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**Read the story. Then answer the questions.**

The Silk Road was a network of trade routes that connected Europe, Asia, and Africa during ancient times. The Silk Road was not just one road, but a series of routes that stretched for thousands of miles across deserts, mountains, and seas. It was called the Silk Road because one of the most important commodities traded along the route was silk, a luxurious fabric that was highly prized in Europe. However, many other goods were also traded, including spices, tea, jade, and even ideas and religions.

The Silk Road had a profound impact on the world. It allowed goods and ideas to be exchanged between different cultures and helped to spread new technologies, like paper-making and gunpowder. The Silk Road also brought people from different regions together and helped to promote cultural exchange and understanding. However, the Silk Road was not always peaceful, and there were conflicts and battles along the route.

Today, the Silk Road is no longer used for trade, but its legacy lives on. The Silk Road has inspired artists, writers, and travelers, and it continues to be a symbol of the connections between different parts of the world.

**Answer each question.**

1. What was the Silk Road and what was traded along the route?

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2. Why was silk such an important commodity on the Silk Road?

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3. What impact did the Silk Road have on the world?

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4. What new technologies were spread along the Silk Road?

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5. How did the Silk Road promote cultural exchange and understanding?

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6. How did geography and climate impact trade along the Silk Road?

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