

# Geography: Early Trading Empires

Adapted from *Mapping World History*

**DIRECTIONS:** Working with a partner, **read this narrative out loud** while you each complete your own map. Save your map for the test.

## EUROPEAN TRADE EMPIRES

Throughout history, empires have grown through military conquest. In this lesson, you'll learn how European countries created a new kind of empire based on trade.

In the 1500s Europeans began to establish colonies in Asia, Africa and the Americas. These colonies gave Europeans access to valuable trade goods and helped the European economy grow.

## Early Colonial Expansion

- (1) Give your map a title. Across the top of the map, write **EUROPEAN TRADE EMPIRES**.

Between 1500 and 1770 there were four main European colonizing countries: Spain, Portugal, the Netherlands, and Great Britain (which included England).

- (2) In the Atlas, on **pages 96-97**, look at map B. In Europe, point to each of these countries.
- (3) On your map, **draw** a general boundary around each colonizing country.
- (4) **Label** Spain S, Portugal P, the Netherlands D (people of the Netherlands are called Dutch) and Great Britain B.

In the past, most empires grew by conquering and ruling neighboring regions. Trade empires included territories throughout the world. Each region was important as a source of valuable trade goods.

The Portuguese and the Spanish were the first Europeans to establish colonies overseas. Portuguese explorers sailed south and then east to Africa and Asia. Spanish explorers sailed west to the Americas.

- (5) From Greenland to Antarctica, along **49°W**, **draw a line**.
- (6) At first, as a result of a treaty, Spain claimed all land west of this line. Portugal claimed land east of the line. West of the line, south of **30°S**, write **S LAND CLAIMS**.
- (7) Europeans took over land in the Americas by conquering or killing many of the original inhabitants. Under **S LAND CLAIMS**, write **CONQUEST**.
- (8) The Portuguese established trade colonies along the coasts of Africa and Asia. In the Indian Ocean, write **P TRADE COLONIES**.
- (9) Trade networks controlled by local empires flourished in Africa and Asia. Europeans wanted to buy trade goods more than they wanted to conquer land in the regions. Under **P TRADE COLONIES**, write **TRADE LIMITED CONQUEST**.

## Trade in Africa and Asia

The Portuguese were the first Europeans to find a direct sea route to Asia. They established trade colonies in major ports along their routes.

In Africa, the Portuguese established settlements at Elmina, Luanda and Mozambique. In the Atlas, on pages 96-97, look at map B. Point to each of these port cities.

- (10) On your map, in the area of Elmina, Luanda, and Mozambique write a **P**.
- (11) In 1510 the Portuguese conquered the Indian city of Goa. They ruled Goa for 450 years. **Mark** the location of Goa with a P.
- (12) The Spanish also established a major trade colony in Asia during the 1500s. At present-day Manila, Philippines, write **S** for Spanish.

Even after the Portuguese arrived, most trade in Africa and Asia was still controlled by local traders. The Portuguese took goods and slaves out of the regions and sold them in other parts of the world.

- (13) The Portuguese controlled the Atlantic slave trade. On your map, along the western coast of Africa, write **slavery** and draw an **arrow** towards South America.
- (14) Africa also had plentiful gold deposits. In Western Africa, write **gold**.
- (15) The Portuguese used gold from Africa to help pay for fine cotton cloth from India. In India, write **cotton**.
- (16) African gold also paid for spices from Southeast Asia. Near Malacca, write **spice**.

In the 1600s other Europeans began to challenge Portugal's control of trade in Asian and African goods and African slaves. In the 1600s the Dutch began to take over Portuguese trade colonies.

- (17) At Malacca, cross out the P and write **D** for Dutch.

By 1770 the British had begun to take over the Atlantic slave trade.

- (18) At Elmina, cross out the P and write **B** for British.



## Colonies in the Americas

During the 1700s, while Spain and Portugal controlled much of the Americas, the British and the French competed for control in North America. By 1770 most French land claims had been taken over by the British.

In 1770 the Spanish, British, and Portuguese were the three main colonizers in the Americas. On pages 96-97, look at map B. With your finger, follow the boundaries of the regions in the Americas controlled by the Spanish, British, and Portuguese.

- (19) On your map, **draw** these boundaries. Label them S, B, or P.

Plantations, large farms that grew only one important crop, were a main economic source in the colonies. Tobacco, coffee, and sugar were major plantation crops. On the map in the Atlas, point to the regions where these three crops were grown.

- (20) On your map, write **tobacco**, **coffee** and **sugar** where each was grown.
- (21) The Americas were rich in natural resources. Major silver deposits were found in present-day Mexico and Peru. In these areas, write **silver**.

Colonies in the Americas were linked to Europe, Asia, and Africa through trade. Goods were exchanged within different regions of each trade empire.

- (22) Tobacco was shipped from North America to Britain. From British North America to Britain, **draw** a line. Label it **B**.
- (23) Slaves from Africa worked on coffee plantations in Brazil. The coffee they grew was sent to Portugal to be sold. From Brazil to Portugal, **draw** a line. Label it **P**.

## WORLD IN 1600

By 1600 many regions throughout the world became more interconnected.

### China & Japan

In 1600 Ming China was a powerful Asian empire. Turn to pages 126-127. With your finger, trace the boundaries of Ming China.

- (24) On your map, **draw** the boundary of Ming China and label it **MING**.

After almost 100 years of Mongol rule, the Ming dynasty fought to prevent further invasions China.

The Japanese were expanding their territory. Korea was a dependent state of China.

- (25) On your map, **write** labels for Japan and Korea.

- (26) In 1597 Japan invaded Korea. From Japan to Korea, **draw** an arrow.

- (27) Fearing an invasion of China, Chinese leaders sent troops to defend Korea. In 1598 China and Korea defeated the Japanese invaders. Draw an X over the arrow and write **defeated 1598**.

## Ottoman Empire

Although the Ottoman Empire was no longer at its height, it remained powerful in 1600.

- (28) Turn to pages 126-127. Point to the Ottoman Empire. On your map, **draw** the boundary of the Ottoman Empire and label it **OTTOMANS**.

The Ottomans fought with their neighbors over religion and territory. The Muslim Ottomans fought the Christian Holy Roman Empire. On page 95, look at map D. Point to the Holy Roman Empire.

- (29) On your map, label the region **HRE**.

- (30) Between the Holy Roman and Ottoman empires, draw an **X**.

To the east, the Safavid Empire was expanding westward. On pages 126-127, point to the Safavid Empire.

- (31) On your map, label the region **SAFAVIDS**.

- (32) On the eastern boundary of the Ottoman Empire, draw an **X**.

## Africa

Kongo was a major kingdom in central Africa. It was greatly affected by the Portuguese who settled there.

- (33) On pages 126-127, point to Kongo. On your map, draw the boundary of Kongo and label it **KONGO**.

- (34) Beginning in 1506 Kongo adopted Christianity as a result of Portuguese missionaries. Next to Kongo, draw a Christianity symbol.

