6th SS LEAP Practice Workbook
Week 3

1. Complete each day's work.
Week 3 Day 1
Chapter 7
Ancient West African Kingdoms and Ancient China

Unit 2: Ancient Civilizations

Standard(s) Covered: 6.6.1, 6.2.1, 6.2.7, 6.2.8, 6.3.3, 6.3.4, 6.4.1, 6.4.2, 6.4.3, 6.6.3, 6.3.4
Key Term Activity at the end of the chapter

The Three Great West African Kingdoms
Although historians dispute the exact dates, it is generally believed that between 700 and 1700 CE, three great kingdoms—Ghana, Mali, and Songhai—took turns dominating West Africa. Let's look at these three kingdoms in detail.

Ghana
Ghana, also known as Wagadou, most likely gained power from its ability to dominate trans-Saharan trade, or trade across the Sahara Desert. Key to this domination was the introduction of the camel, which allowed the Ghanaian to transport goods more reliably across further distances in caravans, or large groups of merchants on camels. By approximately 700 CE, Ghanaian could transport salt and gold—both of which were plentiful in their kingdom and desired by other civilizations—to the Middle East and Europe. In exchange, Ghanaian received manufactured goods like textiles. They also charged taxes on both imports and exports. Thriving trade and taxation made Ghana wealthy, and the kingdom's rulers used this wealth to develop large urban centers. Merchants filled these urban centers, and much of what we know about Ghana's culture is the result of written records these merchants left behind.

While historians aren't positive, it seems that a single king ruled over Ghana from a central state, the capital of which was called Kumbi Saleh. He then delegated authority to lesser "kings" in neighboring regions. What is known, however, is that kingdom of Ghana was fairly stable politically. This political stability gave foreign merchants confidence that they could travel to Ghana and conduct business there safely. This inevitably led to cultural diffusion, or Ghanaian culture being spread to other civilizations. As the centuries progressed, Islam began to influence Ghanaian culture more and more until it became extremely prevalent with the arrival of the Almoravids, Muslims from North Africa, sometime in the eleventh century.

The kingdom of Ghana was eventually absorbed by the kingdom of Mali in the thirteenth century CE. It had probably, though, been declining for some time. Many historians blame this decline on the...
Almoravids disrupting Ghana's political power and the king's monopoly of trade, but with a shortage of primary sources on the topic, it is impossible to be sure.

**Mali**

In 1235 CE, **Sundiata**, an African tribal prince, defeated a powerful tribal king at the Battle of Kirina and claimed the title of **Mansa**, or emperor. Historians recognize this as the beginning of the dominance of the kingdom of **Mali** over much of West Africa.

Like Ghana, Mali derived its power from its ability to dominate trans-Saharan trade. Indeed, Mansa Sundiata found himself in a perfect location: he was both on the border of southern West Africa, which was rich in natural resources (especially gold), and on the border of prime trans-Saharan trade routes on which camel caravans could safely transport goods. Central to Malian trade was **Timbuktu**, a center of exchange on the Niger River in the northeastern corner of the kingdom of Mali. The Malian kings ensured it became one of the busiest trading towns in all of Africa. From Timbuktu, Malian merchants could send their gold, salt, and ivory north in exchange for European textiles, horses, and weapons. These horses and weapons would prove crucial in helping Malian Mansas keep control of their kingdom.

While Malian Mansas consulted advisors and an assembly of elders, they wielded unlimited power over the inner-workings of their kingdom, including trade. In this way, much of the wealth garnered via trade found its way back into the hands of the Mansas in the form of tribute and taxation, making them extraordinarily wealthy. Malian Mansas were so rich and in possession of such absolute authority that their subjects regarded them, if not as divine beings, then at least with a great deal of reverence and awe.

Ultimately, Malian Mansas were in such complete control of their kingdom that Mali's fortunes often depended on the personal qualities or flaws of the Mansa in charge at any given time. Mali most thrived under the rule of Mansa Musa. **Mansa Musa** employed a massive army, which included 10,000 horse soldiers, to double Malian territory. Finding himself in charge of vast territories, Mansa Musa divided his kingdom into four provinces, each ruled by a governor who reported directly to him. The wealth that poured back into Mali from the kingdom's new territories made Mansa Musa the richest of the Malian rulers.

While Islam had made its way to West Africa before Mansa Musa, it made a significant progress in Mali during his reign. In addition to making a pilgrimage to Mecca, Mansa Musa encouraged Muslim architects and thinkers to join him in Mali. Together, they built libraries, mosques, and schools, many of which still stand today. Malian culture reflected a unique blend of Islamic influence and ancient West African traditions. Historians owe much of their knowledge of this period in Malian history to **Ibn Battuta**, an Islamic Moroccan scholar who traveled widely during the fourteenth century and recorded his impressions of many civilizations of which little was known up to that point.
Historians consider the kingdom of Mali to have lost the majority of its power in 1468 when most of it was conquered by the kingdom of Songhai, but, in reality, its borders had been receding and its influence had been declining for some time before that. First and foremost, Mali fell victim to civil wars between royal family members vying for the crown, but it also suffered from increased economic competition as other civilizations developed new trade routes which threatened its commercial monopoly.

**Songhai**

Once dominated by Mali, under the leadership of **Sunni Ali**, the kingdom of **Songhai** managed to turn the tables in 1468. While Songhai rulers had been launching raids against Mali for years, Sunni Ali, with his large contingent of horse soldiers and navy capable of controlling the Niger River, led an extended military campaign that decimated the once-dominant Malians and toppled the local governments of many other territories. And while he was unable to gain control of the gold fields that had so enriched the Malian Mansas, Sunni Ali was able, like his Ghanaian and Malian predecessors, to dominate trans-Saharan trade. His merchants sent goods like salt and horses to the Sudan region in exchange for goods, including gold and ivory, and slaves. Like it was during Mali’s heyday, Timbuktu was at the center of Songhai’s thriving economy.

Politically, the kings of Songhai ruled over a realm that was much more centralized than Ghana or Mali had been. A multitude of ministers saw to every aspect of government and reported back to the king. Except for Sunni Ali, the greatest king of Songhai was **Askia Muhammad**. With a professional army at his back, Askia Muhammad extended his kingdom far to the southeast, where better trade routes and more natural resources were available. A wise ruler, Askia Muhammad established strong trading relationships with civilizations in Europe and Asia and increased the efficiency of his tax system. Perhaps most notably, Askia Muhammad’s policies encouraged the flourishing of Islamic thought, especially in Timbuktu. While Islam would never overtake traditional beliefs in popularity in the most remote regions of the Songhai kingdom, it did become a driving force behind much of the progress in urban areas.

Like Mali, Songhai fell largely due to internal strife between royal family members. Civil wars crippled the kingdom from within until the Moroccans swallowed it when they invaded in 1591. Still, the kingdom of Songhai had accomplished much in its relatively short existence: at its peak, it encompassed more territory than Ghana or Mali ever had.

**Practice 1: West African Kingdoms**

1. ___________ commanded a massive army and doubled Malian territory during his reign.
   A. Sunni Ali  
   B. Mansa Musa  
   C. Ibn Battuta  
   D. Askia Muhammad
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2. Ghanaian trade was successful because Ghana—(Select two correct answers.)
   A. dominated trans-Saharan trade routes.
   B. was ruled by wise Mansas.
   C. possessed a great deal of salt and gold.
   D. had its most important trading partners to its south.

3. _________________________ allowed Ghanaians to transport goods in caravans across long distances in the desert.
   A. Horses
   B. Ships
   C. Cultural diffusion
   D. Camels

4. In your opinion, which of the three great West African kingdoms was most significant? Use details from the text to support your answer.
Week 3 Day 2
Ancient China

The Dynasty Cycle

For most of its recorded history, China has been ruled by dynasties. A dynasty is simply a family of rulers in which power is handed down from one generation to the next. Chinese history is often thought of in terms of the dynastic cycle. According to theory of the dynastic cycle, all Chinese dynasties have run similar courses. A dynasty begins when a ruler receives the "Mandate of Heaven," or divine instructions to take power. Chinese civilization then flourishes under the new power and witnesses an increase in population until governmental corruption threatens its stability. Coupled with a natural disaster like a famine, this corruption leads to the dynasty in power losing the "Mandate of Heaven," which, in turn, leads to rebellions and civil war. This civil war reduces population until a new dynasty takes power and the cycle repeats itself. Ultimately, the dynastic cycle is a convenient theory that does seem broadly applicable to many Chinese dynasties. Still, every dynasty was unique, so it is important to evaluate each according to its individual qualities, achievements, and failures.

The Zhou, Qin, and Han Dynasties

Three of the most crucial dynasties in Chinese history were the Zhou, Qin, and Han dynasties. Let's take a look at each of these dynasties in detail.

Zhou Dynasty

In power from 1046 BCE-256 BCE, the Zhou Dynasty reigned longer than any other Chinese dynasty. It seized power when King Wu defeated the Shang Dynasty at the Battle of Muye in 1046 BCE. Invoking the "Mandate of Heaven," King Wu convinced many Chinese that the Shang Dynasty had lost divine favor and was destined to fall.
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Under the Zhou Dynasty, China was primarily an agricultural society directed by the government. In the dynasty's early days, a man's responsibility was usually determined by the status of the family into which he was born. The king appointed nobles to own the land, who, in turn, appointed peasants to farm it.

While the Zhou Dynasty technically ruled until 256 BCE, by 700 BCE, its power had dramatically declined. As civil war became more and more common in China, Zhou rulers could not afford to appoint ministers solely on the basis of their social class, and merit became a much more important factor in determining how far a person could rise in Chinese society. Out of economic necessity, trade, which had been almost nonexistent, began to flourish, and merchants often rose to a high social status.

Somewhat surprisingly, amidst this chaos of civil war and unclear lines of authority, art and philosophy triumphed like never before. The two most important philosophies to emerge from under the Zhou dynasty were Confucianism and Taoism.

Instead of focusing on gods or an afterlife, Confucianism is concerned with the here and now. Stressing that an appreciation of one's family and ancestors is essential, Confucianism emphasizes personal morality and harmony with one's surroundings. Ultimately, Confucianism promotes the idea that all people can reach lofty spiritual heights regardless of their social status or intelligence. While such a philosophy might not seem revolutionary today, in the time of the Zhou Dynasty, it was a new and radical way of viewing spirituality and the world. Confucianism is still a widely-practiced philosophy throughout the world.

Like Confucianism, Taoism promotes harmony with one's surroundings. Taoism differs from Confucianism, however, concerning the ideal attitude with which to approach life. While Taoism does not advocate immorality or irresponsibility, it does promote a somewhat carefree, "go-with-the-flow" attitude that is absent from Confucianism. If someone adhering to Confucianism is driven by moral responsibility, someone adhering to Taoism is driven by acceptance. The determination of Taoists to maintain a positive attitude probably helps explain why a great number of peasants in the time of the Zhou Dynasty adopted Taoism as their religion. Like Confucianism, Taoism is still widely-practiced and extremely influential throughout the world.

In 476 BCE, soon after the emergence of Confucianism and Taoism, China entered what became known as the Warring States Period. For more than 250 years, seven city-states would grapple for control of China. Near the end of this period, in 256 BCE, soldiers from the city-state of Qin killed the last Zhou king. The Zhou Dynasty had finally come to an end.

Qin Dynasty

Emerging as the winner of the Warring States Period, the Qin Dynasty took complete control of China in 221 BCE. At its helm was King Ying Zheng, who proclaimed himself Shi Huangdi, or “first emperor.” Shi Huangdi had no problem bucking tradition. Indeed, he ended the centuries-long civil wars by implementing total-war policies which leaders before him had considered off-limits.

Once in power, Shui Huangdi, determined not to make the same mistakes the Zhou Dynasty made, set about completely transforming Chinese society. Key to this transformation was his adoption of Legalism as the
driving force behind his government. **Legalism** sought to abandon the traditional ways in which power had been delegated in favor of putting the most capable people in positions of authority. It also demanded strict adherence to the law exactly as it was written.

Wealthy landowners had gained great power under the kings of the Zhou Dynasty to the point where many had become more powerful than the king himself. To avoid this happening under the Qin Dynasty, Shi Huangdi moved to crush the clout of the nobility. Instead of relying on subordinate landowners to delegate agricultural tasks to peasants, he formed a **bureaucracy**, or system of civil servants, that **collectivized agriculture**, or reorganized it under his central government. While still forced to work the land, Chinese peasants were serfs no longer.

Such reforms might seem enlightened, but Shi Huangdi’s policies—which focused so much on advancing the state—proved repressive to the individual. Convinced that ignorant citizens would be easier to control than educated ones, the Qin Dynasty burned mass quantities of books and executed many scholars. Ultimately, however, such drastic measures would prove in vain, as the people revolted and the Qin Dynasty fell only four years after Shi Huangdi’s death. Still, Shi Huangdi’s obsession with the state—and himself—left a lasting cultural legacy. To consolidate his power, Shi Huangdi ordered the construction of the

**Great Wall of China.** To protect himself in the afterlife, he ordered the construction of thousands of **terracotta soldiers**, clay models of military figures that were buried with him and went undiscovered until 1974. While completing these projects caused many Chinese to suffer greatly, it ensured that the Qin Dynasty—which reigned only 15 years—left a legacy that has lasted for millennia.

**Han Dynasty**

In 206 BCE, former peasant **Liu Bang** overthrew the Qin dynasty, defeated his rivals, and declared himself emperor of what became known as the Han Dynasty. Under the **Han Dynasty** (206 BCE-220 CE), China entered what historians refer to as a “golden age.”

The most effective ruler during the Han Dynasty, **Emperor Wu** managed to mix Legalist and Confucian principles to advance China to new heights. In the 54 years he reigned, Wu expanded China’s borders dramatically and centralized his own authority at the expense of smaller civilizations. He also standardized Chinese money and pursued diplomatic relations with civilizations to his west. Undoubtedly his most enduring contribution to Chinese society, though, was his development of the Silk Road. Not really one road, the **Silk Road** was a network of roads and

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**Terracotta Warriors**

**Extent of the Silk Road**

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sea passages that connected China with parts of the rest of Asia, East Africa, and even Europe. It derived its name from the fact that Chinese merchants made a fortune sending silk west along it. Wu's support of it ensured that the Chinese economy flourished under his reign.

Along with Chinese goods like silk, Chinese culture also traveled westward on the Silk Road. This cultural diffusion ensured that Chinese philosophy, religion, and technology had a telling effect on civilizations to China's west. While China's greatest technological innovations, like gunpowder and a system for printing, would come in later dynasties, the Han Dynasty saw the invention of the compass and paper.

But while Emperor Wu’s reign saw the Chinese economy thrive in general, it did not work equally well for all members of society. Specifically, there was a significant wealth disparity between the richest and poorest in society. After Wu's death, government measures to address this disparity were unsuccessful, and the commoners revolted. Ultimately, government ineffectiveness and corruption would lead to the downfall of the Han Dynasty in 220 CE. Still, the Han Dynasty was one of the longest and most influential dynasties in Chinese history.

Practice 2: Ancient Chinese Dynasties

1. Chinese rebels often employed _________________________ to justify themselves overthrowing the previous dynasty.
   A. Taoism
   B. Confucianism
   C. the Mandate of Heaven
   D. Legalism

2. _________________________ supported delegating authority to people of merit and defined an individual according to the role he or she could play for the state.
   A. Taoism
   B. Confucianism
   C. The Mandate of Heaven
   D. Legalism

3. Emperor Wu's greatest accomplishment was—
   A. development of the Silk Road.
   B. standardizing the system of money in China.
   C. building the Great Wall of China.
   D. ordering the creation of thousands of terracotta soldiers.
4. In your opinion, which of the three Chinese dynasties examined in this chapter was the greatest? Use evidence from the text to support your answer.

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**Activity: How Geography Influences History**

Use the maps and what you’ve learned in this chapter to answer the questions on your own paper.

1. Ghana, Mali, and Songhai were extremely successful civilizations, yet they never faced an invasion from Europeans to the north. Why do you suppose this was the case?

2. Mali and Songhai were successful kingdoms at least in part because they both dominated trans-Saharan trade. Why do you suppose Timbuktu became crucial to both of these kingdoms?

3. Shi Huangdi ordered the construction of the Great Wall of China in the late third century BCE. As you can tell from the map, though, the Great Wall did not extend all the way around the perimeter of China. Why did Shang Huangdi most likely order the Great Wall to be constructed where he did?

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**Activity: Understanding Economies**

Use what you’ve learned in this chapter, your knowledge of economics, and your critical thinking skills to answer the questions on your own paper.

1. The three most prominent ancient West African kingdoms were so successful largely because they dominated trans-Saharan trade. Why do you suppose people in these kingdoms were so eager to cross the Sahara Desert and trade with people from civilizations to their north?

2. In the context of ancient Chinese history, Legalism has a mixed legacy. On one hand, its dominance, at least in part, led to widespread poverty and, thus, the overthrow of the Qin Dynasty by peasants. On the other hand, when combined with Confucian principles, Legalism’s influence—again, at
least in part—led to economic growth under the Han Dynasty. Name one reason Legalism might discourage economic growth and one reason it might encourage economic growth.

3. Generally speaking, Emperor Wu’s dedication to developing the Silk Road helped the Chinese economy. Nevertheless, his reign saw an increase in the disparity between the richest and poorest people in China. Why do you suppose the development of the Silk Road contributed to this disparity?

Chapter 7 Key Term Activity

Fill in the blank with the correct word.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Word Bank</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Legalism</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Zhou</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ibn Battuta</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ghana</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Confucius</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Songhai</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Kara has been learning a lot about West African cultures this year. She knows that the first one to spring up was 1. ________________, it dominated trans-Saharan trade and sent its gold and ivory to far off places. After that, she knows that Mali rose up to dominate West Africa. She is especially thankful for 2. ________________, a scholar from Morocco who recorded much of what we know about the Malian civilization. Finally, Kara knows that the last great kingdom of West Africa was 3. ________________. Led by rulers like Sunni Ali and Askia Muhammad, this civilization saw Islam spread throughout its urban areas.

Micah, on the other hand, has been learning much about ancient Chinese dynasties. The longest-lasting one, he knows, was the 4. ________________ Dynasty, which eventually fell during the Warring States Period of Chinese history. When the Qin Dynasty replaced it, it promoted 5. ________________, a doctrine which promoted people according to their abilities and emphasized paying attention to the letter of the law. Ultimately, Micah knows that Emperor Wu of the Han Dynasty merged elements of this doctrine with the teaching of 6. ________________ to effectively govern China for 54 years.

Key terms are defined in the book’s glossary. Answers to Key Term Activities and chapter reviews are found in the Teacher’s Guide.
Week 3 Day 3
The Importance of Religion to Civilization

As you've learned, one characteristic of civilizations is their tendency to invent complex institutions. Religion most often refers to a set of beliefs that seek to explain the universe, give meaning to human existence, and prescribe a moral code governing human behavior. Because religion seeks to give order to society, it is a social institution. The religion most prevalent in a given society both helps define that society and reflects its most essential qualities. Religion has, for better and worse, shaped history. Let's look at five of the major religions of the world: Hinduism, Buddhism, Judaism, Christianity, and Islam.

Hinduism
Origins

Founded in the ancient Indus Valley civilization, Hinduism is probably the oldest of the world’s major religions. Historians date it back to around 3000 BCE, but it is difficult to put a precise date on Hinduism's origin because the religion probably emerged as a combination of the beliefs of many different tribes.

Beliefs

Unlike most other religions you'll study, Hinduism does not prescribe only one way to live or one god to worship. Instead, Hindus believe different people can take different paths to reach moksha, which can be defined as peace with oneself and the universe.

Hindus worship many different gods, including Brahma, Vishnu, and Shiva, each of which can represent the supreme being. Through worship, each Hindu seeks to unite his or her soul with the universal soul, or Brahman. A major goal of each
Hindu is to see his or her own soul reflected in the Brahman and understand the interconnectedness of all life forms.

Hinduism places a heavy emphasis on rebirth, although whether this is meant as literal reincarnation after death or only spiritual enlightenment is up for debate. The idea of rebirth goes hand-in-hand with the idea of karma, or the belief that one's future is the outcome of his or her previous actions. When people live according to dharma, or a moral and compassionate way of life, they can expect positive karma to follow.

Ultimately, Hinduism can be as simple or as complex as one wants it to be. At its core is the simple pursuit of inner peace, but it also includes numerous sects whose members interpret things differently, many gods, and various life philosophies. While there are dozens of sacred Hindu texts, if you want to become more familiar with Hinduism, consult the Vedas, which contain hymns, philosophy, and direction for the performance of Hindu rituals, or the Sutras, which are short statements that explain the tenets of Hinduism.

**Spread**

Hinduism never spread like other major world religions. This was for many reasons. One is that no forceful personality emerged to represent it, like the Buddha did for Buddhism and Jesus did for Christianity. Another is that since Hindus believe there are many paths to moksha, they do not feel compelled to force their religion on other people. Hinduism's wide range of beliefs and multitude of sacred religious texts also make it difficult for a new follower to familiarize himself or herself with the religion quickly. Above all, however, the geographical isolation of India stemmed the spread of Hinduism.

**Buddhism**

**Origins**

In the late six century BCE, a young Indian prince, Siddhartha Gautama, grew dissatisfied with his comfortable upbringing and luxurious surroundings. When he ventured out into the world, he quickly became aware of the vast prevalence of suffering. Siddhartha then determined to master suffering and achieve nirvana, or enlightenment. After immersing himself in meditation, he emerged as *the Buddha,* or "the Enlightened One." Immensely compassionate, the Buddha began teaching others how to achieve enlightenment. He attracted a great deal of followers, and the religion he started, Buddhism, would go on to be practiced by hundreds of millions of people.

**Beliefs**

Unlike Hinduism, Buddhism doesn't center around the worship of any gods. Like Hinduism, however, it does offer multiple paths on which someone can find enlightenment. Since it would be impossible to focus on every one here, let's stick to the two most important doctrines the Buddha taught: the Four Noble Truths and the Eight-Fold Path.
The Four Noble Truths

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Noble Truths</th>
<th>Summary</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>First Noble Truth</td>
<td>Suffering (dukkha) exists in life.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Second Noble Truth</td>
<td>The desire for pleasure and control is what causes suffering.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Third Noble Truth</td>
<td>Suffering ends when someone ends his or her identification with the desire for pleasure and control.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fourth Noble Truth</td>
<td>Nirvana (i.e., freedom from suffering) is attainable by following the Eight-Fold Path.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The Eight-Fold Path

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Path</th>
<th>Summary</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1. Right Understanding</td>
<td>People should accept that the Four Noble Truths explain things the way they are.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2. Right Intention</td>
<td>People should detach themselves from desire and practice compassion.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3. Right Speech</td>
<td>People should not lie, slander others, or gossip.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4. Right Action</td>
<td>People should behave morally.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5. Right Livelihood</td>
<td>People should earn a living through conduct that that reflects right action.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6. Right Effort</td>
<td>People should try to eliminate thoughts that prevent them from attaining nirvana.</td>
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<tr>
<td>7. Right Mindfulness</td>
<td>People should pay close attention to their bodily sensations and mental processes.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8. Right Concentration</td>
<td>People should meditate to transcend both suffering and the temporary happiness which can lead to it.</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

Finally, you should also be aware that, along with the Four Noble Truths and the Eight-Fold Path, the Buddha advocated taking the “Middle Way.” “The Middle Way” rejects both indulging in worldly pleasure and extreme self-denial. In other words, one should be comfortable enough to avoid physical suffering as much as possible, but one should not be so comfortable that he or she becomes too lazy or content to seek nirvana.

Spread

Inspired by the Buddha’s personal example, many of his disciples set about sharing the faith after his death in 483 BCE. Still, Buddhism struggled to emerge from under Hinduism’s long shadow in India. In the third century BCE, however, all that changed when an Indian king named Ashoka, troubled by the human cost of warfare, converted to Buddhism and promoted its spread. Soon, Buddhism emerged in places like China and Japan. More foreign rulers adopted the religion, and by the tenth century CE, most Buddhists lived outside India. The Silk Road, which you have already read about, proved instrumental in spreading Buddhism west from China.
Practice 1: Hinduism and Buddhism

1. ___________________________ can be defined as the Hindu concept of peace with oneself and the universe.
   A. Nirvana
   B. Right Effort
   C. Moksha
   D. Dharma

2. Hindu texts that contain hymns, philosophies, and rituals are known as the—
   A. Four Noble Truths.
   B. Vedas.
   C. Sutras.
   D. Eight-Fold Path.

3. Instead of advocating strict self-denial or overindulgence in worldly pleasures, the Buddha's concept of the ___________________________ urges people to live in moderation.
   A. Middle Way
   B. Four Noble Truths
   C. Vedas
   D. Eight-Fold Path

4. Why was Siddhartha Gautama called the Buddha?

Judaism

Origins

Amidst the many polytheistic religions, or religions with many gods, that arose in what is known today as the Middle East, there arose one monotheistic religion (religion with only one god). This became known as Judaism, and it stood in stark contrast to the religions that had come before it. While many historians only trace Judaism back as far as the seventh century BCE, devout Jews, or people who practice Judaism, trace it back much further. According to the Hebrew Bible, also known as the Torah (or by Christians as the Old Testament), God revealed himself to a man named Abraham, perhaps as early as 3000 BCE. Under instructions from God, Abraham left the city of Ur in modern-day Iraq and settled in Canaan, or what is now Israel. This became known as the "Promised Land," since God had promised it to Abraham and his descendants.
Week 3 Day 4
Beliefs

Judaism teaches that there is only one god. God created the universe and governs human affairs. While the Torah and Talmud (another collection of essential Jewish texts) each contain many laws regulating Jews' behavior, none are more important than the Ten Commandments listed in the Torah's Book of Exodus.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Commandment</th>
<th>Summary</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>First Commandment</td>
<td>You should have no other gods before the one true God.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Second Commandment</td>
<td>You should not create idols to worship.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Third Commandment</td>
<td>You should not use God's name profanely.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Fourth Commandment</td>
<td>You should commemorate the Sabbath Day.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Fifth Commandment</td>
<td>You should show deference and respect to your parents.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sixth Commandment</td>
<td>You should not murder.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Seventh Commandment</td>
<td>You should not commit adultery.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Eighth Commandment</td>
<td>You should not steal.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ninth Commandment</td>
<td>You should not lie.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tenth Commandment</td>
<td>You should not selfishly desire that which belongs to someone else.</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

Jews believe they are God's chosen people. They see it as their responsibility to improve the world and bring others closer to God. Finally, they believe in the Messiah, a term which references someone who will come to Earth to save mankind. While Christians believe the Messiah was Jesus, Jews still patiently await the Messiah's arrival.

Spread

The tale of the spread of Judaism is perhaps longer and more fascinating than the story of the spread of any other of the world's major religions. With the historical record far from clear, we have to rely on the Bible for much of the story. According to the Book of Genesis, a man named Joseph was sold into Egyptian slavery by his jealous brothers. Joseph soon, however, rose high in the Egyptian government, and his family arrived to share in his success. After centuries passed, though, the Jews were no longer welcome in Egypt and found themselves enslaved. Sometime between 1500 and 1000 BCE—again, according to the Bible—a prophet named Moses delivered the Jews from slavery in Egypt during the exodus, or time of leaving. After forty years of wandering in the desert, they returned to settle in the promised land of Canaan.

Beginning around 1050 BCE, three kings had a major impact on cementing the Jewish faith in Israel. The first king of Israel was Saul. A warrior, he united the Jewish tribes and defeated many non-Jewish tribes. According to the Bible, after Saul fell out of favor with God, God chose David to replace him.
A warrior like Saul, David established the capital of Israel in Jerusalem. After David's death, his son Solomon, known as an extremely wise man, built the First Temple in Jerusalem.

Throughout history, the Jews have been notoriously persecuted. Ironically, however, this persecution has only encouraged Judaism to spread further as Jews have sought new lands in which to safely practice their religion. The Jewish Diaspora, or the relocation of Jews throughout foreign lands, first began in the eighth century BCE when the Assyrians conquered the Northern Kingdom of Israel, enslaved many of its inhabitants, and took them home. It continued in the sixth century BCE when the Babylonians conquered the Southern Kingdom of Israel, or Judah, and claimed many of its inhabitants as slaves. Although enslaved, these Jews were persistent and determined not to abandon their faith. The result was that instead of vanishing, Judaism spread to new parts of the globe. It would continue to spread as the persecution continued throughout the centuries.

Christianity
Origins

While the historical record is not exactly clear, it seems that around 30 CE, a young Jewish teacher emerged from humble beginnings to become perhaps the most influential social and religious reformer the world has ever seen. Known as Jesus of Nazareth—or to Christians as Jesus Christ—this man would revolutionize the way many people thought about life and God and ultimately lay the foundation for the religion that has had far and away the greatest impact on Western civilization—Christianity.

No one can be sure if Jesus merely sought to reform Judaism, which he thought had been corrupted, or invent an entirely new faith. Some historians also suspect that when Jesus talked about his "kingdom," instead of referencing a heavenly place, he was suggesting that he would overthrow Israel's Roman overlords. A major reason for this uncertainty was Jesus' tendency to teach by way of metaphors. For example, according to the Bible, Christians' holy book, Jesus once told his disciples, "I came not to bring peace, but the sword." This could, of course, mean that Jesus wanted to violently overthrow the Roman and/or Jewish government(s), or it could mean that Jesus simply wanted to upset the established order by promoting a new way of thinking.

Whatever Jesus meant, he did indeed upset the established order to the point that he incited violent retaliation from Rome. This was during Pax Romana, and the Romans would tolerate no threat to their complete domination of their empire. According to the Bible, only three years after Jesus began teaching, they tortured and crucified Jesus near Jerusalem for proclaiming himself "King of the Jews."
Rome's efforts to silence Jesus, however, had the opposite of the intended effect. Christians believe Jesus was raised from the dead three days after his crucifixion and showed himself to many of his followers before ascending to heaven after forty days. But while that is a matter of faith, even non-believers must admit that Jesus' message would soon spread like wildfire through the Roman Empire.

**Beliefs**

But what was Jesus' message? Well, while Jesus did say he came to bring "the sword," it was largely one of peace and love. Jesus famously preached the **Golden Rule,** which urges people to love their neighbors as much as they love themselves. Jesus also preached the **Beatitudes.**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>The Beatitudes (from Matthew 5:3-12)</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1. Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.</td>
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<td>2. Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted.</td>
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<td>3. Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the earth.</td>
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<td>4. Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be filled.</td>
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<tr>
<td>5. Blessed are the merciful, for they will be shown mercy.</td>
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<tr>
<td>6. Blessed are the pure in heart, for they will see God.</td>
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<tr>
<td>7. Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8. Blessed are those who are persecuted because of righteousness, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Finally, Jesus also preached that the only way to know God was to know him first. "I am the way, the truth, and the life," he proclaimed. "No one comes to the father except through me." While some people interpret "the father," in this instance, to be a metaphor for enlightenment, most Christians believe that the only way to achieve eternal life in heaven is to form a personal relationship with Jesus Christ.

**Spread**

Almost immediately after Jesus' death, his disciples began to share his message. It took the Apostle Paul, however, for Christianity to really take off. A Jewish Roman citizen and a former persecutor of Christians, according to the Bible, Paul was blinded by a light on the road to Damascus and saw a vision of Jesus. Paul then abruptly stopped arresting Christians and became their greatest ambassador. Paul's letters, which make up much of the **New Testament,** show that Christianity had reached places as far away as Greece in the years after Jesus' crucifixion.

Paul Writing his Letters

Ultimately, however, Paul and most of Jesus' original disciples were executed by the Romans, who considered them troublemakers and subversive to Rome's authority. Still, despite persecution by the Romans, Christianity continued to expand in the Roman Empire. Christianity's rise culminated in 312 CE, when, inspired by a vision, the Roman Emperor **Constantine** ordered his soldiers to paint a Christian inscription on their shields before the Battle of Milvian Bridge in Rome. Constantine won the battle, and, ironically, the faith the Romans had killed Jesus to suppress became the official religion of their empire. With Rome's support, Christianity would come to dominate Europe as it gradually spread to other parts of the globe.
4. After fleeing in the *hijra* to Medina, Muhammad returned to the city of ________________ in 630 CE and conquered it.
   A. Jerusalem
   B. Ur
   C. Rome
   D. Mecca

5. Judaism, Christianity, and Islam are all monotheistic religions, but they are also very different. Using information from the text, name one aspect unique to each of these religions and explain why it is unique.

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**Activity: How Geography Influences History**

Use the maps and what you've learned in this chapter to answer the questions on your own paper.

1. Above all, India's geographic isolation stemmed the spread of Hinduism. What specific natural geographic features discouraged Hinduism's spread? Which of these features do you consider most influential in containing Hinduism?

   ![Map of the Indian Ocean and South Asia](image.jpg)

   *The Paths of the Jewish Diaspora from 587 BCE to 300 CE*

2. As you can see, Jews migrated after the beginning of the Common Era. They spread mostly to the northwest. Why did the Jews most likely spread primarily in this direction during this time?
3. As you can see, in the century after the death of Muhammad, Islam spread a long distance in a relatively short amount of time. It spread, however, mostly from east and west from Mecca instead of north and south. What factors do you suppose prevented Islam from spreading north deep into Europe or south deep into Africa?

Chapter 8 Key Term Activity

Fill in the blank with the correct word.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Word Bank</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Judaism</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Paul</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Medina</td>
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<tr>
<td>Hinduism</td>
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<tr>
<td>Torah</td>
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<tr>
<td>Christianity</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

Erin is writing a report on five of the world’s major religions. She knows that most historians consider
1. __________________ to be the oldest. It was probably formed from a combination of tribal religions in India. The next oldest is probably 2. __________________. It originated when, according to believers, a man named Abraham received a promise from God. Erin knows that people who practice this religion prize the 3. __________________, or Hebrew Bible, above all other religious texts. Originally an offshoot of that religion, 4. __________________ was made the official religion of Rome in 312 CE and went on to become the most prominent religion in Western civilization. In its infancy, a man named 5. __________________ helped it spread. Finally, Erin knows that the prophet Muhammad gave rise to Islam in the 7th century CE. Although he was forced to flee to 6. __________________, he eventually returned to his home city of Mecca and conquered it.

Key terms are defined in the book’s glossary. Answers to Key Term Activities and chapter reviews are found in the Teacher’s Guide.
Week 3 Day 5
Chapter 9
The Middle Ages

Unit 3: The Middle Ages and the Renaissance
Standard(s) Covered: 6.1.1, 6.2.9, 6.3.3, 6.3.4, 6.4.2, 6.4.3, 6.6.3
Key Term Activity at the end of the chapter

The Rise of Feudalism
At its height, the Roman Empire had exercised an incredible amount of power. Besides signaling the beginning of what historians call the Middle Ages (476-1453), the fall of its western half in the fifth century CE left a giant power vacuum in Western Europe. While many Germanic tribes carved out kingdoms, Western Europe was not close to being reunited until Charlemagne, or Charles the Great, conquered a great deal of it.

Crowned “Emperor of the Romans” by the Pope in 800 CE, Charlemagne began restoring law and order to Western Europe. When his empire soon dissolved after his death in 814, it left Western Europeans craving a more permanent system to provide stability and protection from foreign invaders.

With no one civilization poised to dominate all the rest, Western Europe turned to feudalism. Feudalism (also known as the manor system, since lords’ castles or great houses were called manors) was a system of decentralized authority. In other words, no one great king or emperor held all the power. Instead, the king or queen of a certain nation would designate land and authority to go to nobles, or lords, who dominated territories within that nation.

Lords then granted some of their own territories, known as fiefs, to vassals. Vassals were free men who, in exchange for loyalty and military service, managed portions of their lords’ lands and enjoyed their lords’ protection. Lords and wealthy vassals often became knights, or armored warriors on horseback.
vaults for support. Massive stone walls and high towers are distinctive features of the architecture of this period.

The second period, between 1200 and 1500, saw the dominance of Gothic architecture. **Gothic architecture** differed from Romanesque architecture in that it used pointed arches, rib vaults, and flying buttresses for support. Gothic architects also decorated their buildings in memorable ways. Gothic architecture is famous especially for its stained-glass windows and gargoyles. Perhaps the most famous example of a building constructed in this style is Notre-Dame de Paris. Built in the fourteenth century, it was recently severely damaged by a fire.

**Towns and Cities in Medieval Europe**

Architects designed cathedrals to go in towns and cities. Many of these **towns and cities**, like London and Paris, would grow into large urban centers that still exist today. In the Middle Ages, though, these towns and cities were much smaller than they are today. London, for example, currently has approximately eight million inhabitants; the most it ever had in the Middle Ages was about 100,000. Many towns and cities were constructed inside walls for protection from outside invasion. Life in these urban centers was crowded and dirty, space was at a premium, and houses were built in tight clusters which often burned down.

**The Commercial Revolution**

Above all, thriving trade—part of what became known as the **Commercial Revolution**—led to the founding and growth of many towns and cities. It is no coincidence that many towns and cities were founded at the intersections of major road networks or on rivers where trade prospered. **Merchants** would exchange all sorts of goods to and from faraway places. For example, Italian trading ships would transport luxuries like silk from eastern civilizations to England or northern France. In exchange, they would take natural resources like coal and timber back with them. In the process, merchants often raked in huge profits.

As the Middle Ages progressed and trade became more sophisticated, merchants looked to **money** as a more efficient medium of exchange. In the thirteenth century, the Italian city of Florence began to mint gold coins. With the rise of money came the rise of **banks**, institutions which would lend money for **interest**. Although risky, banking allowed many merchants to grow rich and powerful.

In addition to merchants, **artisans** and **skilled craftsmen** emerged in towns and cities. They often joined **guilds**. A **guild** was an organization of skilled workers who specialized in a specific craft. For instance, all the shoemakers in one city might join a shoemaker’s guild. The purpose of the guild was to control prices and wages and ensure that all products met a high standard of quality. Artisans paid dues to guilds, which, in turn, assured that the artisans received fair market value for the goods they created. Guilds became immensely powerful during the Middle Ages. Because they could ensure better prices for their members and better products for the public at large, they could often form local monopolies in the production of certain goods.
Practice 2: Cities and Towns in Medieval Europe and the Commercial Revolution

1. Name two distinctive features of Romanesque architecture.

2. Cities in the Middle Ages were generally _________________ towns and cities in Europe today.
   A. bigger than
   B. smaller than
   C. the same size as
   D. wealthier than

3. __________________ exchanged all sorts of goods in towns and cities and often made huge profits.
   A. Merchants
   B.Artisans
   C. Guilds
   D. Skilled craftsmen

4. Pretend you're living in a city in the Middle Ages. Name one advantage of buying a shoe from a shoemaker's guild.

5. How were towns in medieval Europe different from towns today? Select three correct answers.
   A. Medieval towns often had walls around them, while towns today do not.
   B. There were no streetlights in medieval towns, while there are streetlights in most towns today.
   C. Streets in medieval towns were wider than streets in towns are today.
   D. Pigs were allowed to roam the streets in medieval towns, while pigs are usually not allowed to roam the streets in towns today.
   E. Medieval towns had schools for both girls and boys, while towns today usually only have schools for boys.
signing in 1215, was a document placing limits on the power of English monarchs. It is impossible to imagine Roman senators forcing Caesar Augustus to sign such a document in the first century. It is just as impossible to imagine English nobles forcing Henry VIII to sign such a document in the sixteenth century. In 1215, however, English government was decentralized to the point that kings needed the loyalty of their nobles to retain any authority whatsoever.

While the Magna Carta principally protected the wealthy and privileged in society other than the king—i.e., the lords—by establishing Parliament and a constitutional monarchy, or monarchy with limited powers, it did also set something of a precedent for democratic tradition. At least at this point in English history, the king was not free to do whatever he wanted. Ultimately, the Magna Carta laid the groundwork for the rule of law in many future governments, including the government of the US.

The Crusades

No saga better emphasizes the power of the Catholic Church than the Crusades, or religious wars fought between Christians and Muslims for control of holy sites between 1096 and 1291. In 1095, at the Council of Clermont, Pope Urban II instructed Catholic knights to invade the Holy Land. Ruled at that time by Muslims, the Holy Land contained Jerusalem, a city sacred to Jews, Christians, and Muslims alike. Urban II promised that all people who took part in this holy war would be forgiven of their sins. Ultimately, however, the motivations of the Crusaders were many. Some fought out of genuine religious conviction, while others fought to extend their wealth and power. Some, as trained knights with no one to fight at home, fought out of boredom. However, most probably fought for a combination of all these reasons.

The First Crusade, also known as the Prince's Crusade, set out in 1096. It immediately followed the disastrous "People's Crusade," a popular movement which had led to the slaughter of perhaps 20,000 mostly German peasants. Either way, the First Crusade was well-conceived and wildly successful, culminating with the seizure of Jerusalem in 1099.

In 1144, Muslims recaptured the city of Edessa in Mesopotamia, prompting Pope Eugenius III to call for the Second Crusade. The Second Crusade was as disastrous as the first one had been successful. Muslim armies defeated two