

Outcome 10.1: explain economic innovation from the Paleolithic Era to the Ancient Era.

Use the sources to complete the items that follow.

Source #1

The Roman Empire was criss-crossed with trade routes. There were sea routes that covered the Mediterranean and Black Seas and numerous land routes using the roads built by the Romans. Trade and moving the Roman Army around were the two principle reasons for building roads.

The most important port was Ostia as it was the nearest major port to Rome itself. Ostia was situated at the mouth of the River Tiber and was only 15 miles from Rome. Many ships travelled between Ostia and the major North African city of Carthage, a journey that took between three and five days. Ships also arrived from Spain and France at Ostia. All their goods could be quickly moved to Rome itself as they were taken in barges to the city up the River Tiber after slaves had transferred the products from the merchant ships to the barges.

The Romans did what they could to make sea journeys safe – lighthouses were built as were safe harbours and docks. The Roman Navy did what it could to make the Mediterranean Sea safe from pirates.

Britain exported lead, woollen products and tin. In return, it imported from Rome wine, olive oil, pottery and papyrus. British traders relied on the Romans to provide security within the Empire. When this collapsed and Europe was seemingly overrun by Barbarians, no one could guarantee traders that their produce would get through.

- *The History Learning Site*

1. According to Source #1, what was the importance of land and sea trade routes in ancient Rome?

2. According to Source #1, what measures did the Romans take to ensure safe trade across the empire? What does the cost of these measures say about the importance of trade?

Source #2



The Romans imported a whole variety of materials: beef, corn, glassware, iron, lead, leather, marble, olive oil, perfumes, purple dye, silk, silver, spices, timber, tin and wine. The main trading partners were in Spain, France, the Middle East and North Africa.

- *The History Learning Site*

- Using Source #2, use specific examples to show how the lives of Romans were influenced by trade (i.e., how would specific goods make lives easier?).

Source #3

Roman coins were first produced in the late 4th century BCE in Italy and continued to be minted for another eight centuries across the empire. Denominations and values more or less constantly changed but certain types such as the sestertii and denarii would persist and come to rank amongst the most famous coins in history. Roman coinage, as in other societies, represented a guaranteed and widely recognised value which permitted an easy exchange of value which in turn drove both commerce and technology development as all classes could work to own coins which could be spent on all manner of goods and services. Even more significantly, large and identical payments could now be easily made which made possible a whole new scale of commercial activity. Coins also had a function as a vehicle to spread the imagery of the ruling class as coinage was the mass media of the day and often carried likenesses of emperors and famous imperial monuments which would be the nearest most Romans ever got to see of them.

- Ancient History Encyclopedia



4. Using Source #3, explain how the development of money can be seen as a significant economic innovation.

Source #4

COMPONENTS OF TRADE

Trading Partners

Merchants could grow rich selling highly desired goods that were not produced locally. To obtain such goods, merchants traded with people in other regions. When two regions trade regularly, they become trading partners.

Trade Goods

Products become trade goods when one region lacks them and another has a surplus to sell. Trade goods may be valuable because they are rare (such as ivory), useful (such as salt to preserve meat), or beautiful (such as silk).

Modes of Transport

Caravans of camels, mules, or other animals carried trade goods over land. Vessels that relied on wind power (such as the dhow) or the strength of human rowers shipped trade goods across the seas.

Currency

Merchants do not always exchange one product directly for another. They may buy goods with money. Currency is any item that is accepted as money in a region. Besides paper money, cowrie shells, salt, and metals served as currency.

Middlemen

Because some trade goods traveled very long distances, merchants did not always buy products directly from their places of origin. Middlemen acted as go-betweens, buying goods from merchants in one region to sell to merchants in another.

5. Using any sources found in this activity, complete the table below to show how each component of trade (Source #4) was a part of the economy of ancient Rome.

Component of Trade	Evidence of this in Ancient Rome
Trading Partners	
Trade Goods	
Modes of Transportation	
Currency	
Middlemen	
<p>Which component of trade has the greatest influence on people’s lives? Explain.</p>	