

# THE SILK ROADS

The term "Silk Road" refers to an ancient network of trails and trading routes connecting East Asia to the Mediterranean. In some ways, the Silk Road was the first real conduit of globalization, as it connected vast lands into a trade network that spread goods, beliefs, and technologies far from their areas of origin. Trade along the Silk Road began around 200 BCE and continued on a significant scale until the sixteenth century CE. The Silk Road has been referred to as the "Internet of antiquity" by Yo-Yo Ma and in studying it we gain insight into how the contemporary stage of globalization is changing our world and our lives.

## Part 1: Maps

- Use this link to trace the Silk Roads on the map provided: <http://www.stanford.edu/group/spice/SilkRoad/SilkRoad.html>
- Once you are on the site, click on Explore the Silk Roads Maps.
- Along the top menu, click on routes so you can effectively trace the routes on your own map.
- Label the cities on the main Silk Road routes (not the dashed lines, only the solid one)

## Part 2:

- In the space below, make a list of the climates a traveler would experience traveling on the main route from Xi'an to Antioch. In the second column, make a list of the languages they would hear on that same route.

Climates (starting in Xi'an and going to Antioch)	Languages (starting in Xi'an and going to Antioch)

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Part 3: Use the handout provided to take notes on each of the following topics related to the Silk Roads.

**History (only through Han China)**

**Spread of Belief Systems**

**Art along the Silk Road**

**Travel of Ideas and Techniques**