

Bridging History: LEARNING PLAN/UNIT TWO, Beginnings 6 Oct – 7 Nov

Theme 3, “Connections Across Land” This theme explores the Eurasian Silk Roads, the Mesoamerican Turquoise Road, and the trans-Saharan Gold Roads as rich examples of ancient connections as well as the intense determination of the humans who forged them. All three of these trading routes provided important linkages between diverse ecological (climate, vegetation, animal) zones, and they facilitated contact between societies that had access to diverse resources. Not all results of the contacts along these paths were intentional or even beneficial; bandits, invading armies, and disease also moved freely along these routes. But the richness and complexity of these cross-regional connections set the pattern for the globe-spanning interconnections we know today as globalization.

Big Ideas: **1.** Trade drew different peoples and *cultures together*. For instance, trade helped integrate distant economies as people became dependent on goods acquired through long-distance trade. It also led to the spread of religious traditions across distant regions, which helped integrate diverse populations. **2.** The contacts trade created caused people to become *more aware of cultural differences* — and to sharpen distinctions between “us” and “them.” **3.** For thousands of years, trade has facilitated cultural contacts and *communication among distant peoples and societies*. **4.** Trade provided opportunities for the *spread of religion* beyond cultural frontiers. **5.** Trade also had *unintended consequences*, including the spread of disease and the transfer of technologies. **6.** Although the desire for trade transcended political boundaries, *political stability* tended to improve the conditions and opportunities for trade.

Questions to Consider: **1.** How did trade *contribute* to the integration of the world’s regions? **2.** In what ways were trade and the spread of *cultural traditions* related? **3.** How did the *rise and fall of empires* and states affect the expansion and contraction of major trading networks such as the Silk Roads, the Gold Roads, and the Turquoise Roads? **4.** In addition to commodities, what else was transmitted across land trading routes?

Topic	Assignment	Objective(s)
Connections Across Land	Watch, study & take notes on each of the three video segments.	<p><i>Describe</i> the routes and goods carried for each of the Sea, Sand, and Turquoise Roads</p> <p><i>Explain</i> the ideas, technologies and diseases carried along these routes.</p> <p><i>Explain</i> the ways political & cultural systems impacted these routes.</p>
Silk Roads	Document Analysis	Answer the following questions: <i>Which of these</i> sources shows ways that trade and the spread of cultural traditions were related? <i>Which of these</i> sources show evidence of trade contributing to the integration of the world’s regions? <i>What conclusions can you draw</i> about the extent to which the Silk Roads show evidence of an integrated world?
Empires and Trade	Read and research the handout	<i>Determine how</i> the rises and falls of empires and states affected the expansions and contractions of major trading networks such as the Silk Roads, the Gold Roads, and the Turquoise Roads.