

WHAT YOU WILL LEARN

That movements and human activities are concentrated in some areas and sparse in other areas, thereby creating patterns of centers, pathways, and hinterlands

READING STRATEGY

Create a table like the one below. Beside each place, or center of trade, list its importance in the process of triangular trade.

CENTER OF TRADE	IMPORTANCE
England	
New England	
West Indies	
Africa	

TERMS TO KNOW

raw material, manufactured good, profit, triangular trade, hinterland

Imagine you are flying high above the earth. As you look down, you see towns and cities scattered across the countryside. Each town or city has a downtown area with buildings close together. Around it are houses and other buildings that are farther apart. Outside the city, buildings get farther and farther apart. In some places it may be miles between buildings. Roads and railroads connect the towns with each other, and with the countryside. As you look down, you see bright, moving flashes of light. It is the sun reflecting off cars and trucks moving on the roads. Most of the cars and trucks are moving to and from the cities.

Centers and Pathways of Trade

What you see from high in the air is a model of how people trade with each other. The cities are centers of trade where goods are bought and sold. The areas surrounding the cities are where the goods are produced. The roads and railroads are the pathways over which the goods are carried to the cities.

If you could fly higher still, so that you could see a large part of the earth's surface at once, you would see much the same thing. It would be easy to pick out the countries where most trade was taking place. Many ships would be moving to and from some countries. Few ships would be moving to and from others.

There are two main elements of trade. The first element is **raw materials**. Raw materials are natural resources like oil, wood, coal, iron ore, and cotton. Useful things can be made from raw materials. For example, cotton can be made into thread and cloth. These can then be used to make clothing. Finished products from raw materials are called **manufactured goods**. Some examples of manufactured goods are cars, radios, and shoes.

Some countries produce mostly raw materials. Others produce mainly manufactured goods. As you might expect, there is a great deal of trade between such countries. The countries that have raw materials sell them to make money. They use this money to buy manufactured goods. The countries that make goods must buy raw materials to make those goods. Each time raw materials or manufactured goods are sold, the seller makes a **profit**. Profit is the money left over after all expenses are paid. Trade takes place because people can make a profit by buying and selling goods.

The Triangular Trade

The early history of the United States provides an example of how trade works. In the eighteenth century the land we know as

the United States was ruled by England. The land was rich in raw materials such as fish, lumber, and cotton. England also ruled the islands in the West Indies, located southeast of the United States. Large plantations, or farms, on these islands grew sugarcane. Countries ruled by the English had to buy all their manufactured goods from England.

Trade between England and the lands it ruled worked in this way. Ships from New England, in the northeastern part of what is now the United States, carried fish from the region to the West Indies. There the fish was sold to feed the enslaved Africans who worked on the sugar plantations. Farmers paid for the fish with sugar from their crops. Ships then took the sugar to England where it was sold or traded for manufactured goods. The manufactured goods were then taken back to New England and sold. The money from the sale of manufactured goods was used to buy more fish.

This was called the **triangular trade** because the ships moved in a triangle from New England, to the West Indies, to England, and back to New England, where the process began again. The triangular trade worked in another way, too. It would begin in New England, whose fish was taken to the West Indies and traded for sugar. Then the sugar was taken back to New England where it was made into rum. The rum was taken to West Africa's Gold Coast. There it was traded for enslaved Africans. The enslaved Africans were then taken to the West Indies and sold to the sugar plantations.

The triangular trade had centers and pathways. The centers were the cities in New England, the West Indies, and England where goods were bought and sold. The pathways were the routes the ships followed across the ocean. The triangular trade also had **hinterlands**, or areas where raw materials were grown or gathered.

Using Your Skills

A REVIEWING KEY TERMS

Match each term in Column A with its meaning in Column B.

Column A

- _____ 1. raw materials
- _____ 2. hinterlands
- _____ 3. profit
- _____ 4. manufactured goods
- _____ 5. triangular trade

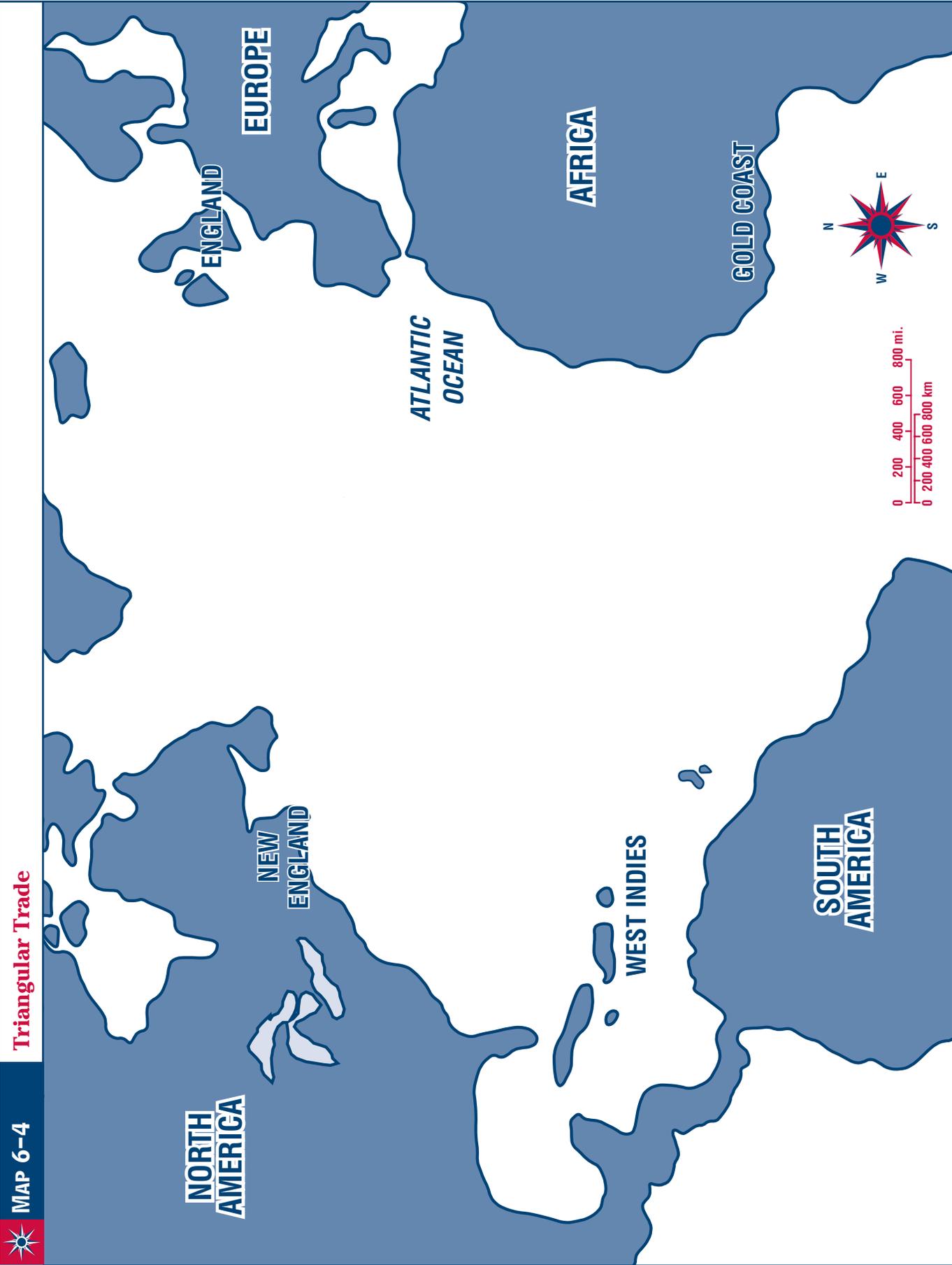
Column B

- a. the money left over after expenses are paid
- b. trade between New England, England or Africa, and the West Indies
- c. finished products made from raw materials
- d. areas where raw materials are produced
- e. natural resources

B PRACTICING MAP SKILLS

Use information from the lesson to complete **Map 6-4: Triangular Trade** on page 204.

1. Draw the pathways ships followed in the two different patterns of triangular trade.
2. Label each pathway with the product ships carried between centers.
3. Label the hinterlands with the product that came from each.



Triangular Trade

MAP 6-4

