

## Rome and Early Christianity

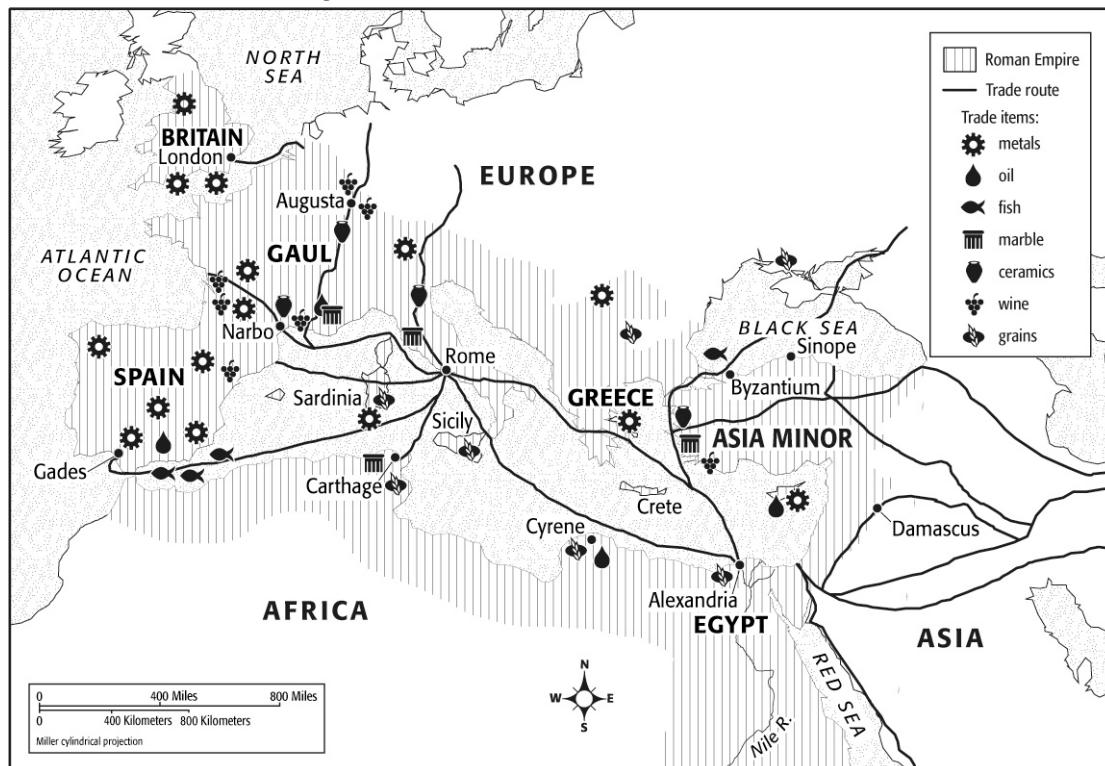
## History and Geography

# Trade During the Pax Romana

During the period known as the Pax Romana—the Roman Peace—widespread trade and an extensive road network were two factors that helped the Romans build their empire and maintain its peace.

Manufacturing of goods increased in the empire's cities, and many opportunities for commerce existed. Rome became one of the empire's greatest commercial centers. Two-way trade routes extended to other commercial centers in lands as far away as Egypt, Germany, and China. The empire's location around the Mediterranean Sea helped make all this commercial activity possible.

## Trade in the Roman Empire



## **MAP ACTIVITY**

1. On the map, label the Mediterranean Sea.
  2. On the map, circle the locations of Rome and Alexandria.
  3. Use a bright color to trace the trade routes directly linked to Rome.
  4. Use a shade of green or gold to highlight locations where grain was an item of trade.
  5. Use a darker color to highlight locations where ceramics were an item of trade.

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**ANALYZING MAPS**

6. **Location** How many trade routes were directly linked to Rome?
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7. **Region** Based on the map, from which seaports in northern Africa did the Roman Empire import grain to feed its urban population?
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8. **Location** What was the major item of trade in Britain?
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9. **Location** List the two trading centers that were located on the southern coast of the Black Sea.
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10. **Human-Environment Interaction** Based on the map, what role did the Mediterranean Sea play in the Roman Empire's flourishing trade industry?
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**EXTENSION ACTIVITY**

Research locations in Asia from where merchants brought luxury goods back to Rome to satisfy the empire's wealthy population. You might specifically look for silks, glassware, jewelry, and furniture. Create symbols to represent these luxury goods. Include the symbols on the map, and update the key.