**WORKSHEET – 1.3 Conquering the Earth, p. 113-114**

1. **Reading: The Silk Roads**

The Silk Roads played a major role in shaping intercontinental connections and trade. They were series of roads that connected the Asian and the European continent; they linked markets on the North China Plain with India and Mediterranean. The first roads date to around 450 BCE when present-day Iran and Turkey were connected during the Persian Empire. These roads remained open until the middle of the fifteenth century when the Ottoman Empire closed them. Humans travelled over these long routes, across deserts and mountains, on horses and camels for two thousand years. These roads were strategic in the exchange of goods, knowledge, beliefs and disease. Technology moved simultaneously with plagues and religions; silk and wood travelled with mathematics. The Silk Roads were also the first major connection between different worldviews defined by empires. It was more than a branch of roads; it was a large network of trading posts, located in strategic sites, that streamlined the storage, exchange, transport and distribution of goods. It was a lively route where humans rested, spent their time talking, drinking, plotting and exchanging information and discoveries. It was a path of human movement.

**Translation: Hedvábné stezky**

Významnou úlohu při formování mezikontinentálních spojení a obchodu sehrály tzv. hedvábné stezky. Ty tvořily síť cest, které spojovaly asijský a evropský kontinent a propojily trhy v Severočínské nížině s těmi v Indii a Středomoří. První stezky se objevily okolo roku 450 př. n. l., kdy byly dnešní Írán a Turecko součástí jedné Perské říše. Tyto stezky byly využívány až do poloviny 15. století, dokud je Osmanská říše neuzavřela. K cestování po těchto dlouhých stezkách vedoucích přes hory a pouště lidé dva tisíce let využívali koně a velbloudy. Tyto stezky měly strategický význam pro výměnu zboží, znalostí, přesvědčení i nemocí. Technologie se šířily společně s morem a náboženstvím, hedvábí a vlnu zase doprovázela matematika. Hedvábné stezky také představovaly první významné spojení mezi říšemi s rozdílnými pohledy na svět. Netvořily je jen samotné cesty, šlo o rozsáhlou síť obchodních stanic na strategických místech, které zefektivnily uchovávání, výměnu, přepravu a distribuci zboží. Byla to rušná cesta, kde lidé odpočívali, povídali si, pili, připravovali plány a vyměňovali si informace a objevy. Byla to stezka hemžící se lidmi.

**KLÍČ:** Alternative title: a path of human movement

1. **KLÍČ: VOCABULARY**
2. **Add the place names from the article to the table.**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| the Silk Road | Hedvábná stezka |
| the North China Plain | Severočínská nížina |
| the Otoman Empire | Osmanská říše |
| the Persian Empire | Perská říše |
| Turkey | Turecko |
| India | Indie |
| the Asian continent | asijský kontinent/ Asie |
| the European continent | evropský kontinent/ Evropa |
| Mediterranean | Středomoří |

**KLÍČ:** Rule for using a definite article with geographical names above:

* we use definite articles with geographical names consisting of two or more words and with one word of general meaning (e.g. road, empire, continent, plain)
* we do not use definite articles with geographical names without a word of general meaning (e.g. Turkey, India)

1. **Match the words and the definitions.**

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | **intercontinental** (adj) | **F** |  | between two of the six (or seven) great areas of land on the globe |
|  | **simultaneously** (adv) | **E** | at the same time |
|  | **route** (n) | **B** | a way of getting from one place to another |
|  | **plague** (n) | **D** | an extremely infectious and deadly illness |
|  | **streamline** (v) | **J** | make more effective by improving |
|  | **storage** (n) | **C** | action of collecting things and making supplies |
|  | **major** (adj) | **G** | great in size or importance |
|  | **disease** (n) | **I** | illness, health disorder |
|  | **movement** (n) | **H** | changing position or going from one point to another |
|  | **worldview** (n) | **A** |  | a particular opinion on image of the world |

1. **GRAMMAR AND TEXT ANALYSIS**
2. What was the major role of the Silk Roads?

Shaping the intercontinental connections and trade.

1. What were the Silk Roads like?

Series of roads that connected Asian and European continent.

1. When are the first roads dated?

To around 450 BCE.

1. How long did the roads remain?

Until the middle of the fifteenth century.

1. What kind of country did the humans travel across?

Across deserts and mountains.

1. What kind of transport (animals) did the humans use?

Horses and camels.

1. What were the roads strategic in?

In the exchange of goods, knowledge, beliefs and disease.

1. What were the Silk Roads also connections between?

Between different worldviews defined by empires.

1. What were the trading posts?

Strategic sites, that streamlined the storage, exchange, transport and distribution of goods.

1. What did humans do on the trading posts of the lively route?

They rested there while talking, drinking, plotting and exchanging information and discoveries.