

Unit 2: Key Vocabulary

Silk Roads	A system of ancient caravan routes across Central Asia, along which traders carried silk and other trade goods; known for spreading religions such as Buddhism, Christianity, and Islam as well as technological transfers and diseases like the Bubonic plague	Diaspora	A dispersion of people from their homeland; merchant communities of Muslim spread Islam throughout Southeast Asia
Indian Ocean Trade	Connected to Europe, Africa, South Asia, and China.; worlds richest maritime trading network and an area of rapid Muslim expansion, spread of goods, ideas	Dhow Ships	Arab sailing vessels with triangular or lateen sails; strongly influenced European ship design; facilitated trade in the Indian Ocean networks
Trans-Saharan Trade	Route across the Sahara Desert; traded for gold and salt, created caravan routes, economic benefit for controlling desert, camels and camel saddles were crucial in the development of these trade networks; facilitated the spread of Islam	Mansa Musa	Ruler of Mali (r. 1312-1337). His extravagant pilgrimage through Egypt to Mecca in 1324-1325 established the empire's reputation for wealth in the Mediterranean world
Magnetic compass	Chinese invention that aided navigation by showing which direction was north	Timbuktu	Mali trading city that became a center of wealth and learning thanks to its location in the trans-Saharan trade networks; universities, mosques, and libraries
Rudder	Steering device, usually a vertical blade attached to a post at, or near, the stern of the boat; improved sea trade	Camel Saddle	An invention which gives camel riders more stability on the animal and its invention and basic idea traveled along the Trans-Saharan Caravan Trade Route. Invented somewhere between 500 and 100 BCE by Bedouin tribes.
junk ship	A very large flat-bottom sailing ship produced in the Tang and Song Empires, specially designed for long-distance commercial travel and participation in the tribute system	Caravan	group of traveling merchants and animals
Kashgar	Also known as Kashi, a central trading point at which the western and the eastern Silk Road met; It is one of the westernmost cities of China, near the border with modern day Afghanistan, Kyrgyzstan, Pakistan, and Tajikistan.	Sundiata	the founder of Mali empire. He crushed his enemies and won control of the gold trade routes along the trans-Saharan trade networks
Samarkand	During the rule of Timur Lane was the most influential capital city, a wealthy trading center known for decorated mosques and tombs; a key trading city along the Silk Roads	Khanates	Four regional Mongol kingdoms that arose following the death of Ghengis Khan.
paper money	Legal currency issued on paper; it developed in China as a convenient alternative to metal coins; facilitated trade	Pax Mongolica	The period of approximately 150 years of relative peace and stability created by the Mongol Empire.
Caravanserais	An inn with a central courtyard for travelers in the desert regions of Asia or North Africa; allowed caravans and their camels to rest in a protected environment, encouraging trade	Golden Horde	Mongol khanate founded by Genghis Khan's. It was based in southern Russia and quickly adopted both the Turkic language and Islam
Hanseatic League	An organization of north German and Scandinavian cities for the purpose of establishing a commercial alliance; facilitated trade and commercial growth in the 1200-1450 time period	Yuan Dynasty	(1279-1368 CE) The dynasty with Mongol rule in China; centralized with bureaucracy but structure is different: Mongols on top->Persian bureaucrats->Chinese bureaucrats; did not emphasize Confucianism and the civil service exams
Porcelain	A thin, beautiful pottery invented in China	Swahili city-states	City coasts that actively participated in Indian Ocean trade along the East coast of the African continent
Monsoon winds	Seasonal wind in India, the winter monsoon brings hot, dry weather and the summer monsoon brings rain	Bubonic Plague	Also called the Black Death; the deadly disease that spread through Asia and Europe and killed more than a third of the population in some areas; hit Europe (peak 1347-1351) especially hard due to unsanitary living conditions and overcrowded cities; spread thanks to increased trade along the Silk Roads
Spice Islands	Europeans' name for the Moluccas, islands rich in cloves and nutmeg - highly valued spices often traded in the Indian Ocean trade network	Gunpowder	Invented within China during the 9th century, this substance became the dominant military technology used to expand European and Asian empires by the 15th century; spread from East to West via trade networks like the Silk Roads and help from the Pax Mongolica
Ibn Battuta	(1304-1369) Moroccan Muslim scholar, the most widely traveled individual of his time. He wrote a detailed account of his visits to Islamic lands from China to Spain and the western Sudan. His writings gave a glimpse into the world of that time period.	Zheng He	(1371-1433?) Chinese Ming Dynasty naval explorer who sailed along most of the coast of Asia, Japan, and half way down the east coast of Africa before his death; facilitated China's role in the tribute system in the Indian Ocean trade network

Marco Polo

(1254-1324) Italian explorer and author. He made numerous trips to China and returned to Europe to write of his journeys. He is responsible for much of the knowledge exchanged between Europe and China during this time period.

Margery Kempe

Wrote the Book of Margery Kempe - considered the 1st autobiography in the English language. Chronicles her pilgrimages to holy sites in Europe and Asia. Claimed to have vision that called her to leave the vanities of the world