GATHERING GOODS FOR THE MARKETPLACE

GO SHOPPING!
Search the Asian Art Museum’s collection for a piece of art that you will sell in the marketplace. Create a 1-minute commercial to persuade your classmates to buy your object. Use evidence from the “Hints” about what made objects valuable to merchants trading along the Silk and Spice Routes.

HINTS: What makes a piece of art valuable?
• Limited natural resources such as, tea, spices, horses, porcelain, pepper, grapes, cobalt, and jade.
• Advanced technology such as, paper, silk, glass, gunpowder, and bronze.
• Religious objects such as Buddhist, Islamic, and Hindu texts, had spiritual value and helped these ideas travel.
• Powerful people such as emperors and kings often set trends with what they buy and collect.

TALKING POINTS. Gather information about your piece of art. Use the back of this paper to write a script for your commercial.

1. Introduce the product:
   a. What object did you choose?
   b. When was it made?
   c. Where was it made? Mark this on your map.
   d. What materials are used?

2. Describe your piece of art to someone who can’t see it.

3. Why is your piece of art so interesting and valuable? Be creative.