000** miles. Most [**merchants**](javascript:%20window.open('http://www.regentsprep.org/Regents/global/vocab/def.cfm?term=merchant','','status=no,resizable=yes,scrollbars=yes,%20width=400,height=200');%20void('');) never traveled the entire route, but instead traded their goods at one of the many **markets** established along the way. China's main export for many centuries was **silk**, while in return they [**imported**](javascript:%20window.open('http://www.regentsprep.org/Regents/global/vocab/def.cfm?term=import','','status=no,resizable=yes,scrollbars=yes,%20width=400,height=200');%20void('');) such goods as, **glass**, **muslin**, and various food products like **cucumbers** and **grapes**.  **Roman Empire** Extensive trade occurred throughout the Roman Empire during the [**Pax Romana**](javascript:%20window.open('http://www.regentsprep.org/Regents/global/vocab/def.cfm?term=pax%20romana','','status=no,resizable=yes,scrollbars=yes,%20width=400,height=200');%20void('');). Products such as, **Egyptian** **grain**, **African** **ivory** and **gold**, and Indian **cotton** and **spices** moved freely across the empire. The Roman Empire also traded with the Chinese through the use of the Silk Road. Lots of [**cultural diffusion**](javascript:%20window.open('http://www.regentsprep.org/Regents/global/vocab/def.cfm?term=cultural%20diffusion','','status=no,resizable=yes,scrollbars=yes,%20width=400,height=200');%20void('');) took place during this period.   |  | | --- | | **Trade throughout the Roman Empire** | | http://www.regentsprep.org/Regents/global/themes/movement/images/roman.gif | | |