Trade Fuels City Growth

In the 1200s and 1300s, Italy had the most cities in Europe. Venice, Milan, and Florence were bustling centers of industry and commerce. Venice built itself on trade, and its people had a long history of trading. By the 1500s, however, large cities had also sprouted in Northern Europe. These cities included Paris, Amsterdam, London, and others. Their growth was fueled by trade, manufacturing, and growing populations. As cities grew, a vast trading network spread across Northern Europe, resulting in the movement of people, goods, and ideas.

MAP ACTIVITY

1. On the map, use a bright color to circle the location of Venice.
2. On the map, label the area of the Mediterranean Sea.
3. Use a light shade to highlight the travel routes between Venice and Constantinople and the routes between Venice and Alexandria.
4. On the map, use a different bright shade to circle the cities with populations between 40,000 and 60,000.
ANALYZING MAPS

5. **Location**  What was the population of the city of Venice? What other cities had the same population?

6. **Human-Environment Interaction**  Based on the map, what waterways helped Venice develop into a major trading center?

7. **Location**  Which cities had populations between 60,000 and 100,000?

8. **Movement**  How long did it take to travel from Venice to Damascus?

9. **Human-Environment Interaction**  Based on the map, how did people and goods travel from Venice to Damascus and Alexandria?

EXTENSION ACTIVITY
Research the location of Amsterdam, another large city that developed at this time. Find out what its population range was during the 1600s. Add the location of Amsterdam to the map, and include the appropriate symbol for its population size.