

Springboard into Comprehension

Identifying Detail No Ducks in the Water

Main Idea Pharaohs

Sequencing The Ice Age and the Woolly Mammoth

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Compare and Contrast Salt and Silk

Fact and Opinion Carly and the Glass Sneaker

Cause and Effect The Rubbish Monster



Salt and Silk



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Salt and Silk

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Introduction

Salt and silk have both had big effects on history. People valued salt and silk highly. Trade in salt and silk made links between far-off places. Then, new ideas would follow the links.

People valued salt and silk for different reasons. Salt is something people need to live. It is a **necessity**. Silk is not a necessity. People want silk because of its beauty, but they do not need it. Silk is a **luxury**.

Salt is an essential part of people's diet.



People use silk fabrics such as these to make beautiful clothes.

Getting Salt and Silk

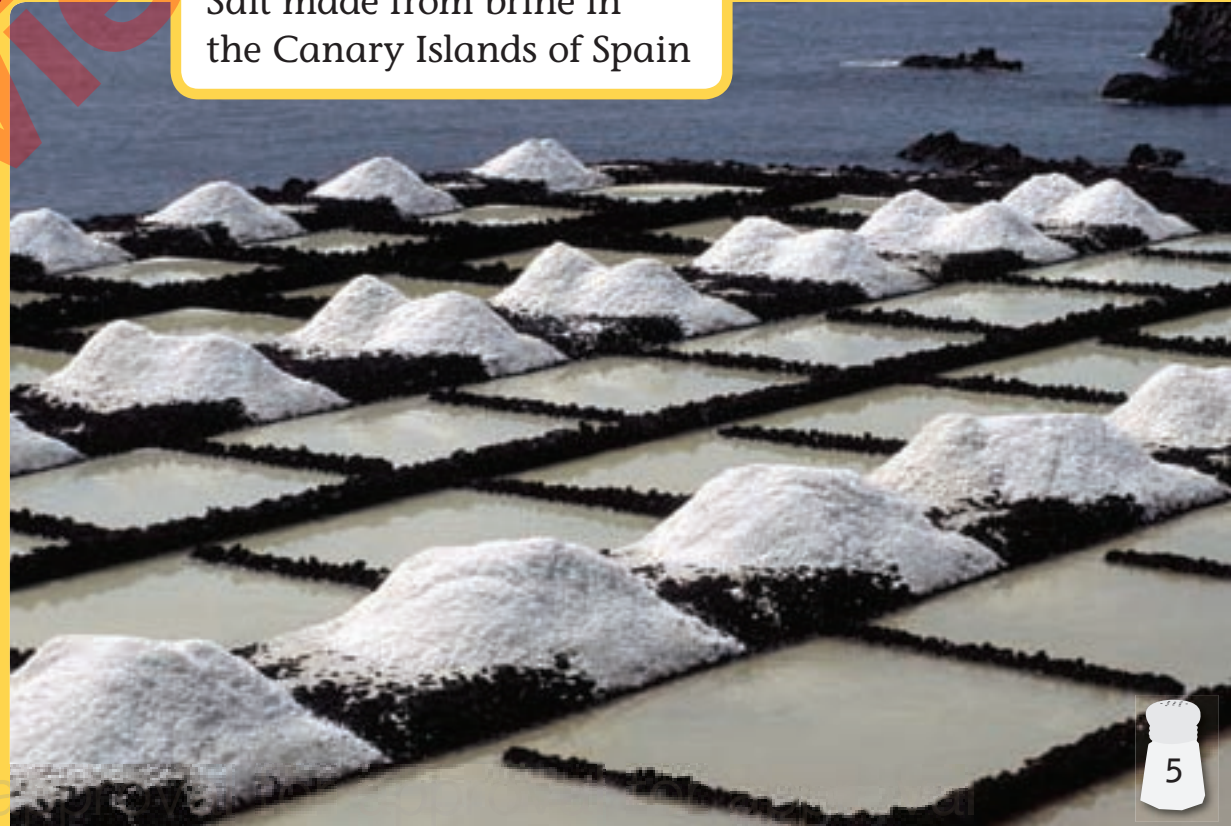
In the past, some people could not get salt or silk. Silk was hard to get because it came only from silkworms in China. The Chinese used a special process to make silk. They kept the process secret.

This silkworm will spin itself a thin, white case that people turn into silk.



Salt was not a secret. People got it from seawater with a high amount of salt. Water like this is called **brine**. People also got salt from dried-up seas and lakes, or **salt pans**. Some old salt pans are underground. People dug mines to get this salt. People in areas with no brine or salt pans could not get salt.

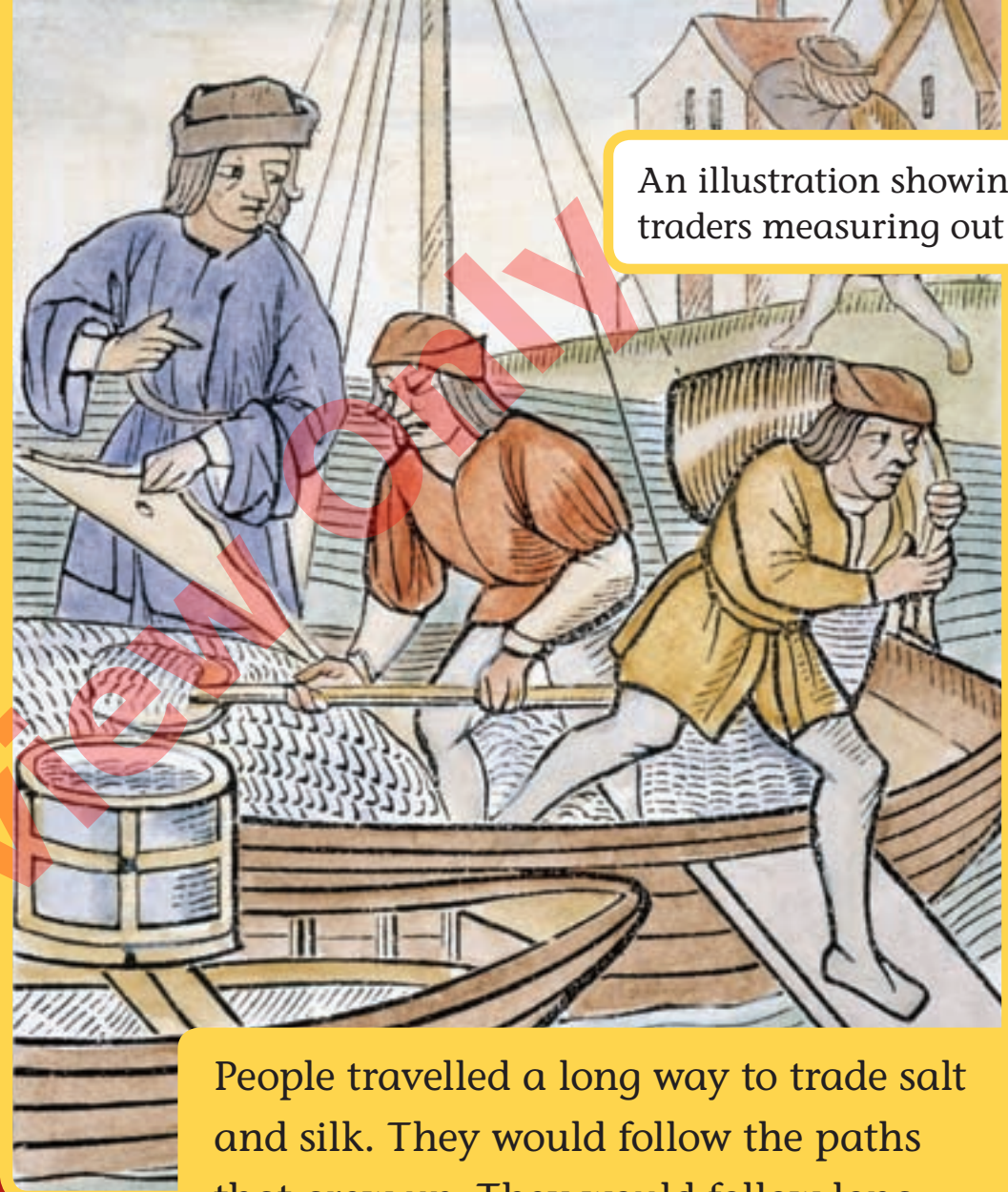
Salt made from brine in the Canary Islands of Spain



The Chinese guarded their secret. They wanted to sell silk to far-off places. They did not want people in far-off places to learn how to make their own silk. If these people wanted silk, they had to buy it from China. People who lived in places with no salt had to buy salt, too.



An illustration showing people in China making silk from silkworms



An illustration showing traders measuring out salt

People travelled a long way to trade salt and silk. They would follow the paths that grew up. They would follow long roads that linked different cities, or **trade routes**. People carried new ideas along trade routes, too.