Geography of the Silk Road: Inner Asia

**GOOGLE EARTH: SILK ROAD TOUR**

**Xi’an – Chang’an**

1. What were some features of Han life?
2. Why was a Han Princess married into a Xiongnu nomadic tribe?

**Xiongnu**

1. Did the marriage bring peace to the Han?
2. Why did the Xiongnu raid China so often?

**Hami**

1. Who was sent to broker peace with the Xiongnu?
   1. Was he successful?
   2. What came out of his voyage?
   3. What did the Chinese need?
   4. What did they export?
2. How did Zhang Qian travel to get to Central and Western Asia?
   1. Why did he choose such a route?
   2. *Use the 360 viewer to scan the surroundings of Hami.* What geographical feature surrounds Hami?

**Turpan**

1. What is a karez?How did the locals in Turpan use the topography to their advantage?   
   *Watch the video from 1:15 onward.*

**Tian Shan Mountains**

1. Where does the water for these wells come from?

**Tarim Basin**

1. What is the Tarim Basin? Why would travellers avoid crossing it?  
    *Click on photos around the basin.*

**Kashgar**

1. Kashgar is the point where the Southern and Northern Silk Roads meet. Which of two, North or South, would the Chinese have been more likely to travel? Why?
2. Why do you think most Chinese travellers would have stopped in Kashgar? *Use the 360 viewer to scan the surrounding landscape.*

**Kashgar to Rome**

1. How far is it from Kashgar to Rome (from a bird’s eye view)?
2. *Right click on the Kashgar to Rome icon on the left bar and choose ‘show elevation profile’.*What stands between China and Central Asia, and therefore Europe?
3. Given the great distance, how do you think goods made it that far?

**GOOGLE EARTH SEARCH**

1. What country is Balkh located in today?
2. How far is Kashgar from Xi’an?
   1. How long would it take to walk?
   2. To drive?
   3. Do you notice any similarities between modern-day routes and the old Silk Routes?

**LABEL THE MAP**

**On the handout map, label the following places:**Taklamakan Desert, Northern Route, Southern Route, Tian Shan Mountains