

EXPLORING THE SILK ROAD

ARTMAKING ACTIVITY - SILK ROAD TRANSPORTATION

CORRESPONDING VIDEO

The Silk Road was an ancient trade network that connected China to Europe and the Middle East from the 2nd century to the 18th century CE. It spanned over 4,000 miles. It was responsible for the spread of knowledge, ideas, cultures, languages, materials, and beliefs. Along the way, people learned from one another and adapted ideas and materials from different cultures. During this time, camels were used as transportation for people and goods because of their resilient features. In this video lesson, you will draw a camel in a Silk Road inspired terrain.



Bactrian Camel
Takaoka City, Japan, Meiji Period
(1868-1912)
bronze
21" H x 7" W x 18" D
Gift of Mrs. Wilhelmina Lockhart
1984.55.20



Camel with pack saddle
China, Tang dynasty (618-906 AD)
earthenware; pigment; gilt
13.5" H x 7" W x 12.25" D
Gift of Mr. and Mrs. Chester Wheeler
1982.144.1

MATERIALS

pencil, eraser, and a white piece of paper

VOCABULARY

Texture - the way a surface feels or looks like it feels

Caravan - Long lines of pack animals, such as camels and horses, that carried everything from trade goods to tents, personal belongings, and food.

Oasis - a body of water in the desert

REFLECTION QUESTIONS

- If you were to do a drawing of transportation today, what would it look like? What kind of ideas or items would be exchanged? How would your landscape differ from the one you just drew?
- In terms of present-day technology, how would you represent that through drawing?
- Think of our changing landscapes. How do you think a changing landscape might affect the way we transport goods?

STANDARDS

History–Social Science for California Public Schools Content Standards

6.5 - Students analyze the geographic, political, economic, religious, and social structures of the early civilizations of India.

6.6 - Students analyze the geographic, political, economic, religious, and social structures of the early civilizations of China.

National Core Visual Arts Standards

6 - VA:Re.7.1.6a - Identify and interpret works of art or design that reveal how people live around the world and what they value.

7 - VA:Cn11.1.7a - Analyze how response to art is influenced by understanding the time and place in which it was created, the available resources, and cultural uses.

8 VA:Cn11.1.8a - Distinguish different ways art is used to represent, establish, reinforce, and reflect group identity.

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

- [The Silk Roads and Eurasian Geography](#)