

## Constitution of the Iroquois Nations: The Great Binding Law

In the 1500s, the five Iroquois nations formed an alliance to end the frequent wars among them. A council of 50 tribal leaders met once a year to resolve issues. Women chose the leaders and monitored their actions. The oral constitution of the Iroquois Confederacy was called the Great Binding Law.

► Hiawatha speaks to members of the council at the creation of the Iroquois League.



When a leader or lord was selected to represent his tribe, the constitution required that this pledge be recited.

“We now do crown you with the sacred emblem of the deer’s antlers, the emblem of your Lordship. You shall now become a mentor of the people of the Five Nations. The thickness of your skin shall be seven spans—which is to say that you shall be proof against ① anger, offensive actions and criticism. Your heart shall be filled with peace and good will and your mind filled with a yearning [longing] for the welfare of the people of the Confederacy. With endless patience you shall carry out your duty and your firmness shall be tempered [lessened] with tenderness for your people. Neither anger nor fury shall find lodgement ② in your mind and all your words and actions shall be marked with calm deliberation. In all of your deliberations in the Confederate Council, in your efforts at law making, in all your official acts, self interest shall be cast into oblivion. ③ Cast not over your shoulder behind you the warnings of the nephews and nieces should they chide you for any error or wrong you may do, but return to the way of the Great Law which is just and right. Look and listen for the welfare of the whole people and have always in view not only the present but also the coming generations, even those whose faces are yet beneath the surface of the ground—the unborn of the future Nation.”

—Constitution of the Iroquois Nations: The Great Binding Law, Gayanashagowa

### Analyzing Primary Sources

Cite specific evidence from the source to support your answers.

1. **Cite Evidence** What behavior was a tribal leader told to avoid?
2. **Identify Supporting Details** According to the pledge, what were two things that the leaders were expected to focus on?

### Reading and Vocabulary Support

- ① “Be proof against” means that these behaviors should not occur.
- ② “Lodgement” means to reside.
- ③ What does it mean to “cast into oblivion”?



## Be an Informed Citizen

Follow these steps to become an informed citizen.



INTERACTIVE

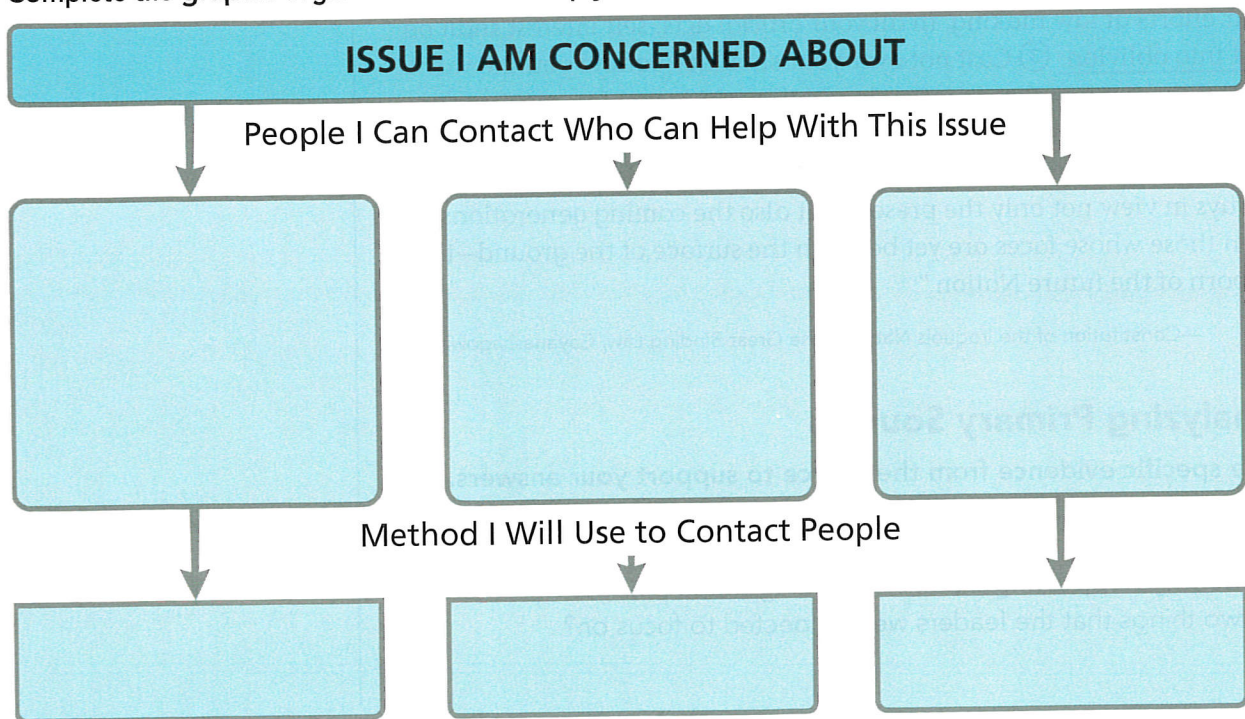
21st Century Skills

**1 Learn the issues.** A great way to begin to understand the responsibilities of citizenship is to first find topics of interest to you. Next, become well informed about civic affairs in your town, city, or country. Read newspapers, magazines, and articles you find online about events happening in your area or around the world. Analyze the information you read to come to your own conclusions. Radio programs, podcasts, and social media are also great ways to keep up with current events and interact with others about issues.

**2 Get involved.** Attend community events to speak with others who know the issues. Become well informed about how policies are made and changed. Find out who to speak to if you would like to take part in civic affairs and policy creation. There are government websites that can help direct you to the right person. These websites will also provide his or her contact details.

**3 Take a stand and reach out.** Write, call, or meet with your elected officials to become a better informed, more responsible citizen. To be an informed voter, do research about candidates who are running for office. Start your own blog or website to explore issues, interact with others, and be part of the community or national dialogue.

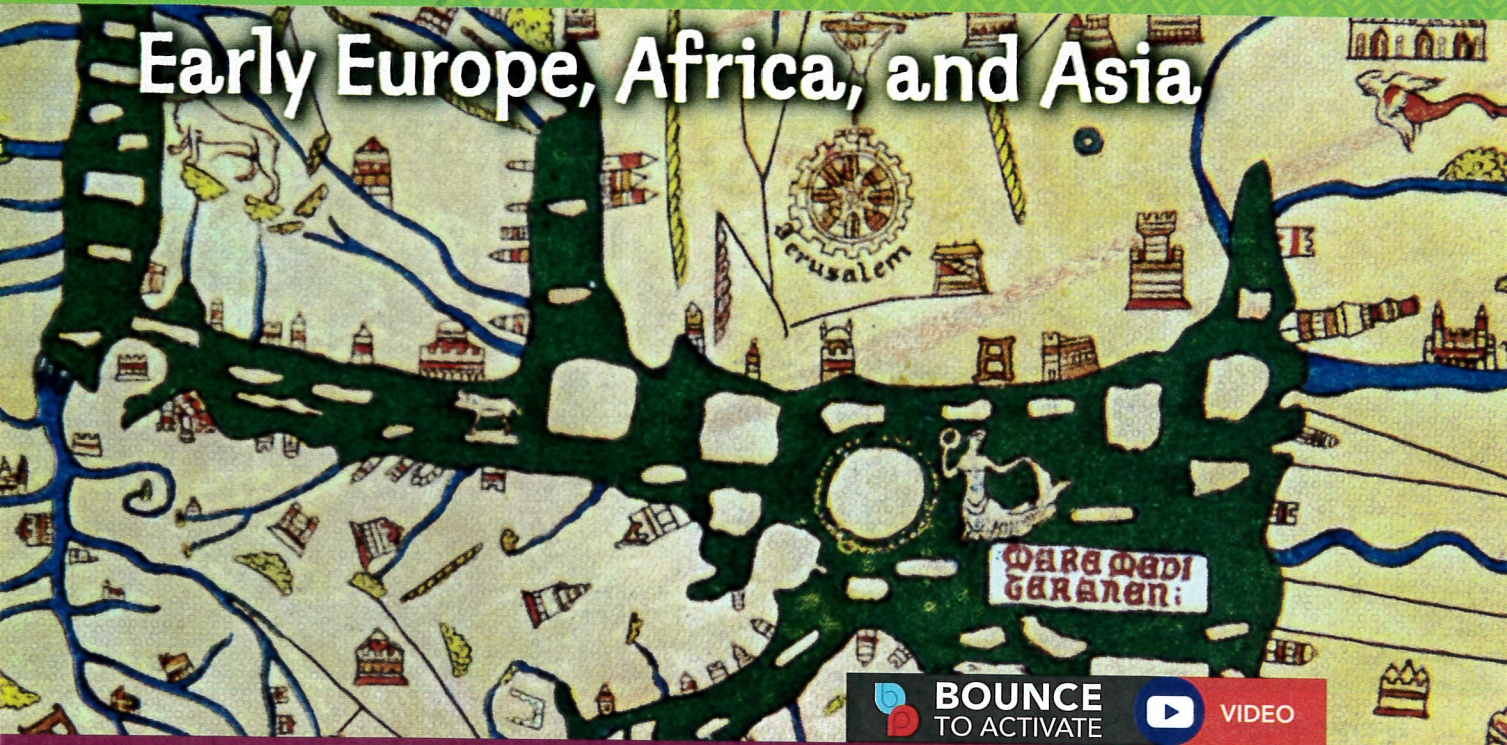
Complete the graphic organizer below to help you become an informed citizen.





## LESSON 3

# Early Europe, Africa, and Asia



## GET READY TO READ

### START UP

Examine the map of the world from 1280. How does it differ from modern maps?

### GUIDING QUESTIONS

- How did Europe change during the Middle Ages?
- Describe trade and technological innovations in the Muslim world, Africa, and East Asia.
- What was the impact of technological innovations on the Renaissance?

### TAKE NOTES

#### Literacy Skills: Summarize

Use the graphic organizer in your Active Journal to take notes as you read the lesson.

### PRACTICE VOCABULARY

Use the vocabulary activity in your Active Journal to practice the vocabulary words.

#### Vocabulary

feudalism  
manor  
Crusades  
astrolabe  
Silk Road

#### Academic Vocabulary

decline  
innovation

The period from about 500 to around 1500 is known as the Middle Ages. Many wars were fought, but the world also became more interconnected as trade grew and explorers traveled widely.

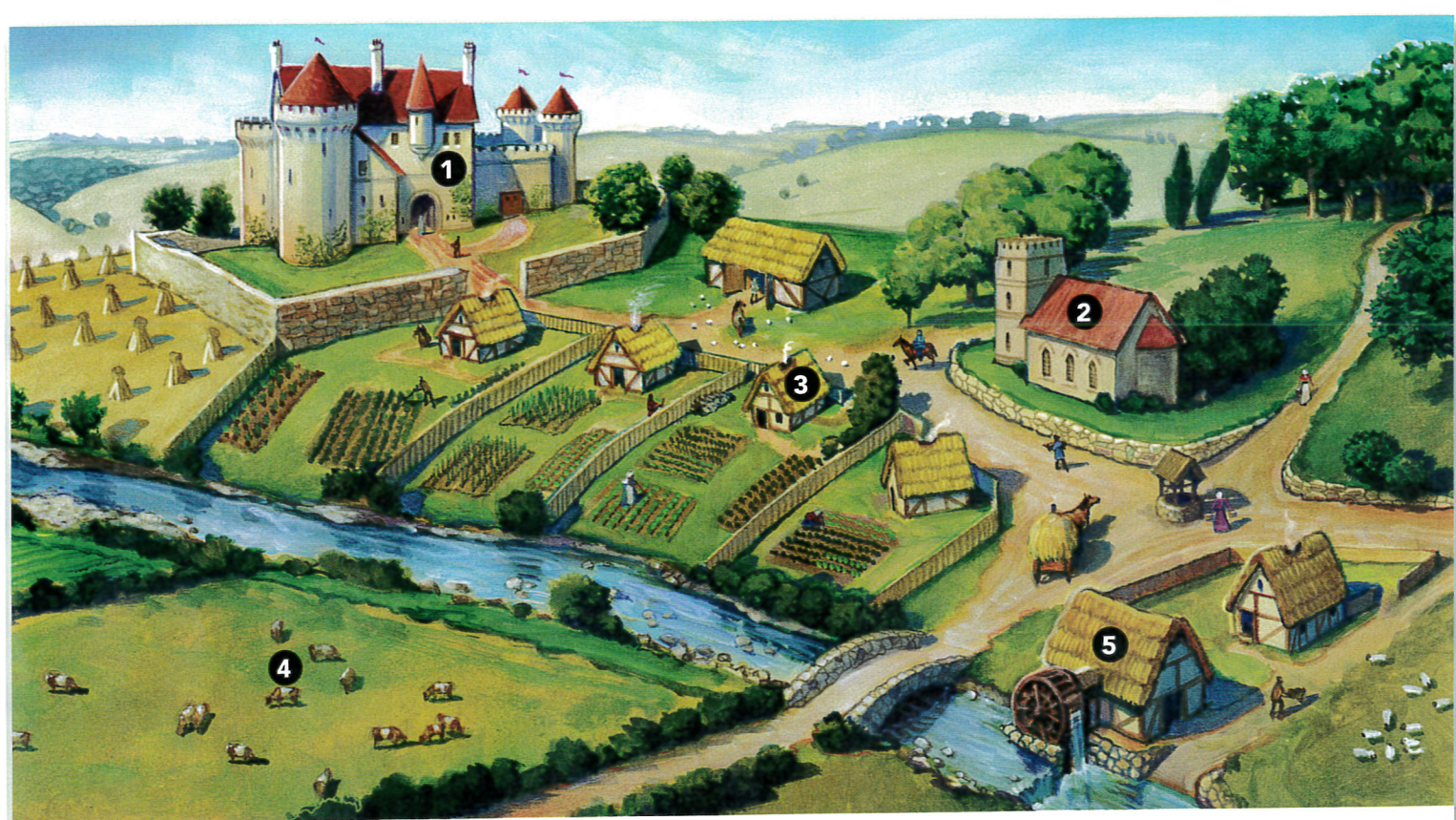
## What Was Europe Like in the Middle Ages?

During the early Middle Ages, invasion and war were common. People in Europe had to find new means of defending themselves.

**Feudalism** A new kind of government evolved during the Middle Ages. Kings and queens divided their lands among warrior nobles. In return, nobles promised to fight for the ruler when asked. This system of rule by lords who ruled their lands but owed loyalty and military service to a monarch is called **feudalism** (FYOOD ul iz um).

At the top of feudal society stood the king and the most powerful lords. Next came the lesser nobles. Most people in feudal society were peasants who farmed the lord's lands and could not leave the land without the lord's permission.





**Analyze Images** A typical medieval manor included a castle, a church, fields for agriculture and livestock, and dwellings for serfs.

① Castle ② Church ③ Serf home ④ Fields ⑤ Mill

**Identify Cause and Effect**

Why was the mill placed along the river?

**Feudal Life** Feudal life revolved around the **manor**, which included the lord's castle and the lands around it. Manor lands might include several villages. Each manor was self-sufficient. That is, people made almost everything they needed. Life for peasants was hard. Peasants were farmers who worked mostly by hand on small plots. They struggled to produce enough food just to survive.

By about 900, life began to change. Peasants used new methods of farming to produce more food. Warfare **declined** and trade began to grow. Slowly, people began to look beyond their isolated villages.

**Religion in Medieval Europe** The most powerful force in medieval western Europe was the Roman Catholic Church. The Roman Catholic Church was the main branch of Christianity in western Europe. Like other branches of Christianity, it was based on the teachings of Jesus, who had lived centuries earlier. During ancient and early medieval times, the religion spread across Europe.

The Church ruled more than religious life. It owned large amounts of land and offered the only source of education. The clergy were often the only people who could read and write. Because of their efforts, much of the learning from the ancient world was preserved.

While Christianity was the main religion in western Europe, the region also had a strong Jewish community. The Jewish people's religion was Judaism, a religion centuries older than Christianity. It, too, had spread across Europe in ancient and early medieval times. While Jewish people played an important role in medieval Europe, they often faced persecution, or attacks because of their beliefs.

**Academic Vocabulary**

**decline** • v., to draw to a close

**The Crusades** The pace of change in Europe increased between 1100 and 1300. This was in part because of the Crusades.



The **Crusades** were a series of wars fought by Christians to control the region then known as the Holy Land or Palestine, much of which is now Israel. This region included Jerusalem and the other places where Jesus had lived and taught. Muslims had controlled this region for centuries.

During the Crusades, tens of thousands of Christians journeyed to the Middle East. Fighting between Christians and Muslims continued for almost 200 years. Christians won some victories, and they ruled kingdoms in the region for more than 100 years. But in the end, they failed to keep control of the Holy Land.

**Trade Grows** The Crusades had important effects on Europe, however. Crusaders traveled beyond their villages and came into contact with other civilizations. In the Middle East, they tasted new foods, such as rice, oranges, dates, and new spices. They saw beautiful silks and woven rugs.

Europe had traded with the Middle East before the Crusades. However, returning Crusaders demanded more Asian foods, spices, and silks. Italian merchants could get high prices for such goods. They outfitted ships and increased trade with the Muslim world.

**Technological Innovations in Navigation** Trade brought new knowledge and with it, new technological **innovations**. From the Muslim world, Europeans acquired sailing skills and the magnetic compass. Muslims had adopted the magnetic compass from the Chinese. The magnetic needle of the compass always pointed north, which helped ships stay on course.

Another useful instrument was the **astrolabe** (AS troh layb), which helped sailors determine their latitude while at sea. These new instruments let Europeans sail far out to sea, beyond sight of land. By 1500, Portugal had taken the lead in this new overseas travel.

**READING CHECK Identify Main Ideas** How did the Crusades affect trade in the Middle Ages?



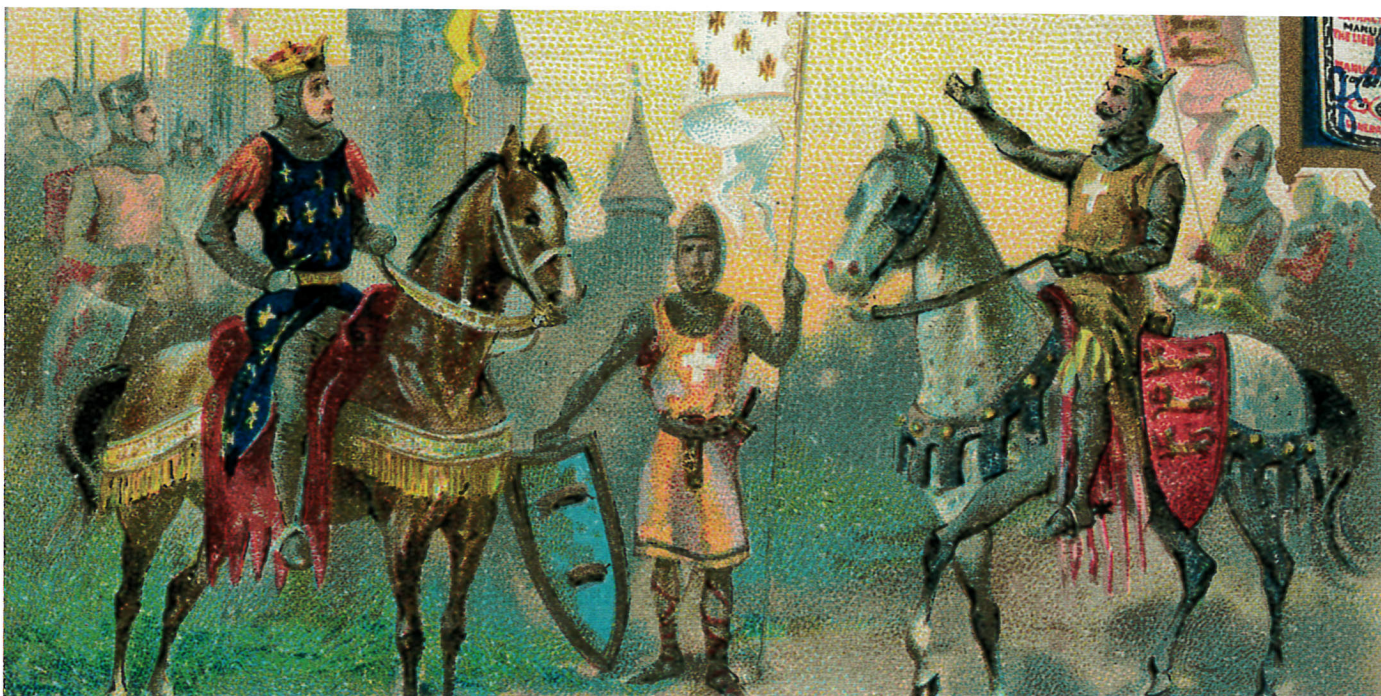
## INTERACTIVE

How an Astrolabe Works

## Academic Vocabulary

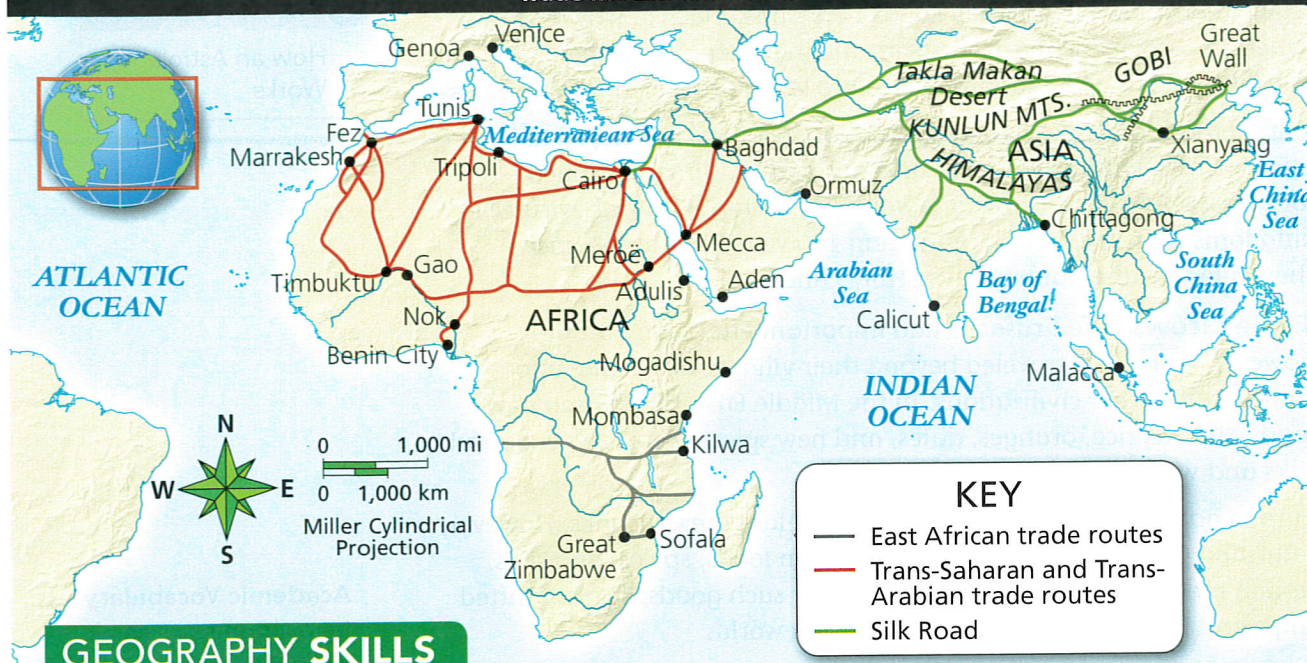
**innovation** • *n.*, a new method or idea

**Analyze Images** Many medieval Christians joined the Crusades to fight for control of territory in the Middle East. **Identify Supporting Details** What item hanging from the horse suggests a battle will occur?





## Trade in Asia and Africa



## GEOGRAPHY SKILLS

Traders used routes such as the Trans-Saharan route and the Silk Road to transport goods to different places.

- 1. Location** Which cities on the Trans-Saharan and Trans-Arabian trade routes were located on the Mediterranean Sea?
- 2. Draw Conclusions** Which of the three routes probably had the least amount of trading? Why?

## How Was the Middle East a Crossroads of the World?

Middle Eastern merchants played a large role in this growing trade. Linking Europe, Africa, and Asia, the Middle East was a major crossroads of the world.

**Muslim Conquests and Inventions** The growth of trade was also linked to the spread of a new religion. In the early 600s, a new religion, Islam, emerged in Arabia. A people called the Arabs lived in Arabia, in the southern Middle East.

Islam won many followers among the Arabs. Beginning in the 600s, Islam spread rapidly. Devout followers conquered North Africa and much of Spain. They conquered lands to the east, too, from Persia to India and beyond. Eventually, the Muslim world spread from South Asia to what is now Portugal and Spain. In many countries ruled by Muslims, however, there were also communities of Christians and Jewish people.

Islam expanded through trade and conquest. While some remained faithful to Christianity, Judaism, and other religions, many people in conquered lands chose to convert to the new religion.

Others were converted by force, or under the threat of crippling taxes. Elsewhere, Muslim merchants carried the new faith to people living along the trade routes of Asia and Africa.

Islam united Muslims from many lands and fostered the growth of trade. Muslims had a basic duty to make a pilgrimage, or journey, to the holy city of Mecca at least once in their lives. Every year, people from across the Muslim world traveled to Mecca.

## INTERACTIVE

Routes of Exploration and Trade



Muslims from North Africa, Persia, Afghanistan, India, Spain, and West Africa crowded Mecca’s dusty streets. They prayed in Arabic, the language of Islam. This regular travel encouraged trade among the Muslim lands.

People in the mainly Muslim Middle East developed many of the technologies we use today. Experiments with how light enters the eye led 10th century Muslim mathematician Ibn al-Haitham to invent the first pin-hole camera. A Muslim engineer invented the crankshaft, a key device in modern machinery, and the windmill was invented in Persia in the 600s to grind corn.

**Navigating the Seas** Middle Eastern merchants traded across a vast area. They sailed to ports around the Indian Ocean. Their ships used large, triangular sails that allowed captains to sail close to the direction the wind was blowing from.

Middle Eastern sailors had knowledge of wind and weather conditions in the Indian Ocean. As a result, merchants in ports around the region knew when the trading ships had to sail and when they would return. Middle Easterners made important technological innovations in the astrolabe, which, as you have learned, helped sailors find their way far from shore.

Middle Eastern merchants sold porcelains, perfumes, and fabrics from China. Jade and tea were popular, too.

The Spice Islands of Indonesia offered nutmeg, clove, and mace. Cloth, indigo, and sugar came from East Africa, as well as spices, salt, and slaves. Goods like textiles and spices traveled well. They quickly spread across the globe.



▲ The astrolabe helped sea captains determine the latitude of their ships.

**Analyze Charts** Trade routes made it possible for people in Africa and Eurasia to exchange goods with one another. **Identify Main Ideas** How did the exchange of goods and information between Africa and Eurasia benefit both regions?

### Trade in Africa and Eurasia

AFRICA		EURASIA	
Domesticated camels enabled North African merchants to cross the Sahara. Caravans could include merchants, missionaries, pilgrims, and scholars.		Improvements in land and sea travel enabled goods and ideas to travel between East Asia, South Asia, the Middle East, and Europe.	
<p><b>RESOURCES AND GOODS</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Gold, copper, and salt</li> <li>• Ivory for artistic carving</li> <li>• Kola nuts for medicine; coffee beans prized as a stimulant</li> </ul>	<p><b>TECHNOLOGY AND EDUCATION</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Advanced metal forging techniques for toolmaking</li> <li>• Weaving techniques for patterned textiles</li> <li>• Education in mathematics, medicine, law, geography, history, and art at universities</li> <li>• Training in carpentry, fishing, and tailoring</li> </ul>	<p><b>RESOURCES AND GOODS</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Spices for flavorings, perfumes, and medicines as well as European wines</li> <li>• Textiles including silk and wool</li> <li>• Copper, iron, and silver</li> </ul>	<p><b>TECHNOLOGY AND EDUCATION</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Techniques for making pottery, ceramics, glazes, glass, and lacquerware</li> <li>• Study in mathematics, medicine, and engineering; advances in agricultural and irrigation techniques</li> <li>• Architectural domes and arches in mosques, temples, and churches</li> <li>• Surgical instruments and techniques</li> </ul>



**Trade Along the Silk Road** Some Middle Eastern traders traveled the overland routes that crossed the grasslands, mountains, and deserts of Central Asia and linked China and the Middle East. These routes had become known as the **Silk Road** because prized Chinese silks had been carried westward along them for more than 1,000 years.

Travel on the Silk Road was dangerous. Desert storms, hunger, and bandits were a constant threat. Traders formed **caravans**, or groups of people who traveled together for safety. Despite the dangers, trade along the Silk Road prospered.

By the 1400s, trade goods were flowing across a huge area. More than just silk was traded on the Silk Road. Everything from horses to spices and gems traveled along the route.

 **READING CHECK Identify Cause and Effect** What impact did the Silk Road have on trade?

## African Trade and Cultures

Trade routes played a large role in Africa, too. Long-distance trade routes crossed the vast Sahara, the desert linking West Africa and North Africa.

A peaceful afternoon in a West African village might be pierced by sounds of a horn. Children would shout, “Batafo! Batafo!” Traders! Soon, a long line of porters and camels arrived. Villagers watched as the tired travelers unloaded sacks of salt or dried fish. Gold, fabrics, jewelry, and slaves were also part of the caravan.

Sea traders also spread navigation technologies throughout Africa and eventually to Europe. The lateen sail was a triangular sail that allowed ships to travel toward the wind.

Although historians cannot be certain, it is likely that North Africans adapted the astrolabe for sea travel, too. It was used by African, Arab, and Indian sailors and then adopted by Europeans.

## 5 BIOGRAPHY Things to Know About

### MANSA MUSA

Emperor of Mali c. 1280 -c. 1337



- He built an empire in West Africa that was known far and wide for its wealth.
- On his journey to Mecca, his caravan had more than 70,000 men and 80 camels, which carried 300 pounds of gold each.
- Historians say he might have been the wealthiest person to have ever lived.
- His empire was one of the largest in the world at that time.
- He built the Great Mosque in the city of Timbuktu, which still stands.

**Critical Thinking** What information indicates that Mansa Musa was rich and powerful?





**East African City-States** Trade had long flowed up and down the coast of East Africa. Small villages that had good natural harbors grew into busy trading centers.

Gold from Zimbabwe (zim BAH bweh), a powerful inland state, was carried to coastal cities such as Kilwa and Sofala. From there, ships carried the gold, and prized goods such as hardwoods and ivory, across the Indian Ocean to Arabia, India, and China.

Wealth from trade helped local East African rulers build strong city-states. East African city-states gained wealth and power by trading people as well as goods. They traded enslaved people from the interior of East Africa to Arabs and other groups across the Indian Ocean.

Many rulers of these city-states became Muslims. In time, Muslim culture influenced East African traditions. The blend of cultures led to the rise of a new language, Swahili, which blended Arabic words and local African languages.

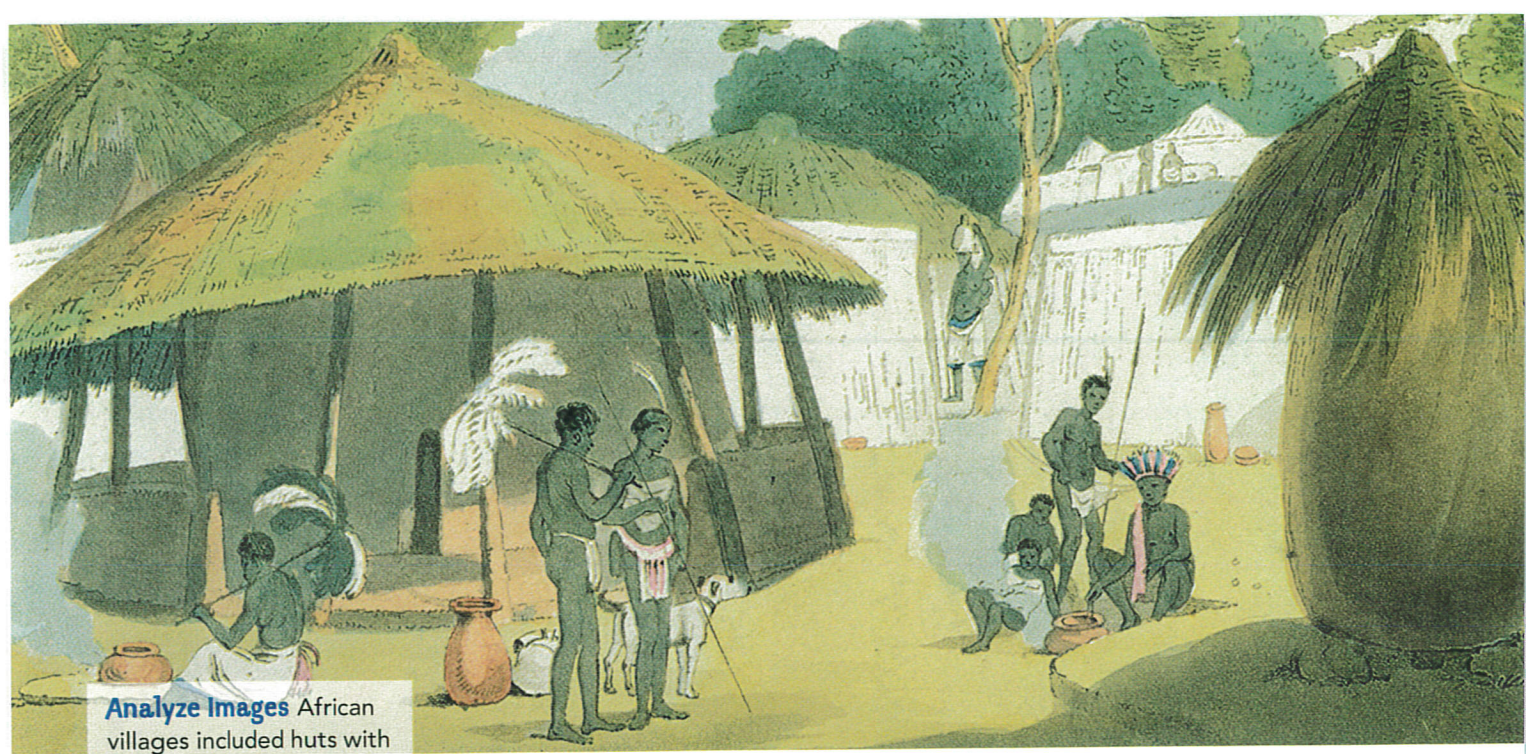
**West African Trading Kingdoms** A region of grasslands, called the savanna, covers much of West Africa. Several rich trading kingdoms emerged there. Among the best known were Mali and Songhai (SAWNG hy). The city of Timbuktu was the major trading center for both kingdoms. These West African empires gained power through warfare. They conquered neighboring peoples and took control of surrounding lands.

The kingdom of Mali rose in about 1200 and flourished for about 200 years. Like the rulers of East Africa's city-states, many rulers in West African kingdoms adopted the religion of Islam.

Mali's most famous ruler, Mansa Musa, was a Muslim. In 1324, the emperor made a pilgrimage to Mecca. On the way, he and his caravan stopped in Cairo, Egypt. His wealth in gold amazed the Egyptians.

**Analyze Images** This medieval map shows Mansa Musa on his throne. **Use Visual Information** What information does the image of Mansa Musa on his throne, holding a golden object, add to the map?





**Analyze Images** African villages included huts with roofs made from grass.

**Infer** What other material from the environment did Africans use?

In time, stories of Mansa Musa's immense wealth reached Europe. A Spanish map from that time shows Mansa Musa on his throne, holding a golden object:

### Primary Source

**"So abundant is the gold in his country that this lord is the richest and most noble king in all the land."**

—Catalan Atlas, 1375

In the 1400s, Songhai emerged as the most powerful empire in West Africa. Muslim emperors extended Songhai's power and made Timbuktu into a thriving city.

**Ways of Life in Africa** Ways of life varied greatly across the huge continent of Africa. While powerful trading states flourished in some regions, most people lived outside these kingdoms. Many lived in small villages. They made a living by herding, fishing, or farming.


Family relationships were important in African cultures. Although family patterns varied across Africa, many people lived within an extended family.

In an extended family, several generations live in one household. An extended family usually included grandparents, parents, children, and sometimes aunts, uncles, and cousins. The grandparents, or elders, received special respect for their wisdom and knowledge.

Ties of **kinship**, or sharing a common ancestor, linked families. People related by kinship owed loyalty to one another. Kinship ties encouraged a strong sense of community and cooperation.

Religious beliefs varied widely across Africa. Yet, African beliefs reflected some common threads. Links among family members lasted after death.

### Quest CONNECTIONS

Read the quote. Does the quote verify the information in Mansa Musa's biography? Record your findings in your  Active Journal.



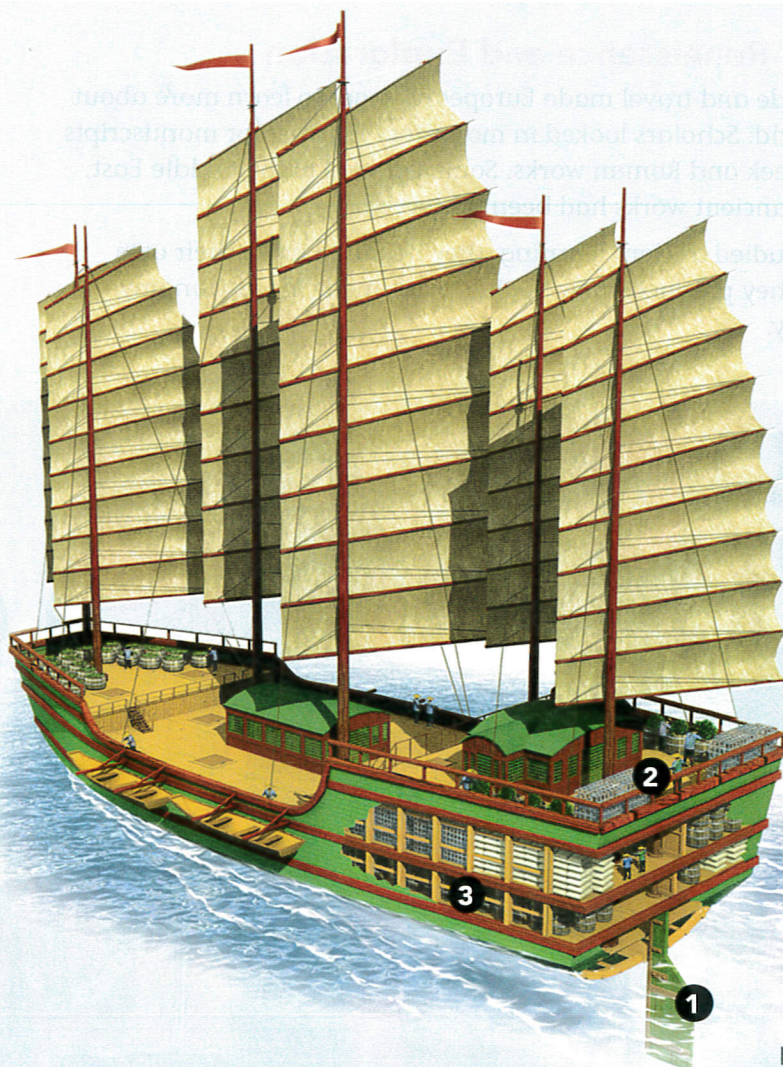
In their rituals and ceremonies, many Africans honored the spirits of their ancestors as well as the forces of nature. Powerful spirits, they believed, could harm or could help the living.

**READING CHECK** **Summarize** How would you explain what an extended family is to a friend?

## Chinese Trade and Technology

Africa had many different cultures and kingdoms. By contrast, in China, power was centered on one emperor. Chinese rulers were often suspicious of outsiders. Long distances and physical barriers separated China from Egypt, the Middle East, and India. This isolation contributed to the Chinese belief that China was the center of the Earth and the sole source of civilization. The ancient Chinese looked down on outsiders.

**China Uses Technology to Increase Trade** Chinese inventions changed shipbuilding around the globe. The Chinese invented the rudder, which made it easier to steer large ships. They created watertight compartments that went in the ship's hull to reduce the risk of sinking. They also probably invented the magnetic compass, which decreased the likelihood of getting lost on the open seas.



**Analyze Images** Historians believe the Chinese may have invented the magnetic compass. A later version is shown below. The rudder on this Chinese trading ship allowed the craft to be steered more easily.

- ① rudder
- ② compass
- ③ watertight compartment

**Infer** What do you think was located in the watertight compartments?





A young emperor who came to power in 1402 was eager to use these new technologies to increase trade. He ordered a huge fleet to be built and named Zheng He (JUNG HUH) to command it. Zheng He's fleet numbered more than 300 ships. It carried tons of trade goods. The largest ships were more than 400 feet long.

Zheng's fleet traded at ports in Southeast Asia, India, Arabia, and East Africa. At every port, Chinese traders carried on a brisk business. They expanded Chinese trade and influence across a wide region.

**The Voyages End** Zheng He's great fleet returned home with exotic goods and animals, such as giraffes, that the Chinese had never seen. However, China's overseas voyages soon ended. A new emperor decided that China had nothing to learn from the outside world. He outlawed most foreign trade. However, traders like Zheng He had spread Chinese technological innovations around the world.

The Chinese first invented paper in 105 CE. They also developed a printing press with movable type. The Chinese made advancements in timekeeping, developing several different kinds of clocks. They also invented gunpowder. Europeans later used gunpowder in handguns and cannons, which were based on Chinese designs.

 **READING CHECK** **Identify Supporting Details** How did new technologies improve Chinese ships?

## European Renaissance and Exploration

Increased trade and travel made Europeans eager to learn more about the wider world. Scholars looked in monastery libraries for manuscripts of ancient Greek and Roman works. Some traveled to the Middle East, where many ancient works had been preserved.

As scholars studied ancient learning, they began to make their own discoveries. They produced new books on art, medicine, astronomy, and chemistry.

**Analyze Images** Nobles benefited from the trade with Asia and Africa. They wore clothes made from silk and ate food flavored with spices from East Asia. **Infer** Why do you think nobles chose expensive fabrics for their clothes?





This great burst of learning and technological innovation was called the **Renaissance** (REN uh sahns). It is a French word meaning rebirth. The Renaissance lasted from the late 1300s until the 1600s.

The Chinese had invented the printing press and movable type, or metal letters that could be used to print paper. However, the Chinese language required thousands of different letters, and movable type had little impact.

During the 1430s, a German printer named Johannes Gutenberg (GOOT un burg) is believed to have invented movable type without knowing that it had existed in China. Movable type was much more useful for printing in European languages, which used only 26 letters. Together, movable type and the printing press helped to spread Renaissance learning. Before movable type and the printing press, books were scarce and costly because each was copied by hand. With these technological innovations, large numbers of books could be produced quickly and at a low cost. Soon more people began to read, and learning spread more quickly.

### A Search for New Trade Routes

During the Renaissance, trade brought new prosperity. European rulers began to increase their power. In England and France, kings and queens worked to bring powerful feudal lords under their control. In Spain and Portugal, Christian monarchs drove out Muslim rulers, who had governed there for centuries.

Rulers in England, France, Spain, and Portugal were eager to increase their wealth. They saw the great profits that could be made through trade. However, Middle Eastern and Italian merchants controlled the trade routes across the Mediterranean Sea. So, western Europe's leaders began hunting for other routes to Asia. European rulers also looked to Africa as a source of riches. Tales of Mansa Musa's wealth had created a stir in Europe, but no one knew the source of African gold.

**Portuguese Voyages** Portugal was an early leader in the search for a new trade route to Asia and for the source of African gold. In the early 1400s, Prince Henry, known as Henry the Navigator, encouraged sea captains to sail south along the coast of West Africa. Realizing that Portugal needed better navigators to accomplish the task, he set up an informal school to teach sailors techniques of navigation and the art of shipbuilding.

Under Henry's guidance, the Portuguese designed a new type of ship. The caravel (KAR uh vel) had triangular sails and a steering rudder. Caravels could be sailed closer to the direction from which the wind was blowing. Portuguese caravels stopped at many places along the coast of West Africa.



▲ Moveable type made printed books available to many people and spread the knowledge of Renaissance thinkers and explorers.



#### INTERACTIVE

Seafaring  
Technologies

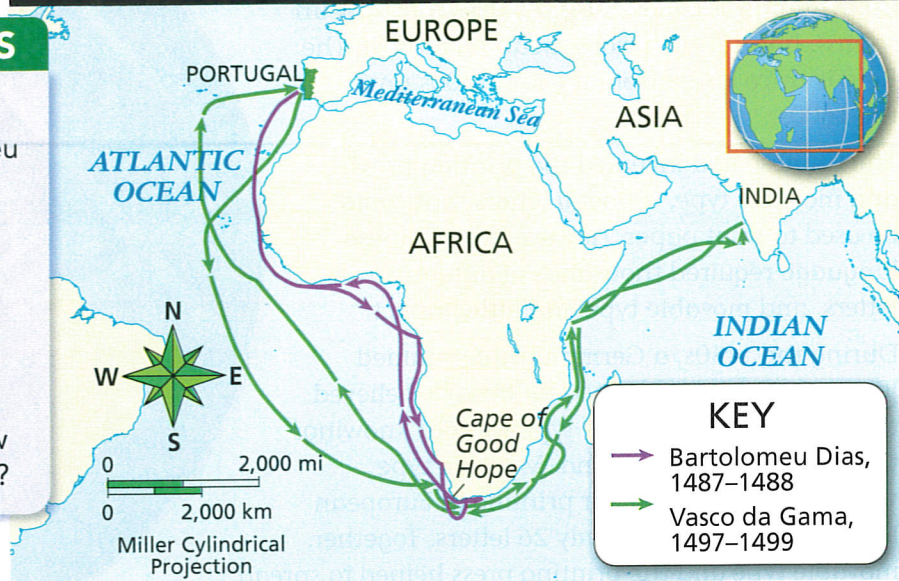


## Portuguese Routes of Exploration

### GEOGRAPHY SKILLS

This map shows the sea routes taken by Bartolomeu Dias and Vasco da Gama.

1. **Movement** Which Portuguese explorer stayed closer to land?
2. **Infer** Why do you think Vasco da Gama chose a route that did not follow the west coast of Africa?



They traded cloth, silver, textiles, and grain for gold and ivory. They also bought Africans who had been forced into slavery and sold them in Europe and elsewhere.

**Further Exploration** Slowly, Portuguese explorers ventured farther south, hoping to find a sea route around Africa to the rich spice trade of Asia. In 1488, Bartolomeu Dias reached the southern tip of Africa. The Portuguese pushed on to the East Indies, the islands of Southeast Asia and the source of valuable spices.

**READING CHECK Understand Effects** What effect did movable type and the printing press have on learning?

## Lesson Check

### Practice Vocabulary

1. Describe life on the **manor** in **feudal** Europe.
2. How did innovations such as the compass and **astrolabe** help sailors?
3. What happened in Europe during the **Renaissance**?

### Critical Thinking and Writing

4. **Identify Supporting Details** What was the impact of the Roman Catholic Church in medieval western Europe?
5. **Identify Cause and Effect** What encouraged Muslims from different lands to trade with one another?
6. **Identify Cause and Effect** What advantages did Middle Eastern merchants possess that allowed them to take such a central role in the expansion of trade?
7. **Draw Conclusions** In what ways did trade between China and other civilizations have long-term effects worldwide?
8. **Writing Workshop: Find and Use Credible Sources** You will need more information to write your paper. List three credible sources of information you could use to write a research paper about improved technology for travel, such as the astrolabe.