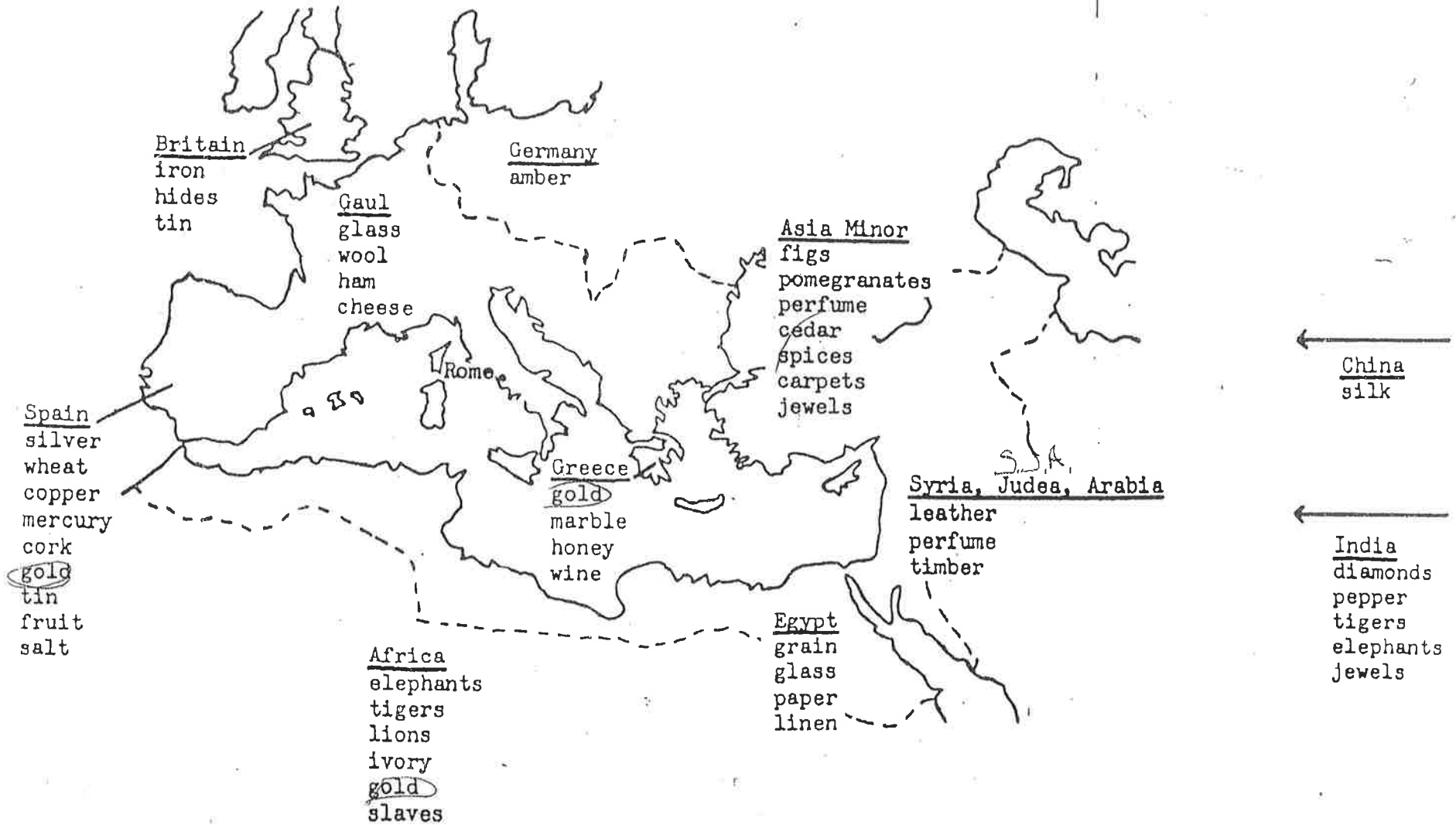


Map 1: Rome Becomes a Center for Trade



Map 2: Growth of the Roman Empire

58-49 B.C.

Julius Caesar, in the "Gallic Wars", captured lands stretching from northern Italy across Gaul (France) to Britain.

215-146 B.C.

Syria, Macedonia, and Greece were defeated by Roman armies.

A.D. 107-115

The emperor Trajan added Dacia and Mesopotamia.

27 B.C.

Augustus became Rome's first emperor. "Pax Romana", or the Roman Peace, began. It brought 200 years of peace and prosperity.

A.D. 70

Following a Jewish revolt, Jerusalem was destroyed by the Romans. Earlier, Jesus Christ had been put to death, but his teachings began to spread. This led to centuries of Christian persecution. But, gradually, Christianity won acceptance, and in the late 300's became the main religion of the Roman Empire.

A.D. 395

Because of its great size, the empire was divided into two parts, each having its own emperor. Rome was the western capital and Constantinople the eastern capital.

264-146 B.C.

Romans fought three wars against Carthage. Rome nearly lost the second war to the brilliant commander Hannibal. At the end of these "Punic Wars", Carthage was burned to the ground. Rome took control of Spain and North Africa.

