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Ideas Travel the Silk Road

Between A.D. 400 and 1500, cultures of Asia, Africa, and Europe came into closer contact with one another.

- The Silk Road and other trade routes helped link distant areas. Trade and travel increased.
- Traders and armies brought ideas and inventions from one region to another.
- Religions such as Christianity, Islam, and Buddhism linked large regions.

Silk Road and Other Trade Routes 400–1500

Tundra or ice Forest Grass Shrub or desert

Silk Road Other trade route

Sources of Trade Goods
- Frankincense
- Cotton
- Horses
- Glassware
- Spices
- Silk
- Wool
- Porcelain

From the 700s to the 1400s, the Arab world was the center of scientific discovery. Many advances were made in science and medicine, as shown by this text on the human eye.

The digits 0–9 that are used by people all over the world today are called Hindu-Arabic numerals. This system was developed in India over hundreds of years and then spread westward.
Stirrups, thought to have been developed in Central Asia, changed how horses were used in war. A rider seated in a saddle with stirrups was better able to use a weapon.

Chinese sailors were the first to use magnetic compasses. Unlike navigating by the stars, a compass could be used any time of day in any weather conditions and allowed for more accurate navigation.

Printing, invented in China, allowed many copies to be produced quickly, making information more widely available. Printing used paper, also invented in China, which was much cheaper than other writing materials.
French Revolution

French kings had complete power. By 1789, however, France was bankrupt and the French people wanted a new government.

- The people of Paris revolted and formed a new revolutionary government that took power away from the king.
- The new government promised freedom and equality to all people in France. By 1791 France was a republic.
- King Louis XVI plotted to overthrow the new government. Instead, the government overthrew the king, tried him for treason, and had him beheaded.

**SOCIAL STRUCTURE**
**Three Estates, 1789**

Each social class, called an estate, had one vote in the legislature, the Estates General. The king was not part of any estate.

The people of Paris were determined to protect their new government. Mobs seized weapons to prevent royal troops from arresting the revolutionaries.

The French Revolution began with the capture of the Bastille, a prison in Paris. Four years later the revolutionary government executed its enemies, including the king, queen, and nobles. This violent time is known as the “Reign of Terror.”

1792–1794 French nobles convince foreign kings to attack revolutionary France.

1793–1794 Revolutionsaries execute thousands who oppose the new government.

1792–1794 The revolutionary committees replace town councils.

1793–1794 Starving peasants throughout France seize the property of nobles.

1789 A Paris mob looking for weapons captures the Bastille.

1789 A Paris mob looking for weapons captures the Bastille.