



Evidence Card for Investigator #1 – Zanzibar’s ships



Since ancient times, Zanzibar has participated in international trade. This is mostly because of the nature of the Indian Ocean monsoons. In our winter (Zanzibar’s summer because it is in the southern hemisphere), the ocean currents move southwest, making it relatively easy and fast for ships – even the ancient dhows that relied on sails – to arrive in Zanzibar from Oman, Persia/Iran, India, and even China. In our summer (Zanzibar’s winter), the currents – and the ships – move to the northeast, making relatively it easy and fast for sailing ships to travel from Zanzibar and other East African destinations to places in Asia, such as Oman, Persia, India, and China. Therefore, Zanzibar and other places along the coast of East Africa were part of a world trade network since ancient times.