

Section 3

Trade Networks of Asia and Africa

Key Events

1095

The Pope calls for the crusades to begin.

1200s

The African kingdom of Mali rises.

1400s

The Aztecs conquer most of Mexico.

1500s

The Iroquois League is formed.

✓ Checkpoint

Name the religion that conquest and trade helped spread to North Africa, Spain, Persia, and India.

Section 3 Focus Question

How did trade link Europe, Africa, and Asia? To begin answering this question,

- Read about the role played by Muslims in world trade.
- Understand how trading centers rose in East and West Africa.
- Find out how China dominated the Silk Road, an important trade route across Asia.

Section 3 Summary

The rise of trade linked people in Asia, Africa, and Europe. As trade networks developed in East and West Africa, they helped spread the religion of Islam. China dominated trade between East Asia and the Middle East.

The Muslim Link in Trade

By the 1500s, a complex trade network linked Europe, Africa, and Asia, much of it passing through the Arabian Peninsula. Ships from China and India brought spices, silks, and gems to Red Sea ports, from where they were taken overland to the Middle East.

Trade helped the rise of Islam. This religion emerged in the Arabian Peninsula in the A.D. 600s from the prophet Muhammad. He taught that there is one true God. Followers of Islam, called Muslims, believed that the Quran, the sacred book of Islam, contained the word of God as revealed to Muhammad. Arab armies spread Islam through conquest to North Africa and Spain. Muslim merchants also introduced the religion far into Africa's interior and to Persia and India, where millions of people converted, or changed from one religion to another.

Arab scholars made important contributions to learning and technology. They helped develop algebra and made other contributions in mathematics, medicine, and astronomy. They improved ship technology by introducing large, triangular sails that caught the wind even if it changed direction. ✓

The African Link in Trade

As early as 3100 B.C., Egyptians established trade routes throughout the eastern Mediterranean Sea and the Red Sea to bring home cedar logs, silver, and horses. They also traded for ivory, spices, copper, and cattle from south of Egypt.

Trade centers developed in East Africa about 1000 B.C. By the 1400s, Zimbabwe had become powerful from its location on the trade route between Africa's east coast and the interior. Traders paid taxes on goods passing through it. Coastal cities, such as

Kilwa, prospered as traders exchanged cloth, pottery, and other goods for gold and ivory from Africa's interior. A slave trade also developed between East Africa and Asia across the Indian Ocean.

Trade was not limited to eastern Africa, however. Desert nomads from the Middle East crossed the Sahara with camel caravans to reach West Africa. Ghana, the first major trade center in West Africa, was affluent because of its location between salt mines and gold fields. War and changing trade routes gradually weakened the kingdom. In the 1200s, Ghana was absorbed into the empire of Mali, ruled by Mansa Musa. A Muslim, Mansa Musa turned Mali's great city of Timbuktu into a center of Islamic learning. Mali declined in the 1400s under a series of weak rulers. Timbuktu was captured by the Songhai in 1468. Like Ghana and Mali, Songhai flourished from the salt, gold, and slave trades. ✓

The East Asian Link in Trade

Unified in 221 B.C., China's empire expanded across Asia, linked by highways, canals, and a postal system. As China's borders grew, so did its trade. This was made possible by advances in navigation, the science of locating the position and plotting the course of ships, and inventions like the magnetic compass. The compass allowed sailors to lose sight of land and still bring the ship back home.

By the 1300s, Chinese traders used sea routes extending from Japan to East Africa. The Chinese explorer **Zheng He** visited 30 nations in Asia and Africa with his fleet of giant ships. A famous trade route on land was the Silk Road. It was not really one road but a 5,000-mile series of routes stretching from Xian, in China, to Persia. Silks, spices, bronze goods, and pottery flowed west from China on this route. Merchants carried these goods across Asia to markets in the Middle East and Europe. ✓

Check Your Progress

1. What bodies of water provided trade routes between Asia, Africa, and Europe?

2. What was the Silk Road?

Vocabulary Builder

In the underlined sentence, the word *affluent* means "having an abundance of material wealth." List three synonyms for *affluent*.

✓ Checkpoint

Name the major trade centers of East and West Africa.

East Africa: _____

West Africa: _____

✓ Checkpoint

Name the invention that improved China's navigation.

Section 3 Notetaking Study Guide

Question to Think About As you read Section 3 in your textbook and take notes, keep this section focus question in mind: **How did trade link Europe, Africa, and Asia?**

► Use this chart to record key information from the section. Some information has been filled in to get you started.

Trade Networks	
The Muslim Link in Trade	
<p>By the 1500s, a complex trade network linked <u>Asia</u>, _____, and _____.</p> <p>Much of this trade passed through the _____ Peninsula in the Middle East. There, the religion of _____ emerged in the A.D. 600s through the prophet _____.</p> <p>Islam spread rapidly through _____ and trade.</p> <p>Arab scholars made remarkable contributions to mathematics, _____, and _____. Ship technology included large, triangular _____.</p>	
The African Link in Trade	
East Africa	
<p>The most powerful trade center in eastern Africa in the 1400s was _____.</p> <p>The coastal city of _____ exchanged cloth, _____, and manufactured goods for gold, _____, and furs from Africa's interior.</p> <p>The slave trade also developed between East Africa and Asia across the _____.</p>	
West Africa	
<p>Trade linked the _____ and West Africa. Desert nomads guided _____ across the Sahara.</p> <p>_____ was the first major trade center in West Africa.</p> <p>The trade in _____ and _____ made West African rulers rich.</p> <p>Under Mansa Musa, Mali's great city of _____ became a center of learning.</p> <p>The third of the great West African trading empires was _____.</p>	
The East Asian Link in Trade	
<p>_____ had a higher level of technology than any other civilization of the time.</p> <p>The invention of the _____ allowed ships to lose sight of land and still return home safely.</p> <p>The explorer _____ visited _____ nations throughout Asia and Africa.</p> <p>The <u>Silk Road</u> was not one _____, but _____.</p> <p>Goods such as _____, _____, <u>pottery</u>, and _____ flowed west from China to Middle Eastern and _____ markets.</p>	

Refer to this page to answer the Chapter 1 Focus Question on page 15.