

# GEOGRAPHY – UNIT 2 MAPPING PART 1

## Preparation

- Access the following maps:
  - 1200 Political Map
  - 1200 Blank Map
  - Medieval Trade Routes Thematic Map

## Purpose

In Unit 2, you will explore the rich diversity and surprising interconnections of the world from 1200 to 1450 CE. Over the course of this unit, you will see new long-distance trade routes emerge and expand, reshaping the communities and states they passed through. The purpose of this activity is to introduce some of the many communities that you'll encounter in this unit. You will also begin thinking about how these varied communities were connected to each other and you'll predict the consequences of these interconnections. The focus of this activity is on the task of identifying and predicting with maps. As the opening map activity for this unit, this is intended to help orient you in time and space while raising some important questions about the geography you'll encounter in this unit.

## Process

You will begin this activity by identifying several communities and states in the world of 1200 CE. You'll then locate these communities on a blank map and make some guesses and predictions about the consequences of connectivity from 1200 to 1450.

### *Step 1*

This activity is intended to introduce the geography of the world in 1200 CE. You aren't expected to have all the answers!

With your teacher, brainstorm some factors that might have impacted the development of long-distance connections in this period. How do you think the development of these connections might have reshaped human communities? Your teacher may add some factors you haven't thought about.

### *Step 2*

In small groups, you should select one "communities" and one "geographic features" column from the table and label the four units in each of your selected columns on the blank map (eight labels total). When this is complete, each group should share their answers until all 40 features are labeled on your map.

### *Step 3*

Now examine the 1200 Political Map and the Medieval Trade Routes Thematic Map. Choose two communities you just identified and make a guess about how environmental, political, or cultural factors might have shaped connectivity in that place. Finally, annotate your map, making predictions for how and where you think the expansion of long-distance trade will change life for humans over the course of this unit (1200 to 1450 CE).

## GEOGRAPHY – UNIT 2 MAPPING PART 1

Name:  Date: **Step 1**

**Directions:** Your teacher will lead a discussion. Try to identify all the factors that might have impacted the development of long-distance connections, such as trade routes. You won't know them all, of course. This is just a brainstorming session.

**Step 2**

**Directions:** Choose one of the categories of communities and one category of geographical features from the tables below and label each of the eight names on the map. Use the 1200 Political Map and the Medieval Trade Routes Thematic Map to find these places..

**Communities** (choose one category):

Mediterranean	Indian Ocean	East Asian	African and American	Non-state communities
Holy Roman Empire	Gujarat	Song Dynasty	Great Zimbabwe	Tainos
Byzantine Empire	Srivijaya	Jin Dynasty	Inca	Maori
Venice	Kilwa Sultanate	Japan	Toltec	Mongols
Constantinople (city)	Basra (city)	Guangzhou (city)	Cahokia (city)	Tuareg

**Geographical features** (choose one column):

Deserts	Oceans	Mountains and Rivers	Regions	Seas
Gobi Desert	Pacific Ocean	Mississippi River	Mesoamerica	Caribbean Sea
Sahara Desert	Atlantic Ocean	Andes Mountains	Strait of Malacca	Mediterranean Sea
Arabian Desert	Indian Ocean	Himalayan Mountains	Indian Subcontinent	Red Sea
Great Basin Desert	Arctic Ocean	Nile River	Swahili Coast	South China Sea

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Date:



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Step 3

**Directions:** Examine the 1200 Political Map and the Medieval Trade Routes Thematic Map. Choose two individual communities from the lists above. Provide a brief (1-2 sentence) guess about how environmental, political, or cultural factors might have shaped connectivity in that place. Finally, draw a prediction on the blank map by drawing or annotating how and where you think the expansion of long-distance trade will change life for humans over the course of this unit (1200 to 1450 CE).

Community	Explanation (1–2 sentences)

