

Trade, Commerce, and Nature History

Trade And Commerce History · Answer Key · 25 Questions

1. Which animal was famously transported across the Sahara desert in camel caravans to facilitate trade?

- A) Dromedary Camel**
- B) African Elephant
- C) Horse
- D) Donkey

2. The historical 'Silk Road' was primarily named after which natural fiber produced by insects?

- A) Cotton
- B) Wool
- C) Silk**
- D) Linen

3. During the age of exploration, which spice derived from a tropical tree was so valuable it was traded like gold?

- A) Black Pepper
- B) Cinnamon**
- C) Salt
- D) Sugar

4. What aquatic animal was hunted extensively in the 18th and 19th centuries for its oil, which fueled lamps in global trade centers?

- A) Seal
- B) Whale**
- C) Dolphin
- D) Salmon

5. Which flightless bird's feathers became a major luxury trade item in the 19th century?

- A) Emu
- B) Penguin
- C) Ostrich**
- D) Kiwi

6. What precious organic material, harvested from ocean mollusks, has been used as a global currency and trade item for thousands of years?

- A) Coral
- B) Pearls
- C) Shells**
- D) Amber

7. The ancient spice trade often relied on the transport of which plant's dried flower buds, native to the Moluccas?

- A) Cloves**
- B) Vanilla
- C) Saffron
- D) Nutmeg

8. In the history of the fur trade, which small, semi-aquatic mammal was the primary target for its thick, waterproof pelt?

- A) Otter
- B) Beaver**
- C) Seal
- D) Mink

9. Which tropical crop, requiring specific humid climates, became a massive driver of global trade during the colonial era?

- A) Wheat
- B) Sugar Cane**
- C) Potato
- D) Barley

10. What natural, fossilized tree resin has been a prized trade item across the Baltic Sea region for centuries?

- A) Coal
- B) Amber**
- C) Rubber
- D) Tar

11. The ancient trade of which substance, found in salt flats or mined from the earth, was essential for preserving food before refrigeration?

- A) Sugar
- B) Salt**
- C) Spice
- D) Flour

12. Which insect-produced substance was historically traded as a primary sweetener before the mass production of sugar?

A) Maple Syrup

B) Honey

C) Agave

D) Molasses

13. The trade of which sturdy, natural material from trees was critical for the construction of historical trading vessels?

A) Bamboo

B) Timber

C) Cork

D) Rubber

14. Which large animal was historically used as a primary beast of burden on the mountain trade routes of the Andes?

A) Horse

B) Llama

C) Donkey

D) Camel

15. Which plant, native to Ethiopia, became one of the most traded agricultural commodities in the world due to its stimulating beans?

A) Cocoa

B) Coffee

C) Tea

D) Vanilla

16. The global trade of which natural plant fiber was so significant that it was known as 'white gold' in the 19th century?

A) Cotton

B) Hemp

C) Jute

D) Flax

17. Which animal, valued for its fine wool, was central to the economy and trade of the ancient Incan Empire?

A) Sheep

B) Alpaca

C) Goat

D) Camel

18. Historical trade of which plant, used to create a blue dye, was a major industry before synthetic dyes were invented?

- A) Indigo**
- B) Rose
- C) Sunflower
- D) Lavender

19. Which aquatic creature's shells were once used in the Indian Ocean trade as a form of money known as cowries?

- A) Clam
- B) Snail**
- C) Crab
- D) Lobster

20. The trade of which botanical product, sourced from the bark of a tropical tree, was a primary driver for European exploration of the East Indies?

- A) Cinnamon
- B) Clove
- C) Nutmeg**
- D) Ginger

21. Which natural resource, harvested from tropical trees, became vital to trade during the industrial revolution for making tires?

- A) Latex/Rubber**
- B) Resin
- C) Sap
- D) Oil

22. Which animal was historically traded across the North American plains for its hide, which was used to create thick leather?

- A) Bison**
- B) Elk
- C) Moose
- D) Deer

23. What fragrant natural substance, harvested from the bark of trees in the Middle East, was one of the earliest luxury goods traded on the Incense Route?

- A) Frankincense**
- B) Pine
- C) Cedar
- D) Oak

24. Which plant was historically traded from the Americas to Europe, fundamentally changing global diets and commerce?

A) Potato

B) Wheat

C) Rice

D) Barley

25. Which sea-dwelling animal was traditionally harvested in the Mediterranean for the valuable purple dye it produced for royal trade?

A) Murex Snail

B) Coral

C) Oyster

D) Seaweed