In developing your answers to the following thematic essay, be sure to keep these general definitions in mind:

(a) describe means “to illustrate something in words or tell about it”
(b) identify means “to recognize or establish as being from a certain location, period or time”
(c) explain means “to make plain or understandable; to give reasons for or causes of; to show the logical developmental or relationships of”

Thematic Essay Question

Directions: Write a well-organized essay that includes an introduction, several paragraphs addressing the task below, and a conclusion.

Theme: Trade routes

Between 500 and 1500 CE many civilizations and cultures came into contact through expanded trade. The exchanges which occurred on these various trade routes impacted both individual societies and global interactions as well.

Task:

Choose one trade route from your study of Oh the Places You’ll go, and complete a research paper that addresses the global/historical importance of that trade route: be sure to include:

- Description of the geographical location of the trade route
- At least one empire that dominated control over the trade route
- The items traded along the route
- An explanation of the impact/impacts created by the development or control of trade

You may use any example from your study of Global History. Do not use the United States in your answer. Some suggestions that you may wish to consider include:
Silk Road, Trans-Saharan trade routes (sand routes of the Sahara), Hanseatic trade routes, Indian Ocean trade routes, Mediterranean Sea (not Roman), Middle Eastern Trade Routes (Either sand routes or Sea routes), American Trade networks, Swahili coast trade

Guidelines:

In your essay, be sure to
- Address all aspects of the Task
- Support the thesis with relevant facts, examples, and details
- Use a logical and clear plan of organization
- Include an introduction and a conclusion that are beyond a simple restatement of the Theme