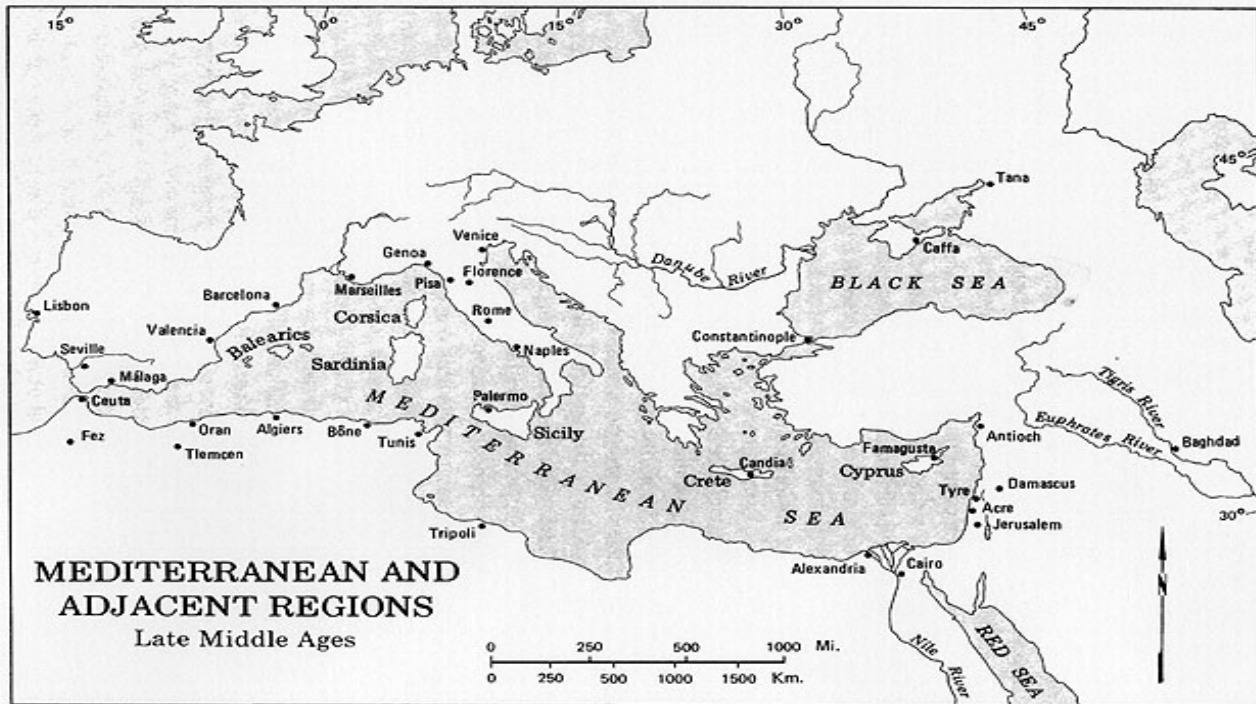


ITALIAN TRADE INTERACTIVE READING GUIDE (IRG)

1) On the map below, circle the following cities with a bright colored pencil, pen, or marker:

Caffa, Constantinople, Alexandria, Tripoli, Algiers, Genoa, and Venice



2) Using a different color, trace a route, starting in Caffa, that goes through each of the cities you circled in the order they were listed in item #1. The route needs to be a water route (you cannot cross over and land).

3) Using the reading and the first two items above, explain why the Mediterranean Sea is such an important body of water for trading in Afroeurasia.

Why is the Mediterranean Sea such an important body of water for trade across Afroeurasia?

4) Using what you've learned so far, make a hypothesis – why was Italy's location such an advantage for trading?

My Hypothesis:

5) Complete the following chart, comparing the Italian city-states with feudal Europe:

	Italian City-States	Feudal Europe
Population Growth		Very slow population growth due to scarcity of resources, poverty, and low life expectancy
Urbanization		Very few large cities or towns; mainly small villages and manors. Very rural population dependent on farming economy
Prosperity		The majority of the population was very poor; lords owned all of the land and wealth. Quality of life was very low; very little trade
Education		Education was almost non-existent for most people in feudal Europe. Only church officials and the wealthy could read
Government		Feudal system put kings/lords in power; most people had no control over the decisions of the leaders

6) Italy was best-known for its production of textiles. Based on the pictures and captions on the second page of your reading, describe what you think the word “textiles” means:

<p>Definition: Textiles</p>

7) Imagine that you are a wealthy 13th century merchant. You own a business that imports silk from China, wool from England, and cotton from India. Your workers then weave these materials into cloth, using bright-colored dyes from across Asia to add beautiful color. Explain why Italy would be a great location for you to run your business:
