

CHAPTER
17

Section 2

GEOGRAPHY APPLICATION: MOVEMENT

Trade in Renaissance Europe

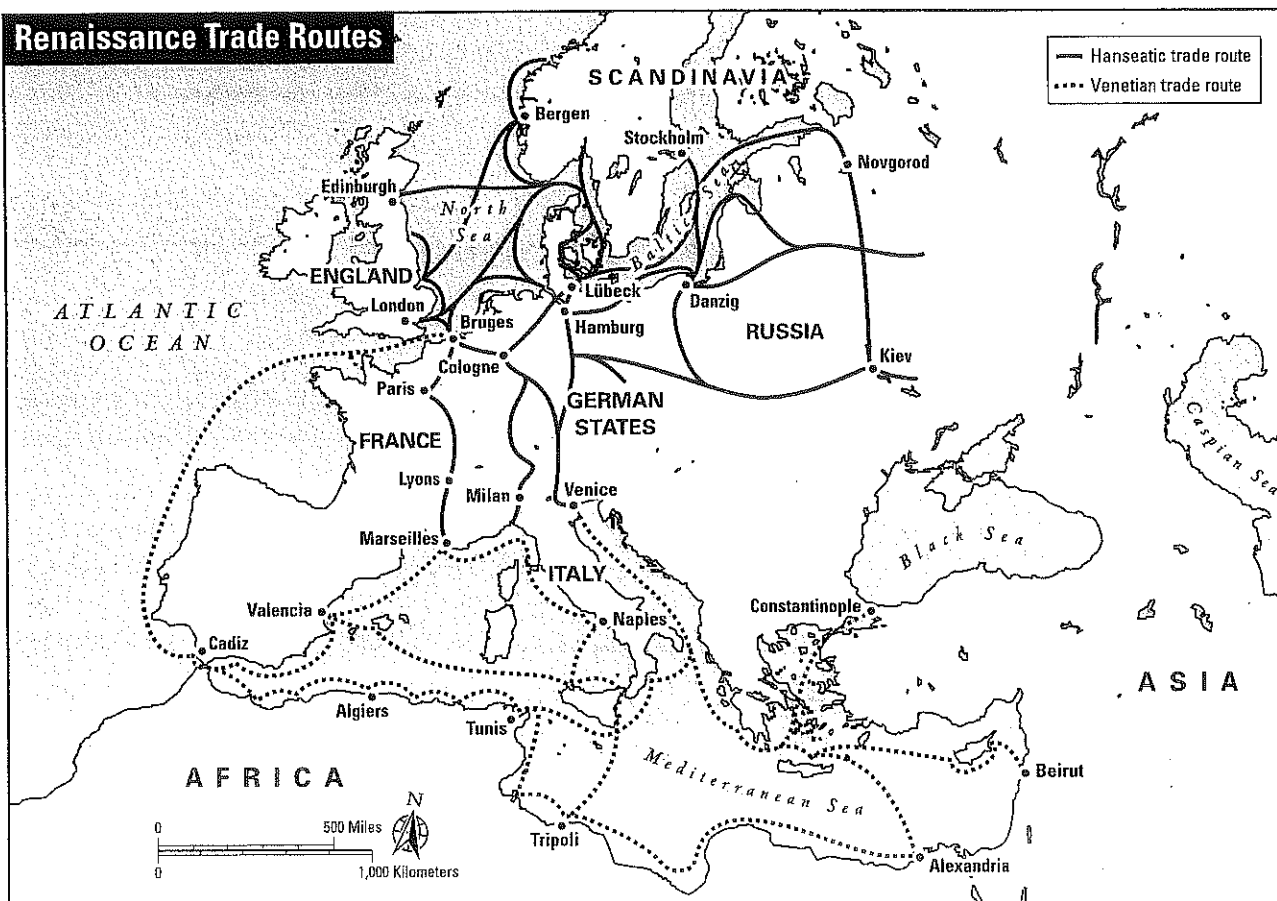
Directions: Read the paragraphs below and study the map carefully. Then answer the questions that follow.

For centuries Venice and other coastal Italian city-states had a monopoly on trade in their region, the Mediterranean Sea. As a result, around 1200, European merchants to the north began organizing far-ranging, controlled trade routes of their own.

Northern European cities formed a federation called the Hanseatic League. By the 1300s the League had incorporated most of the Baltic and North Sea ports, with German states serving as a go-between. Lübeck, built in the 1200s, was situated in a sheltered port and became the “mother town” of the League, which stretched from Russia to England. Merchants from the nearly 100-member cities—including such inland locations as

Cologne and Novgorod—made up the League’s governing body.

Along with a great growth in ship traffic in the upper European region, land transport also increased. Cloth, metals, and other goods such as fish, timber, animal skins, tar, and turpentine were brought to ports and exchanged for the raw goods of Scandinavia and Russia. The League eventually set up branch offices in England and created monopolies to protect their commerce. However, in the early 1600s, the League was hit by internal strife and foreign attacks and was so weakened that it disbanded. At this time, English and Dutch merchants took over control of shipping in the region.



Interpreting Text and Visuals

1. What is the Hanseatic League? _____

2. Name four port cities where the Venetian and Hanseatic trade routes met. _____

3. Besides location and length, what would you say marks the major difference between the Hanseatic and Venetian trade routes? _____
4. Describe the movement of goods from the port of Marseilles to London in two ways: by Venetian and by Hanseatic trade routes. _____

5. In the 1300s a land route and then a canal connected Lübeck with Hamburg. Why do you think this linkage was so important? _____

6. The Baltic Sea has been called a "Scandinavian Mediterranean." Explain why that comparison seems logical. _____

7. Considering the weather possibilities of their far northern location, what do you see as one great disadvantage to the Hanseatic League's sea routes? _____

