

Name _____ Date _____ Period ____ Class _____

SILK ROADS OR STEPPE ROADS?

Directions: FIRST, read and answer the questions below individually based on your prior knowledge and understanding. THEN, work as a group to discuss these issues and add additional points, reflections, or conclusions.

1. How did goods travel from one end of the Silk Road to the other? Did individual traders journey from one end to the other?
2. What role did monsoon winds play in the maritime portions of the Afro-Eurasian trade networks in the Indian Ocean?
3. Do you think "Silk Road" is a suitable name for this trade network? Why or why not? Try to consider both sides.
4. Examine the map on page #. What regions do you think were most important to the function of the Silk Road?

ENGAGING WITH ACADEMIA

Focusing mainly on the land-based portion of this trade network, do you think the major agrarian civilizations along the Silk Road played the largest role in developing and sustaining this trade network, or do you think credit belongs to the smaller, generally pastoral communities in the Central Asian Steppe region? Working as a group, read aloud and annotate the two texts and discuss this issue together. Then, on the back of this sheet, write a statement explaining your position, citing evidence from the texts.

