



Threads of Learning
Teacher's Guide

Travel the Silk Road

THE AMERICAN TEXTILE HISTORY MUSEUM

491 Dutton Street Lowell, Massachusetts

Education Department: (978) 441-0400 X250

www.athm.org





Program Description

Ages: Grades 4 - 6

Length: 2.5 hours

Travel the Silk Road with us! Students will be introduced to the history of The Silk Road, the trade route that connected China with the cities and empires of Central Asia and the Mediterranean for thousands of years. Along with goods and services, travelers exchanged technologies, religions, music and literature, and ways of thinking.

Using our life-sized game board, students are encouraged to learn about the purpose and challenges of this historic route while honing their trading and bartering skills. Using a world map, students will visit bazaars and historic cities to identify and collect items that were traded along the Silk Road

Objectives

After attending this program students will be able to make appropriate choices relating to limited and unlimited resources. They will gain a better understanding of how scarcity compels people and communities to make choices about goods and services. The students will interact with one another throughout this program in order to replicate the buyer and seller community. The students will understand the influence the value of goods and services can have on the markets.



Massachusetts History and Social Science Curriculum Framework Connections

Grade 4

Learning Standards

- 4.2 Describe the topography and climate of eastern Asia, including the importance of mountain ranges and deserts, and explain how geography influences the growth of Chinese civilizations.
- 4.4 Describe important technologies of China such as bronze casting, Silk manufacturing, and gunpowder.
- 4.7 After visiting a museum, listening to a museum educator in school, or conducting research in the library, describe an animal, person, building, or design depicted in an ancient Chinese work of art.