

Lesson 3

Student Handout 3.4—The Eleven Seas of Afroeurasia

The nineteenth century was a time when many artists and poets were fascinated by maritime journeys and exotic places. Many of these references appeared in lighthearted poems for children that became classics. The lines below are from *The Owl and the Pussy-Cat* by British poet Edward Lear (1812-1888). Imagine a fantastic voyage like this one as you learn about the geography of Afroeurasia.

*The Owl and the Pussy-Cat went to sea
In a beautiful pea-green boat:
They took some honey, and plenty of
money
Wrapped up in a five-pound note...
They sailed away, for a year and a day,
To the land where the bong-tree grow...*

*They dined on mince and slices of
quince,
Which they ate with a runcible spoon;
And hand in hand on the edge of the
sand...
They danced by the light of the moon.*

Can you trace a journey by sea undertaken by this famous poetic pair, which starts at the northernmost point of the Baltic Sea and ends in the Sea of Japan?

What two routes are possible? Which route might be blocked either all or most of the year? By what?

Which route has the smallest obstacle to passage? Is that passage open today? How might it have been crossed before 1869 CE when an artificial waterway named the _____ was completed?

Which journey would the Owl and the Pussycat be most likely to survive? Mark the route with a line.

Using an atlas, list the eleven seas and gulfs in Afroeurasia that the Owl and the Pussycat would pass through. Using the map on the next page, label those bodies of water on the map key, then place the corresponding number on the appropriate spot on the map.



Map Key
Afroeurasia's Eleven Seas

- 1 _____
- 2 _____
- 3 _____
- 4 _____
- 5 _____
- 6 _____
- 7 _____
- 8 _____
- 9 _____
- 10 _____
- 11 _____