

Mapping the Movement of Goods – Workshop
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PERIPLUS MARIS ERYTHRAEI

Using the primary source, *PERIPLUS MARIS ERYTHRAEI*, divide the class into groups of five. Give them copies of the primary source and ask them to do one of the following exercises, then share their information with rest of the class.

1. Find examples in the document of merchant ships having to pay tribute in order to trade in a port.

Questions:

- ◆ Why would a King ask for tribute?
- ◆ Why would a ship's captain pay tribute?
- ◆ What alternatives might a vessel use, so as not to have to pay tribute?

Make a mural of tribute being given and received and share it with the class.

2. Make a list of all the trade items in the document, found along the way, in a trading voyage along the Erythraean Sea.

Questions:

- ◆ Which of these items are still being sought after today?
- ◆ Why are some of the items on the trade list not important today?

Make a list of the most important items for World Trade today. Create a short skit to perform for the class, illustrating how some of these items might be acquired and sold today.

3. Make a list of all the trade items in the document, found along the way, in a trading voyage along the Erythraean Sea.

Questions:

- ◆ Where are the most likely places in the ancient world that you might set sail on a trading journey?
- ◆ What types of ships are described in the note section?

Use the document and your list to create a large map of the Erythraean Sea and draw illustrations on it depicting goods you might pick up at various ports. Be prepared to explain your map to the class.

4. List the different countries trading ships came from.

Questions:

- ◆ What ideas, customs, religious ideas, items of dress, might be exchanged because of this trade?
- ◆ How might you trade with people whose language you do not speak?
- ◆ How might both trading parties agree on a price for the exchange?

Demonstrate your ideas about these questions, by creating and performing a pantomime for the class.

TRADE GOODS LIST FOR THE TEACHER

Ivory, tortoise shell, opsdian stone, purple cloths, Arabian clothing, saffron, sweet rush, muslin, cloaks, blankets, sashes, fragrant ointments, wine, wheat (wild rice), frankincense, Laodicean, Arabian copper, tin, lead, coral, topaz, sheer clothing, girdles, storax, slaves, harem girls, sweet clover, flint glass, realgar (arsenic), Antimony, gold and silver coin, spikenard, costus, bdellium, agate, carnelian, lycium, cotton cloth, silk cloth, mallow cloth, yarn, long pepper (black pepper), malabathrum (cinnamon), pearls, diamonds, sapphires, cloves, raw silk.