Beginning in the AD 500s, a series of dynasties reunified China and produced a prolonged golden age. The influence of China’s advanced civilization spread across East Asia. In Korea, kingdoms borrowed from Chinese culture and made it their own. In Japan, rulers borrowed from both China and Korea to produce a cultural flowering. In Southeast Asia, several kingdoms and empires thrived while borrowing from both India and China.

**North Carolina Standards**

**Social Studies Objectives**

3.01 Trace the political and social development of monarchies and empires including, but not limited to, the Ming and Manchu dynasties, the Mongol Empire, the Ottoman Empire, the Moghul Empire, and the British Empire.

**Language Arts Objective**

2.01.5 Demonstrate the ability to read, listen to and view a variety of increasingly complex print and non-print information texts appropriate to grade level and course by summarizing key events and/or points of view.
Reading like a Historian

The photograph above is of the Kinkaku-ji, or Golden Pavilion Temple, in Kyoto, Japan. Built during the 1300s as a residence, the building was converted to a Zen Buddhist temple in the 1400s. The gardens and architecture of the temple are meant to evoke paradise on Earth.

Analyzing Visuals Based on the photo, what were some features of Japanese architecture at the time?

**Starting Points** The powerful empires of India and China had a strong influence on their less powerful neighbors. Through trade, conquest, and religious missionaries, Indian and Chinese culture spread to other parts of Asia. While India strongly influenced most of Southeast Asia, China influenced Korea, Japan, and northern Vietnam.

1. **Locate** Where are Korea and Japan located in relation to China?
2. **Predict** Most of the area to the east of India is the region called Southeast Asia. This region includes the islands to the south of the mainland as well. Why do you think that India influenced this region more than China?
How might floating dragons show the power and unity of China? The Chinese peasants and officials standing along the canal stared in awe. A line of boats, many shaped like immense dragons, slowly floated toward them. On shore next to the boats, palace servants pulled on ropes to haul the boats forward, while royal guards rode along on horseback with banners flying. The amazing sight stretched as far as the eye could see.

The Chinese emperor Yang Di was making his royal tour down China’s Grand Canal. To show his power, Yang Di had ordered boats built in the shape of dragons, the symbol of China’s imperial family. In the top deck of the lead boat, the emperor sat dressed in golden silk robes, which only the Son of Heaven, as he was known, could wear. Behind his lead dragon-boat, which measured 200 feet from head to tail, followed thousands of smaller boats carrying royal attendants and other important officials.

The emperor’s spectacular tour down the Grand Canal showed not only his great power but also the unity of his vast empire. For the Grand Canal, completed under his orders, had finally linked the northern and southern parts of his empire. This empire was the first to unify China in more than 350 years, since the fall of the Han dynasty.

Sui and Tang Dynasties

The Han dynasty ruled China from 206 BC to AD 220—more than 400 years. After the dynasty collapsed, however, military leaders split China into rival kingdoms. These events began a period of disorder and warfare that historians call the Period of Disunion.
During the Period of Disunion, nomads invaded northern China and formed their own kingdoms. Many northern Chinese, unwilling to live under the rule of the nomadic invaders, fled south to the region of the Chang Jiang (Yangzi River). There, a number of southern dynasties rose and fell.

Despite such events, Chinese civilization continued to thrive and develop. In northern China, the nomadic invaders adopted many aspects of Chinese civilization. Meanwhile, in the south, the culture of the northern Chinese immigrants blended with local cultures, and a flowering in the arts and philosophy occurred.

The Period of Disunion lasted more than 350 years. The period ended in 589 when a northern ruler named Wendi reunified China. Also known as Yang Jian (yang jee-en), Wendi founded the new Sui (sway) dynasty and became its first emperor. Using earlier dynasties as models, Wendi worked to build a centralized government. He restored order, created a new legal code, and reformed the bureaucracy. He also created policies to provide all adult males with land and to ensure the availability of grain.

The greatest accomplishment of the Sui dynasty, however, was the completion of the Grand Canal. This 1,000-mile waterway linked northern and southern China. As a result, northern China could more easily access the resources of the south, such as the rice produced in the lower Chang Jiang valley. Begun during the reign of Yang Di, Wendi’s son, the Grand Canal took several years to complete.

During his reign, Emperor Yang Di forced millions of peasants to work on the Grand Canal and other projects. Hundreds of thousands of laborers died, leading to discontent and rebellion. A series of failed military campaigns worsened the situation. In 618 an official assassinated Yang Di, and the short-lived Sui dynasty came to an end.

A Sui general seized power and founded the Tang (TAHNG) dynasty. This dynasty ruled China from 618 to 907, nearly 300 years. Under Tang rule, China experienced a period of prosperity and cultural achievement. Chinese influence spread, and Tang government and other institutions served as models across East Asia.

The Tang rulers built on Sui foundations to create a strong government. They established one capital at Chang’an (chahng-ahn), the Sui capital, and a second capital at Luoyang. Government control remained centralized and based on a bureaucracy of officials. To obtain talented officials, the Tang expanded the civil service examination system. Under this system, people had to pass written exams to work for the government. In addition, Tang rulers created a flexible law code, which became a model for law codes in Korea and Japan.

In foreign affairs, the Tang significantly expanded China and its influence. Tang forces regained western lands in Central Asia and gained influence over Korea and other neighboring states. Chinese contact with Japan increased, and Japanese scholars came to China to study its government and culture. Expansion and increased contact with other peoples contributed to the growth of foreign trade, and the economy prospered.

Much of this expansion occurred during the reign of Taizong (TY-tzoong), who ruled from 626 to 649. One of China’s most admired emperors, Taizong relied on talented ministers to help him govern. In addition to his military conquests, he had schools built to prepare students for the civil service exams.

After Taizong’s death, one of his sons became emperor. The new emperor was weak and sickly, and his wife Wu Zhao gained power.

Married to the sickly emperor Kao Tsung, Wu Zhao became the virtual ruler of China. After her husband’s death, Wu Zhao continued to hold virtual power while two of her sons ruled. She considered her sons to be poor rulers, however, and soon took the title of emperor for herself. She then became known as Empress Wu.

Empress Wu ruled with an iron fist. During her rise to power, she had ordered many of her rivals executed, which led many people to oppose her. Nonetheless, she was a gifted and respected ruler. Empress Wu filled her government with talented advisors and administrators who were chosen for their ability rather than their social rank.

**Find the Main Idea** Why was Wu Zhao respected as a ruler despite her harsh treatment of her political opponents?
When her husband died, Wu Zhao continued to rule through her sons. Wanting full power, she became emperor herself—the only woman to hold the title in Chinese history. An effective but ruthless ruler, Empress Wu Zhao was overthrown in 705. The Tang dynasty then reached its height under Xuanzong (shoo-an-toong), who ruled from 712 to 756. During his reign, the empire prospered and culture flourished.

**An Age of Buddhism** Buddhism first came to China from India during Han times. Although few Chinese adopted the religion at first, during the Period of Disunion many Chinese turned to Buddhism. Because Buddhism taught that people could escape suffering and achieve peace, it appealed to people living in the midst of the turmoil of that period.

By the Tang dynasty, Buddhism was well established in China. Many of the Tang rulers were Buddhists and supported the religion. Buddhist temples appeared across the land, and Chinese missionaries spread Buddhism to other Asian lands. Because of Buddhism’s importance, the period from about 400 to 845 in China is known as the Age of Buddhism.

The Age of Buddhism came to an end when the religion lost official favor in the mid-800s. A Tang emperor, seeing the growing power of the Buddhist religious communities as a threat, launched a campaign against Buddhism. His officials burned Buddhist texts and destroyed Buddhist temples. Although these actions weakened Buddhism in China, the religion survived. However, Buddhism began to change as the Chinese blended it with other beliefs, such as Confucianism and Daoism.

**The Tang Decline** The Tang dynasty began to decline in the 750s. Although the Tang put down a rebellion in 755, the government remained weak. At the same time, military defeats led to the loss of Tang lands in Central Asia and the north. Nomadic invasions and peasant rebellions over rising taxes created more problems. When a powerful general killed the emperor in 907, the Tang dynasty ended.
**The Song Dynasty**

After the Tang dynasty, China again split apart and was not reunified until 960, with the Song dynasty. Like the Tang, the Song ruled for about 300 years, until 1279. Also like the Tang, the Song produced great achievements and prosperity. Under their rule, Chinese civilization became the most advanced in the world.

**Government and the Civil Service** The Song established a capital at Kaifeng and restored centralized government control. To manage their empire, they enlarged the government bureaucracy. In addition, they reformed the civil service examination system, which helped ensure that talented people ran the government. The exams tested students’ grasp of Confucianism and related ideas. Under the Song, a new form of Confucianism, called Neo-Confucianism, gained favor. Neo means “new,” and Neo-Confucianism emphasized not only Confucian ethics but also spiritual matters.

The civil service exams were extremely difficult to pass. Those who did pass the exams became scholar-officials—elite, educated members of the government. They received a good salary and were respected. Because the Song made civil service exams more open to ordinary people, the exams became a pathway to gaining wealth and status.

**The Southern Song** Despite their many achievements, the Song rulers never regained the northern and western lands that the Tang had lost. Nomads in these lands threatened the Song borders. Like previous rulers, the Song tried to buy peace with the nomads by sending them lavish gifts.

Despite such efforts, in the 1120s a nomadic people called the Jurchen conquered northern China and founded the Jin empire. The Song continued to rule in the south, however, as the Southern Song dynasty for 150 more years.

**Cultural Achievements**

The Tang and Song dynasties were periods of great cultural achievement. Art and literature flourished, and many inventions and advances occurred in science and technology.

**Literature and Art** The Tang period produced some of China’s greatest poets. The two most famous Tang poets are Du Fu and Li Bo. Du Fu wrote poems that expressed Confucian ideals or the horrors of war. Li Bo wrote poems about friendship, the joys of life, nature, and solitude. In the following poem, he expresses the homesickness a person can feel at night.
Printing The Chinese made major advances in printing during this period. The woodblock print above is of the Buddhist Diamond Sutra. Made in 868, it is the oldest known book. The blocks of moveable type at left each depict a different Chinese character.

In architecture, Indian Buddhist temples influenced the design of the Chinese pagoda. These multistoried buildings featured roofs at each floor that curved upwards at the corners.

Inventions and Innovations During the Tang and Song periods, China led the world in achievements in technology and science. One major Chinese invention of the time was gunpowder. The Chinese used gunpowder mainly in fireworks, but as gunpowder spread around the world other people used it in weapons such as firearms and cannons. In time, gunpowder dramatically altered how wars were fought.

A major technical advance of Tang China was the perfection of the magnetic compass. This instrument, which uses Earth’s magnetic field to show direction, revolutionized sea travel. With a compass, sailors could more accurately determine direction and navigate more easily. This advance would in time contribute to a dramatic increase in world exploration.

Two other inventions of the period related to printing. The Chinese had invented paper and ink much earlier. During the Tang period, they developed woodblock printing. In this method of printing, a page of text is carved into a block of wood. The block is then coated with ink and pressed against paper to create a printed page. These blocks could be recoated with ink and reused to create other prints.
Inventors of the Song dynasty created another form of printing called **movable type**. This method uses blocks on which individual letters or characters are carved. The blocks can be rearranged and reused to print many things. Printing with movable type was faster than woodblock printing but infrequently used in China because of the vast number of Chinese characters. Later, the use of movable type in Europe would revolutionize printing.

Another invention of the time was paper money. For a long time, the Chinese had used bulky metal disks, which were placed on strings, as money. As the Song economy grew, however, a need for a more convenient form of currency developed. Paper money was light and easy to use, and its use quickly spread in Song China.

**Prosperity and Society**

In addition to cultural achievements, the Tang and Song periods were a time of growth and prosperity. Agriculture and trade improved, cities grew, and changes in society occurred.

**Agriculture** During this period, Chinese agriculture became more productive. New irrigation techniques increased the land people could farm, and a new variety of fast-ripening rice from Southeast Asia enabled Chinese farmers to grow two or three crops a year instead of just one. In addition, the production of cotton and tea increased, making them important crops. During the Song dynasty, tea became highly popular among the Chinese people.

Increased food production contributed to population growth. By the 740s, the population of Tang China was perhaps around 70 million.

**Reading like a Historian**

**Song City Life**

**Analyzing Visuals** This painting is part of a scroll titled *Going Upriver at the Qingming Festival*, made by Zhang Zeduan around the 1100s. The image shows a bustling city scene of streets lined with shops and restaurants and people going about their daily activities.

To analyze this image of Song city life, think about

- the subject of the image,
- the details in the image, and
- how the subject is portrayed.

**Identify Cause and Effect** How did Chinese innovations affect world history?
During the Song dynasty, the farmers of China fed nearly 100 million people, making China the most populous country in the world.

Trade Along with agriculture, trade expanded during the Tang and Song dynasties. Improvements in roads and canals helped increase trade within China. They made it possible for rural farm products and other goods to be transported to local markets and cities.

Foreign trade expanded as well. During the Tang dynasty, most foreign trade took place over land routes, such as the Silk Roads. These routes connected China to markets in Central Asia, India, and beyond. China also traded by sea with Japan, Korea, and Southeast Asia. With the loss of Central Asian lands during the late Tang dynasty, sea trade became more important to China. Advances in sailing and shipbuilding techniques contributed to this change. During the Song dynasty, ships from many regions visited China’s port cities, and foreign merchants filled their markets.

The growth of trade helped create a strong, prosperous economy. During the Song dynasty, merchants became more important members of Chinese society, and the beginnings of a money and banking system began to develop.

City Life As farming and trade grew, so did China’s cities. City streets were filled with people and lined with shops, teahouses, and restaurants. City markets bustled with activity and provided numerous foreign goods. Entertainment districts provided amusement.

China had the largest cities in the world at this time. The Tang capital of Chang’an had a population of more than 1 million, with another million people living around the city. A major trade center, Chang’an was filled with people of many cultures. During the Song dynasty, several cities had a million people or more, and sea trade caused China’s port cities to boom. Despite this urban growth, though, most Chinese still lived in the countryside and farmed.

Society Chinese society underwent significant changes during this period as well. The power of China’s aristocratic families began to decline while a new class, called the gentry, developed. The gentry included scholar-officials and leading landowners, who gained power during this time. As in the past, though, most Chinese were peasants. These people farmed the land, paid most of the taxes, and received little, if any, formal schooling.

During the Song dynasty, the lives of Chinese women changed as well. In general, the status of women declined. This decline was most visible among upper class women, who were often encouraged to stay in the home.

In addition, a desire for small, dainty feet led to the custom of footbinding among Chinese women. This practice involved wrapping pieces of cloth around the feet, starting when a girl was young. Because the cloths kept the feet from growing, footbinding was painful and deformed the feet over time. Women with bound feet had difficulty walking or doing many other activities. As a result, bound feet became a symbol of a husband’s authority over his wife.

Reading Check Draw Conclusions How did footbinding reflect changes in attitudes toward women in China?

Section 1 Assessment Reviewing Ideas, Terms, and People
1. a. Identify Who was Wu Zhao, and why is she significant in Chinese history? b. Sequence What events led to the decline of the Tang dynasty? c. Elaborate Why was the early part of the Tang period known as the Age of Buddhism, and how did Buddhism affect China during this time?

2. a. Define Why were scholar-officials highly respected in Song China? b. Make Generalizations What generalizations can you make about the rise and fall of Chinese dynasties based on the history of the Sui, Tang, and Song dynasties?

3. a. Identify Who were some well-known Tang poets and painters? b. Analyze How did economic needs lead to innovations in China? c. Support a Position What do you think was the greatest Tang or Song innovation or achievement? Provide reasons to support your position.

4. a. Recall What advances in farming occurred during this period? b. Summarize How did Chinese society change during this period?

Critical Thinking
5. Categorizing Using your notes and a graphic organizer like the one shown at right, categorize key facts about the Tang and Song dynasties.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Tang Dynasty</th>
<th>Song Dynasty</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Agriculture</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cities</td>
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<td>Trade</td>
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<tr>
<td>Art</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Inventions</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Focus on Writing
6. Exposition You are a historian during the Tang dynasty. Write a paragraph explaining what Tang rulers have accomplished. Consider political, economic, and cultural accomplishments.
**Section 2**

**The Mongol Empire**

**Before You Read**

**Main Idea**
The Mongols built a vast empire across much of Asia, founded the Yuan dynasty in China, and opened China and the region to greater foreign contacts and trade.

**Reading Focus**
1. How did the nomadic Mongols build an empire?
2. How did China change under the Mongol rulers of the Yuan dynasty?
3. Why did the Yuan dynasty decline and finally end?

**Key Terms and People**
- khan
- Genghis Khan
- Pax Mongolia
- Kublai Khan
- Marco Polo

**Taking Notes**
As you read, use a graphic organizer like this one to take notes about the key events during the period of the Mongol Empire. Add boxes as needed.

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**Why might people surrender to an enemy without a fight?**

Thousands of soldiers moved forward in a mass as much as 50 miles wide. Terror spread before them like a huge tidal wave. Their reputation and their appearance were so frightening that, at word of the Mongol approach, towns and cities surrendered without a fight.

The nomadic Mongols emerged in the 1200s as one of history’s most brutal and efficient military forces. When on the move, the Mongols resembled a small, mobile city.

**Mongols on the Move**

Soldiers traveled in divisions of 10,000 along with their families and herds. The full Mongol force moved only about five miles a day, but soldiers could quickly come together to attack when needed. Strike forces traveled at the front and rear, and scouts—who could cover as much as 100 miles a day—provided information. Mongol women carried out domestic tasks but could step into battle to provide help.

Borrowing from many groups, the Mongols combined superior tactics and weaponry with ruthless cunning and brutality. The world would not again see such military dominance until the modern era.

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**The Inside Story**

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**Interactive**

**History Close-Up**

**Mongols on the Move**

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**Taking Notes**
As you read, use a graphic organizer like this one to take notes about the key events during the period of the Mongol Empire. Add boxes as needed.
The Mongols

Throughout its history, northern China had been attacked by nomadic peoples. These attacks became even more frequent during the Song dynasty. In the 1200s a nomadic people called the Mongols burst forth from Central Asia. They would create the largest land empire in history, and conquer China in the process.

Nomads from the Steppe Vast steppes, or grasslands, stretch across the north-central part of Eurasia. These steppes had long been home to nomadic peoples. Because the steppes were too dry for farming, these nomads lived as pastoralists, relying on herds of domesticated animals for their needs and moving frequently to find good pasture for their animals. To obtain items they lacked, they traded with settled peoples. Just as often, though, nomads swept down on settlements and took what they wanted from them.

Like the Huns and Turks, the Mongols emerged as a powerful nomadic people on the Central Asian steppes. They herded sheep and goats, which provided meat and milk for food and wool for clothing and shelter. Like many nomads, the Mongols were skilled with horses and learned to ride at an early age. Accustomed to living in a harsh environment and competing for scarce resources, they were a tough people and fierce warriors.

The Universal Ruler For centuries the Mongols were divided into separate clans, each led by a khan, or chief. A khan rose to power through his military skills and ability to lead. In the late 1100s, however, a powerful khan named Temujin began to conquer his rivals and unite the Mongol clans. In 1206 he succeeded, taking the title Genghis Khan (JENG-guhs KAHN), which means “Universal Ruler.”

With the Mongols united under his rule, Genghis Khan set out to build an empire. He organized the Mongols into a powerful military machine, enforced strict discipline, and demanded complete loyalty. At the same time, he rewarded well those who pleased him.

Under his leadership, the Mongol forces began a bloody campaign of conquest. Genghis Khan’s Mongol armies were highly mobile and could strike quickly. A cunning military leader, he used superb battle tactics to coordinate his armies to stalk and trap the enemy like prey. He reportedly told his men, “In daylight, watch with the vigilance [careful observation] of an old wolf, at night with the eyes of the raven. In battle, fall upon the enemy like a falcon.”

When on the move, scouts kept the khan informed.

Mongol fighters were skilled with the lance and bow and arrow. Stirrups kept riders stable in the saddle so they could fire arrows with accuracy.
The battle tactics of the Mongols included brutality and psychological warfare. To spread terror, the Mongols burned any town or city that resisted them and killed the inhabitants. They also sent agents ahead to tell of the Mongols’ brutality and huge numbers as a way to build fear of the approaching forces. Soon, many people began to surrender without a fight.

**The Mongol Empire**

Over the next 20 years, Genghis Khan led the Mongols in conquering much of Asia. In their fights against the Chinese and the Turks in Central Asia, the Mongols learned the art of siege warfare and the use of gunpowder. This knowledge helped the Mongols take city after city.

By the time Genghis Khan died in 1227, the Mongols controlled much of northern China and Central Asia. On his deathbed, Genghis Khan told his sons, “With Heaven’s aid I have conquered for you a huge empire. But my life was too short to achieve the conquest of the world. That task is left for you.” His sons and grandsons took up the challenge.

The Mongols divided Genghis Khan’s vast empire into four khanates, or regions. An heir of Genghis Khan ruled each region, and a leader called the Great Khan ruled over the whole empire. Under grandson Kublai Khan, the Mongols resumed their efforts to complete the conquest of China and Korea. Another grandson, Hulegu, ruled the Ilkhan part of the empire. He and his forces conquered Persia, leaving a path of death and destruction in their wake. The Golden Horde under grandson Batu took up the task of conquering Russia in 1236. The Tartars, as the Russians called the Mongols, took Moscow and laid waste to the city of Kiev. The Mongols then stormed through Poland and Hungary. As they stood ready to invade Western Europe, the Mongols suddenly turned back on learning of the Great Khan’s death. India and Western Europe escaped the Mongol wrath, but most of Eurasia had been devastated. Millions of people had died, and entire cities had been annihilated.

**The Mongol Peace**

Although brutal in building their empire, the Mongols ruled it peacefully. They tolerated local beliefs and ways of life. They often allowed local rulers to stay in power as long as they paid tribute, or riches, to the Mongols. In addition, some of the Mongols adopted aspects of the more civilized cultures they had conquered. For example, the Mongols in Central Asia and Persia adopted the religion of Islam.

The Mongol Empire established peace and stability across Asia. For this reason, some historians call this period the *Pax Mongolia*, meaning the “Mongol Peace.” The Mongols guarded trade routes such as the Silk Roads and ensured safe travel across Asia. Secure trade routes allowed trade between the East and West to increase. People, goods, ideas, and Chinese innovations such as gunpowder, the compass, and printing spread westward. At the same time, most scholars think the Black Death, which wiped out much of Europe during the 1300s, also spread from Asia to the Middle East and Europe during this time.

**Identify Supporting Details**

How were the Mongols able to build a vast empire across much of Eurasia?

### The Yuan Dynasty

In 1260 Kublai Khan (koo-bluh kahn) became the Great Khan of the Mongol Empire. In actuality, though, he held power only over the Khanate of the Great Khan. He was, however, determined to complete the conquest of China, which he had begun in 1235. Although the Mongols ruled northern China, the Southern Song dynasty still ruled in the south. The Song fiercely resisted the Mongol invaders for many years. In 1279, though, the last Song ruler was defeated. Kublai Khan created the new Yuan dynasty and declared himself emperor. For the first time, foreigners ruled all of China.

**Kublai Khan Rules China**

As emperor, Kublai Khan tried to gain the loyalty of his Chinese subjects. Many of the Chinese saw the Mongols as rude and uncivilized, and resented them as rulers. Kublai Khan did not force the Chinese to adopt Mongol ways of life. Instead, he adopted some Chinese practices, and even gave his dynasty a Chinese name.

To strengthen his control, Kublai Khan moved his capital from Mongolia to a new city in China. The new capital was located near what is now the city of Beijing, which is the modern capital of China. At his new capital, Kublai Khan had built a walled city in the Chinese
style as well as a lavish palace. In his palace, he adopted many Chinese court ceremonies and tried to rule as a Chinese emperor.

At the same time, Kublai Khan took care to see that the Mongols were not absorbed into Chinese culture. The Mongols lived apart from the Chinese, individual friendships between Mongols and Chinese were discouraged, and Mongols were forbidden to marry Chinese. The Mongols created different laws and taxes for the Chinese and did not let them own weapons or serve in the military.

Although Kublai Khan left much of China's government in place, he distrusted the Chinese and limited their power. Only non-Chinese could hold higher government posts, for example. Because so few Mongols lived in China, though, Chinese officials still served at the local level. In addition, the Mongols invited other foreigners to hold government office.

The Mongols burdened the Chinese with heavy taxes, a large part of which went to support public-works projects. They used Chinese laborers to build new roads and extended the Grand Canal to the capital city. These improvements made shipping rice and other goods from southern China to northern China easier and more reliable.

To keep the peace, the Mongols posted soldiers throughout China. The Mongol rulers took this action in part because they feared rebellions, particularly in the south where many of the Chinese remained loyal to the Song dynasty.

**Foreign Trade** Under Kublai Khan's rule, foreign trade increased. The Pax Mongolia had made travel across land much safer for merchants, and Kublai Khan had enormous ships built to improve trade across the seas. By welcoming foreign merchants to China's ports and offering some traders special privileges, Kublai Khan promoted foreign trade.

As a result of such policies, many travelers, merchants, and missionaries came to China. Most were from Southwest Asia and India.
However, a few visitors came all the way from Europe as well. One of the most famous of these Europeans was Marco Polo.

**Marco Polo in China** An Italian trader from Venice, Marco Polo traveled with his father to China. The Polos visited the Yuan court, where Kublai Khan took a liking to the younger Polo. The Yuan emperor sent Marco Polo on several missions, and for 17 years he traveled in and around China.

In 1295 Marco Polo and his father returned home to Venice. Not long after, Polo was captured during a battle and imprisoned. While in prison, he related the tales of his adventures in China to a fellow prisoner. The prisoner wrote them down and had them published as a book. Polo’s tales of China fascinated many Europeans, and the book became a huge success.

In his accounts of China, Polo described the grand palace of the Great Khan, where the walls were covered in silver and gold. He noted the efficiency of the Chinese postal system and marveled over the use of paper money. He was also awed by the size and splendor of China’s cities, as in this description of the capital.

**HISTORY’S VOICES**

> “The city is the mercantile center of the world. All the most precious stones and pearls from India are brought there. The strangest and most valuable things come from Cathay [China] and other provinces. . . . At least 1,000 cartloads of silk are sent to Khan-balik every day. . . . There are more than 200 cities in the surrounding area from which the people come to Khan-balik to buy and sell.”
> 
> —Marco Polo, *Description of the World*, translated by Teresa Waugh

Some modern scholars question whether Marco Polo actually reached China or just related stories he had heard in his travels. These scholars note that Polo failed to mention common Chinese customs of the day such as tea drinking and footbinding, which would

**Counterpoints**

Two Views on the Mongols

For some, the Mongols evoked images of annihilated cities littered with the bones of the dead.

> “The [Mongols] began to storm the city [of Riazan], some with firebrands, some with battering rams, and others with countless scaling ladders for ascending the walls of the city. And they took the city of Riazan on the 21st day of December . . . And the [Mongols] cut down many people, including women and children . . . And they burned this holy city with all its beauty and wealth . . . And not one man remained alive in the city . . . There used to be the city of Riazan, . . . but its wealth disappeared and its glory ceased, and there is nothing to be seen in the city excepting smoke, ashes, and barren earth.”
> 
> —Anonymous, *Tale of the Destruction of Riazan*

For others, the Mongols evoked images of peaceful, generous rule, and splendid cities.

> “Inside the city [of Hangzhou] there is a Lake . . . and all round it are beautiful palaces and mansions, of the richest and most exquisite structure that you can imagine . . . In the middle of the Lake are two islands, on each of which stands a rich, beautiful and spacious edifice [building], furnished in such style as to seem fit for . . . an Emperor. And when any one of the citizens desired to hold a marriage feast, or to give any other entertainment, it used to be done at one of these palaces . . . The King made this provision for the gratification [enjoyment] of his people.”
> 
> —Marco Polo, *Description of the World*, translated by Teresa Waugh

**Infer** How do you think that most of the people conquered by the Mongols viewed them?
likely have intrigued his readers. True or not, Polo’s tales increased European interest in the distant land of China to the east.

**End of the Yuan Dynasty**

The Yuan dynasty began to weaken during the last part of Kublai Khan’s reign. One cause was a number of military defeats. In an effort to expand his empire, Kublai Khan sent several invading forces into Southeast Asia. All of the invasions failed, and the Mongol armies suffered huge losses.

Meanwhile, Kublai Khan had also set his sights on conquering the islands of Japan. Twice he tried to invade Japan, each time with disastrous results. In the first attempt a fleet of some 900 Mongol ships attacked Japan. Although the Mongols won a brief land battle, a storm destroyed their fleet. More than 10,000 people died. Later, Kublai Khan sent an even larger battle fleet against Japan. For more than 50 days the Japanese held off the Mongol invasion. The Mongols never attempted to invade Japan again. The Japanese spoke reverently of the storms that had saved them, calling them the *kamikaze*, meaning the “divine wind.”

These huge military losses weakened the Mongol forces that controlled and protected China. At the same time, the large amounts spent on public-works projects had weakened the economy. Such weaknesses, combined with Chinese resentment of the Mongols, left the empire ripe for rebellion.

After Kublai Khan died in 1294, several power struggles erupted over who would hold the throne. These struggles weakened Yuan rule, and Kublai Khan’s successors lacked his talent for leadership. A series of disastrous floods and rising taxes further increased discontent in China. In the 1300s many Chinese factions rebelled against the Yuan dynasty, and in 1368 a rebel army defeated the Mongols. The Mongols fled to Manchuria, ending foreign rule in China.

**Faces of History**

**KUBLAI Khan**

1215–1294

Next to Genghis Khan, Kublai Khan was the greatest of the Mongol rulers. Much of his glory came late in life, and he was already in his mid-60s by the time he completed his conquest of China. Despite his age and being a barbarian in the eyes of the Chinese, Kublai Khan became the first ruler to unite China in more than 300 years. His further achievements as emperor of China include extending the Grand Canal and supporting advances in the arts and sciences.

The Venetian traveler Marco Polo described Kublai Khan as a great and noble ruler. At the same time, Polo noted that the emperor could display outbursts of cruelty. Kublai Khan adopted many aspects of Chinese culture. However, he remained a Mongol conqueror—he never stopped trying to enlarge his empire through conquest.

Find the Main Idea  What was Kublai Khan’s greatest achievement?

### Reviewing Ideas, Terms, and People

1. **Define** What was the Pax Mongolia, and how did it affect trade and the exchange of ideas across Asia?

2. **Identify** Who were Kublai Khan and Marco Polo, and what was their relationship with each other?

3. **Recall** When did the Yuan dynasty end?

4. **Compare and Contrast** Using your notes and a graphic organizer like the one shown, compare and contrast the accomplishments of Genghis Khan and Kublai Khan.

5. **Description** You are a member of a town that has just surrendered to a Mongol army. Write a short journal entry describing how the townspeople learned of the coming Mongol force, why they chose to surrender, and your thoughts and feelings about the events.
Main Idea
Geography and cultural borrowing from China shaped the early civilizations of Japan and Korea.

Reading Focus
1. What factors shaped early Japanese civilization?
2. How did foreign influences shape life in early Japan?
3. What characteristics defined Japan’s Heian period?
4. What were the main events in the history of early Korea?

Key Terms and People
archipelago
Shinto
Prince Shotoku
Lady Murasaki Shikibu
Koryo dynasty

How might geography shape a society’s beliefs? According to Japanese legend, the first gods appeared when the heaven and earth separated. The world still had no land, however. So the gods ordered Izanagi and Izanami, gods who were brother and sister, to form the land of Japan. “At this time the heavenly deities, all with one command, said to the two deities Izanagi-no-mikoto and Izanami-no-mikoto: ‘Complete and solidify this drifting land!’ Giving [Izanagi and Izanami] the Heavenly Jeweled Spear, they entrusted the mission to them.”

Standing on the Heavenly Floating Bridge, the brother and sister dipped the Heavenly Jeweled Spear into the ocean of the world and stirred. “They stirred the brine [sea water] with a churning-churning sound; and when they lifted up [the spear] again, the brine dripping down from the tip of the spear piled up and became an island. This was the island Onogoro.” After creating this first island, the brother and sister went on to create all the islands of Japan.

For the early people who lived on these islands, the ever-present nearness of the sea shaped their lives and beliefs. Today the legend of Izanagi and Izanami remains a popular Japanese creation myth.

Early Japanese Civilization
Northeast of China and some 100 miles east of the Asian mainland lies the island country of Japan. The Japanese call their land Nippon, meaning “Land of the Rising Sun.” Japan sits on the western edge of the Pacific—what perhaps felt to the early Japanese like the origin of the sunrise. This location and the geography of Japan has shaped life in the region.
The Land  The nation of Japan consists of thousands of islands. The largest four islands, from north to south, are Hokkaido (hoh-ky-doh), Honshu (hawn-shoo), Shikoku (shee-koh-koo), and Kyushu (kyoo-shoo). The islands form an archipelago (ahr-kuh-P Eh-luh-goh), or large island chain. This chain extends more than 1,500 miles—about the length of the eastern coast of the United States. The islands lie on the Ring of Fire—a zone of volcanoes and earthquakes that rings the Pacific. As a result, Japan is home to hundreds of volcanoes, many of them active, and has frequent earthquakes. Because of its island location, Japan is also subject to monster waves called tsunamis. These waves result from underwater earthquakes and can wash away everything in their path. In late summer and early autumn, massive storms called typhoons rage through the region.

The geography of Japan shaped the growth of civilization in the region. Much of the terrain is rugged, and steep mountains cover some 80 percent of the land. For this reason, only a small part of Japan is suitable for farming. Most of Japan’s people have always lived in the river valleys and coastal plains, where farming is easier. Japan’s farmland, while limited, is highly productive, in part because of the islands’ fertile soil, mild climate, and abundant rainfall.

The Sea  The nearness of the sea shaped the development of Japan as well. Even on Japan’s larger islands, people were never far from the sea. Surrounded by water, the early Japanese turned to the sea for food and transportation. In addition, the sea protected and isolated Japan during much of its history. Japan is separated from Korea by about 100 miles of water and from China by about 400 miles of water. These distances were large enough to prevent successful invasions from the mainland. In fact, no invasion of Japan ever succeeded until World War II. Separated from the mainland, the early Japanese were able to develop their own culture in relative isolation. At the same time, China and Korea were close enough to influence Japan’s culture as time passed.

Early Japan  Scientists think that the first people to settle in Japan migrated from the Asian mainland. These early people were likely hunters and gatherers. In time, they developed societies with distinct cultures.

One early Japanese culture is the Ainu (eye-noo). Experts are not sure where the Ainu came from, but they do not resemble other East Asians. As more people migrated to Japan, they eventually drove the Ainu onto Japan’s northernmost island, where their culture almost disappeared.

The people who lived on the islands south of the Ainu became the Japanese. Clans, or groups based on extended family ties, developed and came to rule many villages. Each clan worshiped nature spirits, called kami (kah-mee), whom they believed were their ancestors. These beliefs gradually developed into the religion of Shinto, which means “way of the kami.” According to Shinto beliefs, everything in nature—the sun, trees, rocks, animals—has a kami. Unlike many religions, Shinto does not have a sacred text or a formal structure. Followers build shrines to kami and perform ceremonies to ask for their blessings. These shrines are located in natural settings and most are dedicated to a lovely or unusual tree, waterfall, or other natural object. A red gateway, called a torii, marks the entrance to each shrine.
The Yamato Clan  One of the most revered kami in Japan was Amaterasu, the sun goddess. According to legend, Japan’s first emperor was the grandson of the sun goddess. This emperor belonged to the powerful Yamato clan, which claimed the sun goddess as its ancestor.

The Yamato clan lived on the Yamato plain, a rich farming region on the island of Honshu. By the AD 500s the clan controlled much of Honshu. Although they did not control all of Japan, the Yamato chiefs began to call themselves the emperors of Japan. In time, Japan’s emperors claimed to be divine. Although this is no longer the case, Japan’s emperor still claims to be descended from the Yamato clan.

Other clans eventually gained power over the Yamato. The leaders of these clans did not remove the Yamato emperor; instead they controlled him. As a result, the emperor often had no real authority, serving instead as a figurehead. This political system of an imperial figurehead controlled by the head of a powerful family continued in Japan until the 1900s.

Foreign Influences on Japan

By the mid-500s Japan had increased contact with its neighbors Korea and China. As a result, Chinese culture in particular began to strongly influence Japan. The Japanese borrowed many Chinese ideas, which they modified to create their own unique culture.

Korean Influences  Korean traders and travelers brought many foreign influences to Japan. Most of these influences originated in China. For instance, Korean scribes introduced Chinese writing to Japan. The early Japanese did not have a written language. As a result, many Japanese, particularly among the rich and well-educated, adopted Chinese writing.

Korean monks introduced the religion of Buddhism to Japan as well. Although some Japanese feared the new religion would offend the kami, Buddhist practices had spread throughout much of Japan by the 800s. Buddhism influenced Japanese art; and Buddhist temples, including pagoda architecture from China, were built across Japan.

Chinese Influences  One of the people who most helped spread Buddhism in Japan was Prince Shotoku (shoh-toh-koo). From 593 to 622 he served as regent to the Japanese empress, who was his aunt. A regent is a person who rules for someone who is unable to rule alone.

Besides supporting Buddhism, Shotoku greatly admired China. He decided to send scholars to learn from the Chinese directly. Over the next 200 years, many Japanese missions went to China, which was then under the Tang dynasty. The knowledge these missions brought back changed Japan in many ways.

In Japan, Chinese fashions, foods, and tea became popular along with Tang styles of art, music, dance, and gardening. The Japanese adopted many Confucian ideas about family, such as the ideas that wives should obey husbands and that children should obey parents.

The Japanese also adopted Tang ideas about government, including a stronger central government and a bureaucracy to administer government affairs. In addition, the Japanese adopted a law code similar to China’s. However, Japan’s nobles and clan leaders resisted a civil service system based on merit. Nobles continued to hold high offices, and clan leaders remained powerful.

Academic Vocabulary

administer  to manage or to run
When the Tang dynasty began to decline in the late 800s, the Japanese stopped sending missions to China. The Japanese took what they had learned and transformed it to create their own unique culture and society.

Find the Main Idea  How did Chinese influences affect Japan during this period?

The Heian Period

In 794 Japan’s emperor moved the capital to Heian (hay-ahn), now called Kyoto (kee-oh-toh). Many of Japan’s nobles moved to Heian, where they developed an elegant and stylish court society. At the Heian court, Japanese culture flowered. This era in Japanese history from 794 until 1185 is known as the Heian period.

Life in the Heian Period  The nobles at Heian lived in beautiful palaces and enjoyed lives of ease and privilege. They loved elegance and beauty and passed the time strolling through lovely gardens or admiring art and poetry. Court life was so removed from that of Japan’s common people that many nobles called themselves “dwellers among the clouds.”

Rules of etiquette governed all aspects of court behavior and dress. Women often wore elaborate silk gowns made of 12 colored layers. The layers were cleverly cut and folded so that each one showed at the wrist. Nobles took great care with how they spoke and wrote. The proper way to write a note was an art form, and everyone was expected to write poetry. These poems often had five lines and focused on love or nature. The poem below recalls a past love.

HISTORY’S VOICES

“Now that the fragrance
Rises from the orange trees
That wait till June to bloom,
I am reminded of those scented sleeves
And wonder about that person of my past.”

—Anonymous, from Kokinshu, c. 905

Life in the Heian Period  In this scene from The Tale of Genji, the women are hidden away inside the carriages. How did travel differ for the noblemen of the Heian court?

The Pillow Book

Sei Shonagon (say shoh-nah-gohn) served as a lady-in-waiting to Japan’s empress from 991 to 1000. During this period, Sei Shonagon wrote The Pillow Book, a journal in which she recorded observations, amusing stories, poems, and details about Heian court life. Here she describes things that please her.

I am most pleased when I hear someone I love being praised or being mentioned approvingly by an important person.

A poem that someone has composed for a special occasion or written to another person in reply is widely praised and copied by people in their notebooks. Though this is something that has never yet happened to me, I can imagine how pleasing it must be.

A person with whom one is not especially intimate refers to an old poem or story that is unfamiliar. Then one hears it being mentioned by someone else and one has the pleasure of recognizing it. Still later, when one comes across it in a book, one thinks, “Ah, this is it!” and feels delighted with the person who first brought it up.

Skills Focus  Making Inferences  Why do you think the nobles of the Heian court spent so much time on cultural activities and their appearance?
The women of the Heian court enjoyed writing and reading. Monogatari, or fictional prose, was especially popular. Noblewomen were discouraged from learning Chinese, so many of them wrote and read in Japanese. By this time, the Japanese had developed a way to write their spoken language by combining Chinese characters with phonetic characters.

Heian women produced some of the best works of early Japanese literature. The greatest writer was perhaps Lady Murasaki Shikibu (mooehr-ah-sahk-ee shee-kee-boo). Around 1000, she wrote The Tale of Genji, considered the world’s first full-length novel. One of Japan’s greatest novels, it tells the story of a prince named Genji and his quest for love. Lady Murasaki’s writing is simple but graceful and describes Heian court life in great detail.

The Fujiwaras During most of the Heian period the Fujiwara family controlled Japan. Many Fujiwaras served as regent, and the Fujiwaras often married their daughters to the heirs to the throne. However, rich landowners with private armies eventually began to challenge the Fujiwaras and Japan’s central government. You will read about how these changes affected Japan in a later chapter.

Korea

The Korean peninsula juts south from the East Asian mainland. To the north and southwest lies China, and to the east lies Japan. This location between China and Japan made Korea a bridge for the passage of people, culture, and ideas. At the same time, Korea’s location left the region open to invasion, and both China and Japan have dominated Korea over time.

Geography Like Japan, much of the Korean Peninsula is covered by rugged mountains, which limits the amount of land for agriculture. The mountain ranges run north to south along the peninsula’s east coast. As a result, Korea’s main population centers are in the west, where the land flattens into plains. In general, Korea’s climate is hot in the summer and cold in the winter.

Early Korea The first Koreans were nomadic peoples from northeastern Asia. As in Japan, the early Koreans formed clans and developed their own culture. China soon began to influence Korea, when the Han dynasty of China defeated and colonized part of Korea in 108 BC. During this period, the Koreans adopted Confucianism as well as Chinese writing, political institutions, and agricultural methods. Eventually, Chinese missionaries introduced Buddhism to Korea as well.

After China’s Han dynasty declined, three rival kingdoms gained control of Korea. By 668 the rulers of one of these kingdoms, Silla, allied with China—then ruled by the Tang dynasty—and conquered the other two kingdoms. The Silla then turned on the Chinese and drove them from Korea. By about 670 the Silla ruled all of Korea.

Although independent, Silla’s rulers agreed to pay tribute to China to ensure harmony and goodwill. Under Silla rule, the Koreans embraced many aspects of Chinese civilization. Silla’s rulers promoted Buddhism, for example, and created a central government and bureaucracy based on the Tang model.

The Koryo Dynasty The Silla Kingdom eventually weakened, and around 935, rebels defeated it and founded the Koryo dynasty. This dynasty, whose name is the basis of the word Korea, lasted until 1392.
Koryo’s rulers continued to adopt Chinese ideas but worked to maintain distinct Korean features. One Koryo ruler declared, “We have always had a deep adoration for Tang-style culture . . . But our country is a separate land, and our people’s character is different.” For instance, the Koryo adopted a civil service examination system similar to China’s; in Korea, though, only nobles could take the test, and government positions were inherited. As a result, Korean society was divided between a powerful nobility and the rest of the people.

During the Koryo period, Korean culture thrived. Korean artisans created pottery covered with a blue-green glaze called celadon. This celadon pottery rivaled Song porcelain in beauty and was highly prized. In addition, the Koreans used Chinese methods of printing and carved some 80,000 wooden blocks to print Buddhist texts. The Koreans later improved the process by creating metal movable type.

In the 1200s the Mongols of Yuan China invaded and occupied Korea. They forced Koryo’s rulers to pay immense tributes and enslaved many Koreans. They took artisans to China, and forced men to serve in the Yuan military. When the Yuan dynasty weakened, Koreans rebelled. In 1392 a Korean general founded a new dynasty, which ruled until 1910.

**Reading Check**

**Sequence** What were the major events and periods in early Korean history?

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**Section 3 Assessment**

**Reviewing Ideas, Terms, and People**

1. **a. Recall** What is Shinto, and how does it differ from many other major religions?
   **b. Explain** How does Japan’s location been both an advantage and a disadvantage?

2. **a. Identify** Who was Prince Shotoku, and how did he contribute to early Japanese history?
   **b. Summarize** What aspects of Chinese culture did the Japanese borrow?

3. **a. Describe** What was life like at the Heian court?
   **b. Identify Cause and Effect** How did the status of women in Japan influence the development of Japanese literature?

4. **a. Recall** Which kingdom first unified Korea?
   **b. Analyze** How did China’s nearness to Korea affect the development of Korean culture?

**Critical Thinking**

5. **Identify Cause and Effect** Using your notes and a graphic organizer like this one, explain how China influenced Japan and Korea.

6. **Narration** You are a member of a Japanese mission sent to Tang China. Write a short diary entry in which you describe what you are doing and the purpose of your mission.
About the Reading  The Tale of Genji, a novel of more than 1,000 pages, traces the life, loves, and adventures of a prince known as “the shining Genji.” Although Genji is the emperor’s favorite son, he cannot inherit the throne because his mother is a commoner. In the following passage, Genji describes his impressions of some of the ladies at court. Except for Genji, all of the characters mentioned are women.

Excerpt from

The Tale of Genji

by Lady Murasaki Shikibu

It was the time of the month when the moon rises late. The flares at the eaves were just right, neither too dim nor too strong. Genji glanced at the Third Princess. She was smaller than the others, so tiny indeed that she seemed to be all clothes. Hers was not a striking sort of beauty, but it was marked by very great refinement and delicacy. One thought of a willow sending forth its first shoots toward the end of the Second Month, so delicate that the breeze from the warbler’s wing seems enough to disarrange them. The hair flowing over a white robe lined with red also suggested the trailing strands of a willow. One knew that she was the most wellborn of ladies. Beside her the Akashi princess seemed gentle and delicate in a livelier, brighter way, and somehow deeper and subtler too, trained to greater diversity. One might have likened her to a wisteria in early morning, blooming from spring into summer with no other blossoms to rival it . . . Her hair fell thick and full . . . She had a most winning charm in the soft, wavering light from the eaves.

Over a robe of pink Murasaki wore a robe of a rich, deep hue, a sort of magenta, perhaps. Her hair fell in a wide, graceful cascade. She was of just the right height, so beautiful in every one of her features that they added up to more than perfection. A cherry in full bloom—but not even that seemed an adequate simile.

One would have expected the Akashi lady to be quite overwhelmed by such company, but she was not. Careful, conservative taste was evident in her grooming and dress. One sensed quiet depths, and an ineffable [indescribable] elegance which was all her own. She had on a figured “willow” robe, white lined with green, and a cloak of a yellowish green, and as a mark of respect for the other ladies, a train of a most delicate and yielding gossamer [a sheer, filmy fabric]. Everything about her emphasized her essential modesty and unassertiveness, but there was much that suggested depth and subtlety as well.

Skills Focus  Reading Like a Historian

1. Analyze  What comparisons does Genji use to describe the Third Princess and the Akashi princess?

2. Interpret Literature as a Source  Based on this passage, what qualities were admired among women during the Heian period?
Main Idea
Geography and the cultures of India and China influenced the early civilizations of Southeast Asia.

Reading Focus
1. What factors influenced early civilizations in the region of Southeast Asia?
2. What early kingdoms and empires developed in Southeast Asia?

Key Terms and People
Anawrahta
Angkor Wat
Trung Trac
Trung Nhi

Have explorers really found lost cities in the jungle? In 1858 a French explorer named Henri Mouhot was traveling through the jungles of Cambodia. He came across a missionary who told him that the people in the area spoke of a "lost city" in the jungle. Fascinated, Mouhot set out to find it. He hired local guides, who led him through the thick tropical forest to an amazing site. Hidden away in the Cambodian jungle were the remains of the city of Angkor, once the capital of the great Khmer Empire.

The most spectacular ruins in the city were those of Angkor Wat, a Hindu temple complex built in the early 1100s. Covering nearly one square mile, the complex was surrounded by a moat and walls within which sat a temple with soaring towers. Statues adorned the site, and lively Hindu carvings graced the walls. To the Khmer people, the temple in the center of the complex symbolized Mount Meru, a sacred mountain at the center of the Hindu cosmos. The temple's towers represented the mountain's peaks.

Henri Mouhot died of jungle fever before he could return to France. His vivid descriptions of the ruins of the city of Angkor were published, though, and caused a sensation in Europe. Today the ruins of Angkor are a reminder of the powerful empires that once ruled Southeast Asia.

Uncovering A LOST JEWEL

▲ Beautiful carvings, like the one above, adorn the walls of Angkor Wat in Cambodia.
Influences on Southeast Asia

The region of Southeast Asia is located between India and China. These two powerful neighbors shaped the development of civilization in the region. At the same time, geography and trade also played important roles in the region.

**Geography** Southeast Asia can be divided into two parts—mainland Southeast Asia and island Southeast Asia. The mainland area consists of the peninsulas that jut south from Asia between India and China. This area contains the modern nations of Cambodia, Laos, Myanmar (Burma), Thailand, and Vietnam as well as part of Malaysia. Island Southeast Asia consists of the islands south and east of the mainland, such as Sumatra, Borneo, and Java. These islands contain the rest of Malaysia as well as the nations of Brunei (brooth-NY), East Timor, Indonesia, the Philippines, and Singapore.

On the mainland, several major rivers flow south. The valleys and deltas of these rivers supported farming and became home to early civilizations in the area. Separating the rivers are rugged mountains. These mountains often limited contact among the people in the area, and many different cultures developed.

The islands of Southeast Asia are surrounded by seas and straits. These waterways provided the early people in the area with their main sources of food and travel. In addition, the seas came to serve as important trade routes.

**Trade** The waterways through Southeast Asia were the predominant trade routes between India and China. The two most important trade routes were the Malacca Strait, located between the Malay Peninsula and Sumatra, and the Sunda Strait, located between Sumatra and Java. Control of these and other important trade routes brought wealth and power.
Monsoons, seasonal winds that blow northeast in summer and southwest in winter, shaped trade in Southeast Asia. Ships relied on the monsoons to sail from place to place. Once in port, ships often had to wait until the winds shifted to resume their voyage. As a result, many Southeast Asian port cities became important economic centers.

By the AD 100s merchants from India had begun a prosperous sea trade with Southeast Asia. After China’s Han dynasty fell in 220, overland trade routes through central Asia became more dangerous. As a result, seaborne trade between India and China increased. These traders passed through Southeast Asia, where they exchanged goods for local products such as spices and aromatic woods.

**India and China** As Indian and Chinese traders came to Southeast Asia, they began to influence the region. Indian influence spread through trade and missionaries. For example, Indian missionaries introduced Hinduism and Buddhism to Southeast Asia, and many kingdoms adopted the religions. Some kingdoms built temples in the Indian style, such as the massive Buddhist monument at Borobudur, which is on the island of Java.

Over time, Indian ideas about writing, government, science, and art spread to Southeast Asia. Some local rulers, seeking to enhance their standing by embracing many of these new ideas, adopted Indian names and political ideas. The ancient Indian language of Sanskrit came into wide use. From the Malay Peninsula to southern Vietnam, many kingdoms showed strong Indian influences.

Eventually, Indian Muslims brought Islam to Southeast Asia as well. In the early 1000s Muslims gained control of much of northern India. Soon Muslim traders from India and other regions were spreading Islam throughout the islands of Southeast Asia. As a result, Islamic states formed in Sumatra, the Malay Peninsula, Borneo, and the Philippines.

Chinese influences spread to parts of mainland Southeast Asia through conquest, trade, and migration. For example, China controlled northern Vietnam at different times. As a result, China strongly influenced that region.

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**Early Kingdoms and Empires**

Several early kingdoms and empires arose across Southeast Asia. Although most of them were small, a few became quite powerful. As in Korea and Japan, the early kingdoms and empires of Southeast Asia blended influences from India and China to create their own unique societies and cultures.

**The Pagan Kingdom** Around the AD 840s a people called the Burmans established the kingdom of Pagan (puh-GAHN) in what is now Myanmar (Burma). The kingdom was located in the fertile Irrawaddy River valley, which was ideal for rice farming. Pagan’s first great king was Anawrahta, who ruled from 1044 to 1077. King Anawrahta began to conquer the surrounding areas and by 1057 had united much of what is now Myanmar under his rule. His conquests provided Pagan with access to trading ports, and the kingdom prospered.

Anawrahta and his successors supported Theravada Buddhism. They built thousands of magnificent Buddhist temples, and Pagan became a center of Buddhist learning. The Venetian traveler Marco Polo, who visited the Mongol court in China, even mentioned the splendor of Pagan.
In the late 1200s, the Mongols under the rule of Kublai Khan demanded tribute from Pagan. The king of Pagan refused and attacked the Mongols, who crushed the Pagan army. The Pagan king fled southward, after which one of his sons killed him and then agreed to pay the tribute to the Mongols. Pagan survived but lost its power. Nonetheless, the people of Myanmar consider Pagan their classical age because Pagan culture established principles that continue to influence their religion and society.

**The Khmer Empire** To the southeast of Pagan, the powerful Khmer (kuh-MER) Empire arose in what is now Cambodia. By the early 800s, the Khmer had begun to conquer the kingdoms around them to build a great empire. This empire reached its height between about 850 and 1220, during which it controlled much of the Southeast Asian mainland.

The Khmer Empire reflected a strong Indian influence. The empire’s rulers adopted both Hindu and Buddhist beliefs and ruled as gods. The design of the empire’s capital city, Angkor, symbolized the shape of the Hindu universe, with a temple at its center.

In Angkor, the Khmer rulers had spectacular temple complexes built. The most famous is **Angkor Wat**, the ruins of which still stand. Built in the 1100s, this vast complex consists of walls surrounding a central temple with towers. Graceful carvings of Hindu myths and beliefs cover many of the walls. The temple’s central tower rises some 200 feet and may have been used as an astronomical observatory.

The Khmer rulers could fund such impressive building projects because their empire had grown prosperous from rice farming. To improve agricultural production, the Khmer devised an irrigation system that covered millions of acres. With this system, the Khmer could grow several crops of rice a year. For some 400 years, the Khmer Empire prospered. In time, however, costly building projects and invaders contributed to the empire’s decline.

**Trading Kingdoms** To the south of the mainland, several trading kingdoms developed on the islands of Southeast Asia. On the island of Java, the kingdom of Sailendra flourished from about 750 to 850. The people of this kingdom relied on agriculture and trade for their livelihood. The kingdom adopted Mahayana Buddhism and is known for its impressive Buddhist art and architecture. The Buddhist monument at Borobudur is the most famous Sailendra achievement. This monument has nine terraced levels that symbolize the stages of the Buddhist spiritual journey.

Centered on the island of Sumatra, the wealthy Srivijaya (sree-wi-JAW-yuh) Empire flourished from the 600s to the 1200s. At its height, the empire extended to the Malay Peninsula and Borneo. The Srivijaya Empire gained its wealth from its control of overseas traders through the Malacca and Sunda straits. Aware of the importance of trade to their continued prosperity, the rulers of Srivijaya worked to ensure that trade continued to pass through their empire.

**Rice Cultivation**

The farming of rice came to Southeast Asia perhaps around 2000 BC. Rice became a vital crop across much of the region, where the warm, wet climate is perfect for growing rice. **How did Southeast Asians and others adapt rice farming to hilly terrains?**

Farmers across Asia often built terraces in hilly areas to create level land for farming. Rice seedlings were planted by hand in flooded fields called paddies. The fields were drained at harvest time.
The people of Srivijaya adopted Hinduism and Buddhism, which they blended with local beliefs. The Srivijaya capital, located at Palembang on Sumatra, became a center of Buddhist learning. It was such an important center of learning that one Chinese monk declared that Buddhist students should spend a year in study there before going on to study in India.

In 1025 an Indian kingdom attacked the Srivijaya Empire. Although the empire survived, it was severely weakened. Other nearby kingdoms grew in power, reducing Srivijaya’s control of trade. In time, a Muslim kingdom on the Malay Peninsula came to dominate trade in the region. As Islam spread throughout the islands of Southeast Asia, Muslim traders developed a stable trade network that linked to other Muslim ports in Asia and Africa.

**Vietnam** While most of Southeast Asia was strongly influenced by India, Vietnam was strongly influenced by China. In 111 BC the Han dynasty of China conquered the kingdom of Nam Viet in what is now northern Vietnam. The Chinese ruled the region, which they called Annam, off and on for the next 1,000 years.

Under Chinese rule, Vietnam absorbed many aspects of Chinese civilization. Chinese rulers forced the Vietnamese to adopt the Chinese language and Chinese clothing and hairstyles. Confucianism and Daoism influenced Vietnamese society. The Vietnamese adopted many features of Chinese government as well, including a bureaucracy and a Confucian-based civil service system. Vietnam embraced Mahayana Buddhism, and Buddhist art and architecture influenced Vietnamese culture.

In spite of the many ways in which China influenced Vietnam, the Vietnamese still maintained many of their traditional customs. For example, the Vietnamese continued to worship nature spirits alongside other belief systems. The Vietnamese people remained determined to preserve their own culture and identity.

In hopes of regaining their independence, the Vietnamese sometimes rebelled when Chinese rule grew weak. One of the most famous rebellions took place in AD 39. That year, two sisters named Trung Trac and Trung Nhi raised an army and briefly drove the Chinese from Vietnam. The Chinese soon regained control of Vietnam, and the sisters drowned themselves. They still remain heroes in Vietnam today.

The fall of China’s Tang dynasty in the early 900s provided the Vietnamese with another chance at independence. This time they succeeded. In 939 the Vietnamese established the independent kingdom of Dai Viet in what is now northern Vietnam.

The Chinese failed in their attempts to reconquer Vietnam. Although the rulers of Dai Viet sent tribute to China, the kingdom remained independent. In the late 1200s the Mongols invaded, but the Vietnamese defeated the Mongols and remained independent.

**Reading Check**

**Contrast** How did the development of early Vietnam differ from the development of kingdoms and empires in the rest of Southeast Asia?

**Section 4 Assessment**

**Reviewing Ideas, Terms, and People**

1. **a. Recall** How did monsoons shape trade in Southeast Asia?
   **b. Identify Cause and Effect** How did geography influence settlement patterns in mainland Southeast Asia?
   **c. Elaborate** How did Indian and Chinese influences differ in their spread and impact across Southeast Asia?

2. **a. Identify** Who were Trung Trac and Trung Nhi, and why are they still remembered today?
   **b. Identify Cause and Effect** How did trade shape the rise and fall of kingdoms and empires in the islands of Southeast Asia?
   **c. Evaluate** Which early kingdom or empire in Southeast Asia do you think produced the greatest achievements? Provide reasons to support your answer.

**Critical Thinking**

3. **Identify Cause and Effect** Using your notes and a graphic organizer like the one below, explain how geography affected the early kingdoms and empires of Southeast Asia. Consider the effects of the locations of kingdoms and empires in relation to their more powerful neighbors.

**Focus on Writing**

4. **Persuasion** You live in Vietnam during the early 900s. Write the text for a poster urging your fellow Vietnamese to rise up against their Chinese rulers. You should tell the Vietnamese why they should risk their lives to rebel against the Chinese. In addition, tell them why you think this is a good time to take such a course of action.
CHAPTER 11

Document-Based Investigation

Status of Women in Asian Cultures

Historical Context  The four documents below illustrate the changing status of women in China and Japan during this period.

Task  Study the selections and answer the questions that follow. After you have studied the documents, you will be asked to write an essay about the status of women in Asian cultures. You will need to use evidence from these selections and from the chapter to support your essay.

**Document 1**

Women in Song China

During the Song dynasty, life for women in China began to change. While some changes were positive, others resulted in a loss of status for women. In the following passage, writer Patricia Buckley Ebrey describes some of these changes for women.

With printing and the expansion of the educated class, more women [in Song China] were taught to read and write . . . In the Song period women's legal claims to property were improved . . . These changes can all be classed as favorable . . . But there were concurrent [simultaneous] changes in Song times that are generally classed as detrimental [harmful] to women . . . In the Tang [period], . . . physical activity was fashionable enough that palace women played polo. In Song times, standards of beauty shifted to favor the delicate and restrained woman. Notions of female modesty became more rigid . . . By the [1100s], . . . doctors who called on women in elite households could neither view the woman nor question her; all they could do was take the pulse of a [woman's] hand extended through the bed curtains.

**Document 2**

Foot Binding in China

Perhaps as early as the late Tang dynasty, the practice of foot binding began to spread among women in China. At a young age, girls' feet were tightly wrapped with pieces of cloth. The purpose of foot binding was to restrict the growth of the feet so that they appeared small and dainty. Foot binding was extremely painful and over time deformed the bones of the foot, as shown in the drawing at right. Above the drawing is a shoe that a Chinese woman with bound feet once wore.
A Chinese View of Women in Japan

The passage below is from a Chinese history written in the 500s. The history describes Japan, which the Chinese referred to as Wa at the time. As you read the passage, pay attention to any bias that the writer might show that reveals attitudes about the status of women in China. In addition, consider what the events in the passage imply about the status of women in Japan.

During the reigns of Huan-di (147–168) and Ling-di (168–189), the country of Wa was in a state of great confusion, war and conflict raging on all sides. For a number of years, there was no ruler. Then a woman named Pimiko appeared. Remaining unmarried, she occupied herself with magic and sorcery and bewitched the populace. Thereupon they placed her on the throne. She kept one thousand female attendants, but few people saw her.

The Diary of Lady Murasaki

During Japan’s Heian Period, the writer Lady Murasaki Shikibu, author of The Tale of Genji, kept a diary. In the following passage from the Diary of Lady Murasaki, she describes how she was affected by the Japanese view that women should not learn to read Chinese.

When my older brother Korechika and I were still young, he received formal lessons in reading [the Chinese classics] while I had to settle for the privilege of sitting nearby. It was almost eerie as I could always recite whatever he was taught. That included those passages he forgot or could not comprehend readily. My father Tametoki was a learned man. He would sigh and say how sad he was that I was not born a boy . . . Afraid that someone might find out that I was literate [in Chinese], I refused to read a legend over a picture on a screen. The imperial consort Shoshi commanded me to read for her pieces from the Selected Writings of Bo Zhuyi (772–846). She showed a great deal of interest in a variety of topics. So starting two years ago, when no one else was around, I taught her ancient poems contained in volumes three and four of Bo Zhuyi.
### Chapter Review

#### Visual Study Guide

**Cultural Influences**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Japan: Chinese Influence</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>- Buddhism, Confucianism</td>
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<tr>
<td>- writing system</td>
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<tr>
<td>- government practices and code of laws</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- tea drinking, fashions, foods, art, dance, music, gardening, pagoda architecture</td>
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<th>Korea: Chinese Influence</th>
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<tr>
<td>- Buddhism, Confucianism</td>
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<td>- writing system</td>
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<tr>
<td>- government practices</td>
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<td>- agricultural techniques</td>
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<td>- civil service examination system</td>
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<td>- woodblock printing</td>
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<tr>
<th>Southeast Asia: Indian and Chinese Influence</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>- Vietnam: Chinese Confucianism, Daoism, culture, government practices</td>
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<tr>
<td>- other areas of Southeast Asia:</td>
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<td></td>
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<td>- Buddhism, Hinduism, Islam</td>
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#### Cultures of East Asia, 550–1400

<table>
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<tr>
<th>China</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>- Period of Disunion: 220–589</td>
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<tr>
<td>- Sui dynasty: 589–618</td>
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<td>- Tang dynasty: 618–907</td>
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<td>- Song dynasty: 960–1279</td>
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<td>- Yuan (Mongol) dynasty: 1279–1368</td>
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<th>Japan</th>
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<tr>
<td>- Yamato clan become emperors: c. 500s</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Prince Shotoku’s rule as regent: 593–622</td>
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<tr>
<td>- Heian Period: 794–1185</td>
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<th>Korea</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>- Three Kingdoms: c. 300s–c. 670</td>
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<tr>
<td>- Silla dynasty: c. 670–c. 935</td>
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<tr>
<td>- Koryu dynasty: c. 935–1392</td>
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<tr>
<th>Southeast Asia</th>
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<tr>
<td>- Myanmar (Burma):</td>
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<td>Cambodia:</td>
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<td>Indonesia/Malaysia:</td>
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<td>Vietnam:</td>
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### Review Key Terms and People

Identify the term or person from the chapter that best fits each of the following descriptions.

1. elite, educated members of China’s government
2. type of fine ceramic at which the Song excelled
3. only woman to hold the title of emperor of China
4. the Mongol Universal Ruler
5. Chinese dynasty founded by the Mongols
6. European who served Kublai Khan
7. belief system whose followers worship kami
8. period of Japan during which culture flowered and an elegant court society developed
9. famous temple complex in the Khmer Empire
10. to manage or run, as in to run a government
Comprehension and Critical Thinking

SECTION 1 (pp. 309–315)

11. **Recall** What dynasty reunited China after the Period of Disunion? What is considered to be this dynasty’s greatest accomplishment?

12. **Analyze** How did changes in the Tang dynasty affect trade and religion?

13. **Evaluate** Which Chinese innovation do you think had the greatest effect on world history—gunpowder, the magnetic compass, or movable type? Explain your answer.

SECTION 2 (pp. 316–321)

11. **Recall** Where was the Mongols’ homeland, and how did geography shape their life there?

12. **Analyze** How were the Mongols, a nomadic people, able to conquer more advanced civilizations?

13. **Elaborate** How did Marco Polo help shape European ideas about China?

SECTION 3 (pp. 322–327)

11. **Describe** What form of government system developed in early Japan?

12. **Compare** How were the histories of early Japan and early Korea similar?

13. **Make Judgments** Would you have wanted to be a member of the Heian court in Japan? Why or why not?

SECTION 4 (pp. 329–333)

11. **Identify** Who was Anawrahta, and why is he significant in the early history of Southeast Asia?

12. **Explain** Why was control of the waterways of Southeast Asia of strategic importance?

13. **Support a Position** Did major events in India and China affect life in Southeast Asia? Provide reasons to support your position.

Reading Skills

**Making Inferences** Use what you know about making inferences to answer the following questions.

15. What long-term contributions did the Mongols make to world history?

16. Why do you think India had more influence on Southeast Asia than China did?

Analyzing Visuals

**Reading Like a Historian** The painting below depicts a Mongol warrior on horseback. The Mongols were highly skilled archers, able to fire accurately while on the move.

17. **Draw Conclusions** How does the rider’s position on the horse illustrate his skill as a mounted archer?

18. **Analyze** What other items did Mongol archers carry? How were these items likely used?

Using the Internet

19. **The art of China, Japan, and Korea often celebrates myths and legends and the beauty of nature. Using the keyword above, do research to learn more about Asian art. Then create a brochure describing what you have learned about the topic.**

**Writing for the SAT**

**Think about the following issue:**

Under the Mongol rule of the Yuan dynasty, the Chinese had to pay higher taxes and follow stricter laws than the Mongols did. At the same time, the Mongol rulers improved China’s roads and canals and increased its foreign trade.

20. **Assignment:** Did the Yuan rulers govern China well? Write a short essay in which you develop your position on this question. Support your point of view with reasoning and examples from your reading.
Directions  Write your answer for each statement or question on a separate answer sheet. Choose the letter of the word or expression that best completes the statement or answers the question.

1. One reason this coin, like almost all coins from Muslim lands, is decorated with writing rather than a portrait is because

A  calligraphy was an important Muslim art form.
B  Muslim rulers were unpopular.
C  rulers wanted their coins to be used outside their own kingdoms.
D  rulers wanted their coins to be unlike Roman coins.

2. Why was the beginning of the Iron Age significant in Africa?

A  Iron tools enabled farmers to grow more food.
B  Iron was important in the practice of animism.
C  Iron weapons made it possible to conquer the Nok.
D  It helped North Africans build their economies.

3. Trading cities along the east coast of Africa grew and prospered because

A  the people were expert fishers.
B  the ancient Greeks had begun trading there.
C  the monsoon winds made it possible to trade with Arabia, India, and Southeast Asia.
D  the island of Madagascar was located off the east coast.

4. West Africa’s gold and salt trade

A  was begun by the Almoravids.
B  made the kingdom of Ghana rich.
C  made the Berber kingdom rich.
D  was monopolized by Arab traders.

5. Muhammad’s journey from Mecca to Medina is known as

A  the hegira.
B  the hajj.
C  the hadith.
D  the Sunna.

6. The split between the Sunnis and the Shia began over

A  who should be the leader of the Muslim community.
B  who should marry Muhammad's daughter Fatimah.
C  whether or not Muhammad had named Abu Bakr as his successor.
D  who could be considered a “People of the Book.”

7. Muslim traders helped the caliphate prosper and

A  brought great art and artists back to Baghdad.
B  not only traded goods but also ideas, thus helping to spread Islam.
C  supported the Abbasid dynasty in expanding into Spain.
D  helped keep Muslim communities unified.

8. Muslim scholars made important contributions to knowledge by

A  translating the work of ancient Greek scientists and philosophers.
B  writing travel guides so people could visit the far-flung cities of the caliphate.
C  inventing the concept of zero.
D  becoming teachers in European universities during the Middle Ages.

9. Some of the characteristics of Muslim art are

A  using quotations from Rumi and geometric patterns to decorate objects.
B  using calligraphy and minarets to decorate paintings.
C  incorporating Turkish motifs in painting.
D  using calligraphy and geometric designs to decorate objects and buildings.
10 Historians consider the Tang dynasty to be one of the golden ages of Chinese civilization because
   A the Empress Wu was a great leader.
   B Wendi reunified China, restored order, reformed the bureaucracy, and created a new legal code.
   C Tang rulers expanded the empire and its influence and the arts flourished.
   D land reform freed more people to become artists.

11 Civil service exams under the Song made sure that
   A capable bureaucrats held office.
   B applicants from wealthy families received high grades.
   C capable shipbuilders, traders, and inventors were recruited for government positions.
   D only Legalists held office.

12 Genghis Khan was a successful warrior because
   A he was more interested in defeating enemies and seizing plunder than in ruling.
   B he was made ruler of all the Mongol tribes.
   C he organized his fighters to promote loyalty and obedience and created a messenger system.
   D he traveled with herds of horses so that the army could move quickly.

13 Why is Genghis Khan's grandson Kublai Khan important?
   A He conquered Japan and added it to the Mongol Empire.
   B He conquered all of China and founded the Yuan dynasty.
   C He conquered all of China and wrecked the Chinese economy.
   D He eliminated social classes in China.

14 A religion unique to Japan is called
   A Amaterasu.
   B Yamato.
   C kami.
   D Shinto.

15 During the Heian period in Japan,
   A wealthy landowners gained power at the expense of the emperor.
   B the samurai were disbanded.
   C Murasaki Shikibu became emperor.
   D increased contact with China led to greater Chinese influence on Japanese culture and society.

16 Southeast Asia's culture and society
   A developed in isolation because of the monsoons.
   B was influenced by Indian traders and scholars who brought Indian culture to Southeast Asia.
   C was shaped by Muslim settlers from the Near East.
   D was heavily influenced by Japan.

17 Korea was heavily influenced by China because
   A it was originally settled by the Chinese.
   B Chinese shamans dominated the Korean court.
   C the Han conquered the Koreans and spread Chinese technology and institutions.
   D many Koreans studied in China.

18 What conclusion can be drawn from this passage from Ibn Battuta's account of his travels?

"The sultan takes his seat on the pempi [ceremonial chair] after the midafternoon prayer. The armor-bearers bring in magnificent arms—quivers of gold and silver, swords ornamented with gold and with golden scabbards, gold and silver lances, and crystal maces . . . The interpreter Dugha comes with his four wives and his slave-girls, who are about a hundred in number. They are wearing beautiful robes, and on their heads they have gold and silver fillets."

   A Dugha is more important than the sultan.
   B All people are wealthy.
   C Ibn Battuta is not impressed by the sultan's wealth.
   D Mali is a wealthy kingdom.

Reviewing the Unit
Constructed Response Recall what you have learned about the role of trade in spreading ideas and supporting empires. Write a brief essay on the role of trade in shaping Near Eastern, African, and Asian societies and cultures.

Connecting to the Previous Unit
Constructed Response Recall what you have learned about new empires that formed in the Near East and China and the older empires in Persia, the Near East, and China. How were these new empires similar to the earlier empires in these areas? How were they different? Write a short essay showing how one of these empires changed and developed over this long time span. Include the factors that influenced change.
How did new belief systems spread across much of Africa, Asia, and Europe?

New religions replaced older polytheistic religions. One reason these religions spread so widely was that they were able to appeal to people of different cultures. While sometimes conversions were the result of conquest, most conversions were voluntary. Among those helping to spread these religions were missionaries. These religions also spread along trade routes as local people interacted with merchants.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>RELIGION</th>
<th>SPREAD FROM</th>
<th>SPREAD TO</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Buddhism</td>
<td>India</td>
<td>China, Japan, Korea, Central Asia, Southeast Asia</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Christianity</td>
<td>Judea</td>
<td>North Africa, Europe, Russia</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Islam</td>
<td>Arabia</td>
<td>North Africa, East Africa, West Africa, Southwest and Central Asia, Eastern Europe, Southeast Asia</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

How did nomadic peoples forge links between cultures?

Nomadic peoples helped move goods and ideas between rural and urban centers. By actively promoting trade, nomadic peoples such as the Mongols help forge contacts between the Mediterranean and India and China. In addition, Arab traders expanded their routes and helped spread knowledge as well as goods. Arabs translated Indian works on mathematics and astronomy into Arabic and adopted the Indian number system. Later, Europeans learned of these advances and adopted them from the Arabs.
How did trading systems develop?

Economies remained overwhelmingly agricultural, and trade in agricultural products and nonluxury goods remained regional. Nonetheless, trade in luxury goods became more widespread as links between civilizations became more firmly established. Arab traders moved goods between Africa and India. By making travel safer, the Mongols promoted trade between Europe and Asia within the bounds of the vast Mongol Empire.

Global Connections

Exposure to new ideas and inventions was closely linked to contacts between peoples and civilizations. Most of the contacts between civilizations occurred as a result of trade in luxury commodities.

Making Connections  Select a luxury commodity such as silk, gold, or spices that was traded over long distances. Make a list of the peoples who would have been involved in trading the product and the new ideas the traders may have been exposed to or spread. Draw or trace an outline map of the regions involved in the trade of the product you have investigated. Then show the trade route on the map and annotate it with the information you collect.

This woman displays some of the gold that made Ghana such a wealthy trading state.
**Muslim Civilization**  
550–1250

**MAIN IDEA** Muslims believe that Muhammad was the last prophet that God sent to humanity. In the centuries after Muhammad’s death, Islam spread across much of the Eastern Hemisphere, becoming one of the world’s major religions. Muslim civilization developed states and produced notable achievements in the arts and sciences.

**SECTION 1** In 610 a Meccan merchant named Muhammad began to report that he received messages from Allah, or God. The messages formed the basis of Islam, which first took hold in Arabia.

**SECTION 2** After Muhammad’s death, Islam spread, shaping a major empire within 100 years. The empire eventually broke into smaller parts, but Islam continued to spread.

**SECTION 3** Islam deeply influenced the societies it touched and created a nurturing environment for learning and the arts.

**Cultures of East Asia**  
550–1400

**MAIN IDEA** China influenced life in much of East Asia. Trade and economic growth benefited many, but conflict and war also characterized the period. China profoundly influenced Korea, Japan, and the kingdoms of Southeast Asia.

**SECTION 1** During the Tang and Song dynasties China enjoyed economic growth. Still, China struggled with domestic problems and the threat of foreign invasion.

**SECTION 2** The Mongols built a huge empire across much of Asia and founded the Yuan dynasty in China. They opened the region to greater foreign contacts and trade.

**SECTION 3** China’s neighbors, especially Korea and Japan, borrowed from China. China’s neighbors were also determined to remain independent.

**SECTION 4** Geography and the cultures of China and India influenced the civilizations of Southeast Asia.

**African Kingdoms**  
100–1500

**MAIN IDEA** As Africa entered the Iron Age, people migrated throughout the continent. Trade and religion played strong roles in the development of kingdoms and empires in East and South Africa. Strong rulers and the trans-Saharan trade shaped the cultures of the kingdoms of West Africa.

**SECTION 1** Africa’s earliest people adapted to a wide range of geographic conditions. The spread of iron technology changed farming practices, and coastal cities flourished on trade.

**SECTION 2** The growth of trade led to the development of wealthy kingdoms and city-states in East and South Africa.

**SECTION 3** The expansion of trade across the Sahara led to the growth of new kingdoms in West Africa.

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**Thinking like a Historian**

**Summary and Extension Activity**

Trade played an important role in spreading culture, religion, and technology. Choose one of the civilizations discussed in this unit, and create a chart or graphic organizer showing how trade influenced each of the following areas:

A. Culture and religion
B. Technological innovation
C. Economy and government