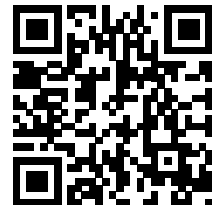


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Trade Routes in Ancient Russia



The early _____ of Russia is deeply intertwined with the development of trade. The _____, known as Varangians, were among the first to establish trade routes through Russia. They traveled along the _____, connecting the Baltic Sea to the Black Sea. This network was crucial for the exchange of goods between the _____ and the West. The primary commodities were _____, honey, and wax, which were highly valued in Europe. Russian traders also exchanged _____, timber, and salt for luxury items from the Byzantine Empire and the Islamic world. The city of _____ became a major trading hub due to its strategic location. It was here that the Hanseatic _____, a powerful trade and military alliance in medieval Europe, established a _____, or foreign trading post. The Kiev Rus, a federation of Slavic tribes, played a significant role in these early trading activities. Their _____ expanded through military conquests and diplomatic marriages, further strengthening trade networks. The adoption of _____ by the Rus in 988 also opened new diplomatic and trade relations with Christian _____. Over time, these trade routes contributed to the cultural and economic development of _____, laying the foundation for its emergence as a powerful state.

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