CHAPTER 17

Section 2

GEOGRAPHY APPLICATION: MOVEMENT
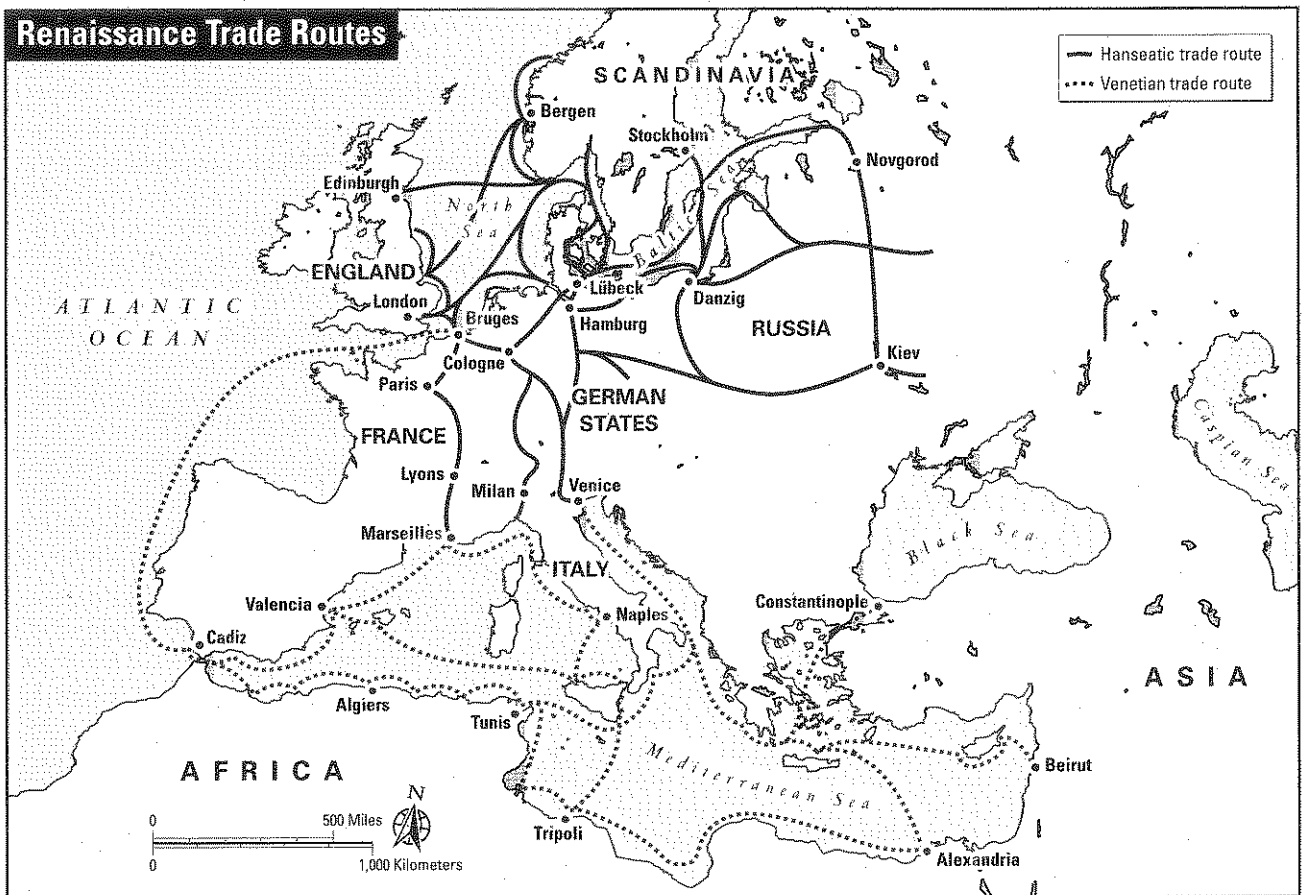## *Trade in Renaissance Europe*

Directions: Read the paragraphs below and study the map carefully. Then answer the questions that follow.

For centuries Venice and other coastal Italian city-states had a monopoly on trade in their region, the Mediterranean Sea. As a result, around 1200, European merchants to the north began organizing far-ranging, controlled trade routes of their own.

Northern European cities formed a federation called the Hanseatic League. By the 1300s the League had incorporated most of the Baltic and North Sea ports, with German states serving as a go-between. Lübeck, built in the 1200s, was situated in a sheltered port and became the "mother town" of the League, which stretched from Russia to England. Merchants from the nearly 100-member cities—including such inland locations as

Cologne and Novgorod—made up the League's governing body.

Along with a great growth in ship traffic in the upper European region, land transport also increased. Cloth, metals, and other goods such as fish, timber, animal skins, tar, and turpentine were brought to ports and exchanged for the raw goods of Scandinavia and Russia. The League eventually set up branch offices in England and created monopolies to protect their commerce. However, in the early 1600s, the League was hit by internal strife and foreign attacks and was so weakened that it disbanded. At this time, English and Dutch merchants took over control of shipping in the region.

Renaissance Trade Routes