MAKING CONNECTIONS

How does architecture record history?

Angkor Wat is a symbol of Cambodia and appears on its flag. First built by the Khmer as a Hindu temple, it has served as a Buddhist shrine since the fourteenth century. Although most of the walls have carvings of Hindu stories, there are images of the Buddha. In this chapter you will learn about the changes in the Asian world.

• How does the architecture in your city or state relate to its history?
• Which structures have been changed based on their use?

ASIA

Section 1 China Reunified
Section 2 The Mongols and China
Section 3 Early Japan and Korea
Section 4 India After the Guptas
Section 5 Civilization in Southeast Asia

THE WORLD

500 Silk Road trade flourishes during Tang dynasty
700 Jayavarman II unites Khmer of Angkor
900 Chinese invent movable type

262

Werner Forman/Art Resource, NY, Stuart Dee/Getty Images
### Chapter Overview
Visit glencoe.com to preview Chapter 8.

**1192**
Minamoto Yoritomo establishes Kamakura shogunate

**1206**
Mongols elect Temüjin Genghis Khan

**1300**
Mansa Musa begins Timbuktu mosque

**1325**

**Identifying** Create a four-tab book to record Who, What, When, and Where facts while you read about Kublai Khan or Genghis Khan.

**History ONLINE**
Chapter Overview—Visit glencoe.com to preview Chapter 8.
In 581 the Sui dynasty succeeded in unifying China for the first time in hundreds of years. Over the next several centuries, with only a brief period of disorder in the 900s, a series of three dynasties would bring progress and stability to China. During this period, China would invent block printing and gunpowder, participate in increased foreign trade, and reinstitute a merit-based system of civil service.

Three Dynasties

The Sui, Tang, and Song dynasties restored peace to China in between periods of chaos and disorder.

HISTORY & YOU Do you know what tests are required to qualify for government jobs in the United States? Learn about merit-based civil service in early China.

The Han dynasty is considered to have set the standard for the Chinese dynasties that followed. In fact, the Chinese word for someone who is Chinese means “a man of Han.”

The Sui Dynasty

The Han dynasty came to an end in 220, and China fell into chaos. For the next three hundred years, the Chinese suffered through disorder and civil war. Then, in 581, a new Chinese empire was set up under a dynasty known as the Sui (SWAY). The Sui dynasty (581–618) did not last long, but it managed to unify China once again under the emperor’s authority.

Sui Yangdi, the second emperor of the dynasty, completed the Grand Canal, built to link the two great rivers of China, the Huang He (Yellow River) and the Chang Jiang (Yangtze River). Both rivers flowed from west to east. The new canal linked north and south, making it easier to ship rice from the south to the north.

Sui Yangdi was a cruel ruler. He used forced labor to build the Grand Canal, which he used to keep an eye on his empire. This practice, together with high taxes, his extravagant and luxurious lifestyle, and military failures, caused a rebellion. The emperor was murdered, and his dynasty came to an end.

The Tang Dynasty

A new dynasty, the Tang (TAHNG), soon emerged. It would last for nearly three hundred years, from 618 until 907. The early Tang rulers began their reigns by instituting reforms, as rulers often did in the early days of new dynasties. They tried to create a more...
stable economy by giving land to the peasants and breaking up the power of the owners of the large estates. They also restored the civil service examination from earlier times to serve as the chief method of recruiting officials for the civilian bureaucracy.

The civil service examination tested a student’s grasp of Confucian principles. Young men who were preparing to take the examination memorized all of the Confucian classics. During their studies, they had little free time for recreation and were forbidden to take part in any strenuous physical activities. They were taught never to use their hands except for painting or writing. Even after many years of education, only about one in five students managed to pass the examination and receive a position in the civil service.

Tang rulers worked hard to restore the power of China in East Asia. They brought peace to northwestern China and expanded their control to the borders of Tibet, an area north of the Himalaya. China claimed to be the greatest power in East Asia. Neighboring states, including Korea, offered tribute to China. The Chinese imperial court also set up trade and diplomatic relations with the states of Southeast Asia.

Like the Han, however, the Tang sowed the seeds of their own destruction. Tang rulers were unable to prevent plotting and government corruption. One emperor was especially unfortunate.

Emperor Tang Xuanzang (SHWAHN•DZAHNG) is remembered for his devotion to a commoner’s daughter, Yang Guiféi. To entertain her, he kept hundreds of dancers and musicians at court.
He also ordered riders to travel thousands of miles to bring her fresh fruit.

Finally, the emperor’s favorite general led a bloody revolt. The army demanded that someone be held accountable for the war and strife in the country. For this reason the emperor invited his true love to hang herself from a nearby tree, although it is said that for the rest of his life, the emperor “washed his face everyday with a fountain of tears.”

During the eighth century, the Tang dynasty weakened and became prey to rebellions. Tang rulers hired Uighurs (WEE•gurz), a northern tribal group of Turkic-speaking people, to fight for the dynasty. Continued unrest, however, led to the collapse of Tang rule in 907.

### The Song Dynasty

In 960 a new dynasty known as the Song (SUNG) rose to power. The Song ruled during a period of economic prosperity and cultural achievement, from 960 to 1279. From the start, however, the Song also experienced problems, especially from northern neighbors. These groups crossed into northern China and occupied large parts of Chinese territory. Because of this threat, Song rulers were forced to move the imperial court farther south to **Hangzhou** (HAHNG•JOH), on the coast just south of the Chang Jiang river delta. The Song also lost control over Tibet.

The Song dynasty could never overcome the challenge from the north. During the 1200s, the Mongols—a nomadic people from the Gobi—carried out wars of conquest and built a vast empire. Within 70 years, they controlled all of China. The Song had formed a definitive alliance with the Mongols. As we shall see, however, the Mongols overthrew the Song and created a new Mongol dynasty in China.

**Reading Check**

Contrasting How did the Tang and Sui rulers differ?
Government and Economy

For 700 years, the Chinese economy grew in size and sophistication.

HISTORY & YOU Would you be able to survive as a farmer? Learn about the lives of peasants during the Song dynasty and the Han dynasty.

The era from the beginning of the Sui dynasty to the end of the Song dynasty lasted nearly 700 years. During that period, a mature political system based on principles first put into practice during the Qin and Han dynasties gradually emerged in China. As in the Han era, China was a monarchy that employed a relatively large bureaucracy. Confucian ideals were still the cement that held the system together.

During the long period between the Sui and Song dynasties, the Chinese economy grew in size and complexity. Agriculture flourished, and manufacturing and trade grew dramatically.

China was still primarily a farming society. In the long period of civil war, aristocratic families had taken control of most of the land, and the majority of peasants had become serfs or slaves. The Song government, however, worked to weaken the power of the large landholders and help poor peasants obtain their own land. These reform efforts and improved farming techniques led to an abundance of food.

In Chinese cities, technological developments added new products and stimulated trade. During the Tang dynasty, for example, the Chinese began to make steel by mixing cast iron and wrought iron in a blast furnace, which was heated by the burning of coal. The steel was then used to make swords and sickles. The introduction of cotton made it possible to make new kinds of clothes.

Another Chinese innovation, gunpowder, was created during the Tang dynasty.

1. Summarizing What pattern is shown by the rise and fall of the dynasties between 581 and 1279?
2. Making Inferences Why did generals play such a large role in the formation of these dynasties?
One of the most famous women of the Tang dynasty is Empress Wu. Born Wu Zhao, she became mistress to the emperor in 649. She so longed for power that she accused the empress of a crime. The emperor deposed his wife and chose Wu Zhao as his new empress. After his death she gained supreme power. Known for her ruthlessness, she was also a strong leader. She was the first ruler to give graduates of the civil service examinations the highest government positions. She also formed an alliance with Korea and lowered taxes.

Most women, however, had few rights and privileges during the Tang dynasty. Women were allowed to join in sports such as horseback riding and polo, and activities such as dancing and playing music. Most marriages were arranged, and a woman was permitted to marry only once in her lifetime.

During the Song dynasty, the practice of foot binding became popular among upper-class women. Foot binding, which made feet unnaturally small, permanently deformed women’s feet, caused great pain, and often made women unable to stand or walk without assistance. A woman’s willingness to bind her feet was considered a sign of her virtue. On the other hand, two-thirds of aristocratic women in the Song dynasty were literate and well-educated. Some women benefited from new inheritance rights. If there was no male heir, the estate could pass to a woman in the family.

Trade with regions near China also increased during the Tang and Song dynasties. The Chinese exported tea, silk, and porcelain to the countries beyond the South China Sea. In return, they received exotic woods, precious stones, and various tropical goods. As a result of trade, Changan (modern-day Xi’an), with a population estimated at two million, became the wealthiest city in the world during the Tang era.

**Reading Check** Comparing In what ways did trade improve during the time between the Sui and Song dynasties?
Chinese Society

The political stability established by the three dynasties allowed Chinese society to grow in complexity.

HISTORY & YOU How does the status of women today compare with the status of women in early China? Read about Chinese society and the status of women.

Economic changes had an impact on Chinese society. For wealthier city dwellers, the Tang and Song eras were an age of prosperity. There was probably no better example than the Song capital of Hangzhou. In the late 1200s, the Italian merchant Marco Polo described the city to European readers as one of the largest and wealthiest cities on Earth. “So many pleasures may be found,” he said, “that one fancies himself to be in Paradise.”

For rich Chinese during this period, life offered many pleasures. There were new forms of entertainment, such as playing cards and chess (brought from India). The paddle-wheel boat and horseback riding (made possible by the introduction of the stirrup) made travel easier. The invention of block printing in the eighth century provided new ways to communicate.

The vast majority of the Chinese people still lived off the land in villages. Most peasants never left their villages except for an occasional visit to a nearby market town. Changes were taking place in the countryside, however. Before, there had been a great gulf between wealthy landowners and poor peasants. A more complex mixture of landowners, free peasants, sharecroppers, and landless laborers now emerged.

Most significant was the rise of the landed gentry. This group controlled much of the land and at the same time produced most of the candidates for the civil service. The scholar-gentry, as this class was known, replaced the old landed aristocracy as the political and economic elite of Chinese society.

Few Chinese women had any power. An exception was Wu Zhao (WOO JOW), known as Empress Wu. The concubine of the second Tang emperor, she then became empress of China and ruled for half a century.

As in other parts of the world, female children were considered less desirable than male children. In times of famine, female infants might be killed if there was not enough food to feed the whole family. When a girl married, she became part of her husband’s family. In addition, a girl’s parents were expected to provide a dowry—money, goods, or property—to her husband when she married. Poor families often sold their daughters to wealthy villagers.

Reading Check Identifying Which group in Chinese society replaced the landed aristocracy?
The Mongols and China

GUIDE TO READING

The BIG Idea

Ideas, Beliefs, and Values  Shifts in religious belief caused major changes in the organization of Chinese society, which were intensified when the Mongol Empire conquered China.

Content Vocabulary

• khanate (p. 270)  • porcelain (p. 275)
• neo-Confucianism (p. 273)

Academic Vocabulary

• acquired (p. 273)  • vision (p. 275)
• available (p. 274)

People and Places

• Mongolia (p. 270)  • Beijing (p. 271)
• Genghis Khan (p. 270)  • Li Bo (p. 274)
• Gobi (p. 270)  • Du Fu (p. 274)
• Kublai Khan (p. 271)

Reading Strategy

Cause and Effect  As you read, use a chart like the one below to help you study how the Mongols acquired the world’s largest land empire.

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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Causes</th>
<th>Effect</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>World's Largest Land Empire</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
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The Mongols

At the time of the Mongol invasion, art and literature in China were in the middle of a golden age, spurred, in part, by the invention of porcelain and the printing press. Also, religious attitudes were changing in favor of a revived Confucianism, which would remain the basis of Chinese government for centuries.

The Mongols

The Mongols created the world’s largest land empire by conquering all of China.

HISTORY & YOU  What do you think drove rulers to expand their empires? How would the lives of the citizens of these conquered lands have to change?

Due in large part to their military prowess, the Mongols rose to power in Asia with stunning speed. The Mongols were a pastoral people from the region of modern-day Mongolia who were organized loosely into clans. Temüjin (TEHM•yuh•juhn), born during the 1160s, gradually unified the Mongols. In 1206 he was elected Genghis Khan—strong ruler—at a massive meeting somewhere in the Gobi. From that time on, he devoted himself to conquest. The military tactics of the Mongols were devastatingly effective. John of Plano Carpini, a Franciscan friar, wrote:

PRIMARY SOURCE

“As soon as they discover the enemy they charge and each unleashes three or four arrows. If they see they cannot break him, they retreat in order to entice the enemy to pursue, thus luring him into an ambush prepared in advance. If they conclude that the enemy army is stronger, they retire for a day or two and ravage neighboring areas. Or they [set up] camp in a well chosen position, and when the enemy army begins to pass by, they appear unexpectedly.”

—John of Plano Carpini, in L’Empire des Steppes, Rene Grousset, 1939

The Mongols brought much of the Eurasian landmass under a single rule, creating the largest land empire in history. To rule the new Mongol Empire, Genghis Khan set up a capital city at Karakorum. Mongol armies traveled both to the west and to the east. Some went as far as central Europe.

After the death of Genghis Khan in 1227, the empire began to change. Following Mongol custom, upon the death of the ruling khan, his heirs divided the territory. The once-united empire of Genghis Khan was split into several separate territories called khanates, each under the rule of one of his sons. It may be that
only the death of Genghis Khan kept the Mongols from attacking western Europe. In 1231 the Mongols attacked Persia and then defeated the Abbasids at Baghdad in 1258. Mongol forces attacked the Song dynasty in China in the 1260s.

In their attack on the Chinese, the Mongols encountered the use of gunpowder and the fire-lance. By the end of the thirteenth century, the fire-lance had evolved into the much more effective gun and cannon. By the early fourteenth century, foreigners employed by the Mongol rulers of China had introduced the use of gunpowder and firearms into Europe.

In 1279 one of Genghis Khan’s grandsons, named Kublai Khan (KOO•bluh KAHN), completed the conquest of the Song and established a new Chinese dynasty, the Yuan (YWAHN). Kublai Khan, who ruled China until his death in 1294, established his capital at Khanbalik—the city of the Khan—later known by the Chinese name Beijing.

Under the leadership of the talented Kublai Khan, the Yuan, or Mongol, dynasty continued to expand the empire. Mongol armies advanced into Vietnam, and Mongol fleets were launched against Java and Sumatra and twice against the islands of Japan. Only Vietnam was conquered, however, and then only for a while. The other campaigns failed. The Mongols used tactics, such as cavalry charges and siege warfare.
These were not very effective in tropical and hilly regions.

The Mongols had more success in ruling China. Mongol rulers adapted to the Chinese political system and made use of Chinese bureaucrats. Culturally the Mongols were quite different from the Chinese and became a separate class with their own laws. The highest positions in the bureaucracy were usually staffed by Mongols.

Over time, the Mongol dynasty won the support of many Chinese people. Some came to respect the stability and economic prosperity that the Mongols at first brought to China. The capital at Khanbalik reflected Mongol prosperity. It was a magnificent city, and foreign visitors were impressed by its splendor. One such visitor was Marco Polo, who lived in Khanbalik during the reign of Kublai Khan. Polo’s stories of the glories of China seemed unbelievable to the Europeans.

The Mongol dynasty eventually fell victim to the same problems that had plagued other dynasties: too much spending on foreign conquests, corruption at court, and growing internal instability. In 1368 Zhu Yuanzhang (JOO YWAHN•JAHNG), the son of a peasant, put together an army, ended the Mongol dynasty, and set up a new dynasty, the Ming.

**Reading Check** **Summarizing** Why were the Mongols so successful in ruling China?

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**Primary Source**

“The streets are so straight and wide that you can see right along them from end to end and from one gate to the other. And up and down the city there are beautiful palaces, and many great and fine hostelleries, and fine houses in great numbers.”

—Marco Polo, Italian traveler

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**THE MONGOL DYNASTY IN CHINA**

The Yuan Dynasty included most of the area of present-day China.

**Feuding between Mongol leaders in China and abroad weakened the Mongol Empire.**

In 1351 Chinese peasants revolted. Rebels attacked the capital in 1368, ending the reign of the Yuan Dynasty.

In 1279 Kublai Khan, grandson of Genghis Khan, declared victory over the Chinese Song Dynasty, uniting China and becoming the first ruler of the Yuan Dynasty.

The streets are so straight and wide that you can see right along them from end to end and from one gate to the other. And up and down the city there are beautiful palaces, and many great and fine hostelleries, and fine houses in great numbers.”

—Marco Polo, Italian traveler

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**Reading Check** **Summarizing** Why were the Mongols so successful in ruling China?
Religion and Government

Between the Han and Yuan dynasties, religion’s role in Chinese government changed.

HISTORY & YOU Throughout history, all religions have tried to answer some basic questions. What do you think some of these questions are?

Confucian principles became the basis for Chinese government during the Han dynasty. By the time of the Sui and Tang dynasties, Buddhism and Daoism rivaled the influence of Confucianism.

Buddhism and Daoism

Buddhism was brought to China in the first century A.D. by merchants and missionaries from India. At first, only merchants and intellectuals were intrigued by the new ideas. However, as a result of the insecurity that prevailed after the collapse of the Han dynasty, both Buddhism and Daoism became more attractive to many people. Both philosophies gained support among the ruling classes.

The growing popularity of Buddhism continued into the early years of the Tang dynasty. Early Tang rulers lent their support to Buddhist monasteries that were set up throughout the country. Buddhists even became advisers at the imperial court but ultimately lost favor.

Buddhism was criticized for being a foreign religion. Like Christian monasteries in Europe during the Middle Ages, Buddhist monasteries had acquired thousands of acres of land and serfs. With land came corruption. The government reacted strongly. During the later Tang period, it destroyed countless Buddhist temples and monasteries and forced more than 260,000 monks and nuns to leave the monasteries and return to secular life.

Buddhists taught that the material world was not real, but an illusion. By teaching this, Buddhism was denying the very essence of Confucian teachings—the need for devotion to family and hard work. These were virtues that the Chinese state had reason to support.

Neo-Confucianism

From the Song dynasty to the end of the dynastic system in the twentieth century, official support went to a revived Confucianism, which became the heart of the state government. This new doctrine, called neo-Confucianism, served as a Confucian response to Buddhism and Daoism. It teaches that the world is real, not an illusion, and that fulfillment comes from participation in the world.

Neo-Confucianists divide the world into a material world and a spiritual world. Humans live in the material world but are also linked with the Supreme Ultimate. The goal is to move beyond the material world to reach union with the Supreme Ultimate. Humans do this through a careful examination of the moral principles that rule the universe.

Reading Check Explaining What caused Buddhism to lose favor with the Chinese government?
A Golden Age in Literature and Art

With the invention of printing, a golden age of literature and art emerged in China.

**HISTORY & YOU** In what way does the creation of the Internet compare to the invention of printing? Read about the impact of printing on Chinese art and literature.

The period between the Tang and Ming dynasties was in many ways the great age of Chinese literature. The invention of printing during the Tang dynasty helped to make literature more readily available and more popular. Art, especially landscape painting and ceramics, flourished during this period.

**Poetry**

It was in poetry, above all, that the Chinese of this time best expressed their literary talents. The Tang dynasty is viewed as the great age of poetry in China. At least 48,000 poems were written by some 2,200 authors. Chinese poems celebrated the beauty of nature, the changes of the seasons, and the joys of friendship. They expressed sadness at the shortness of life and the necessity of parting.

Li Bo (LEE BWAW) and Du Fu (DOO FOO) were two of the most popular poets during the Tang era. Li Bo was a free spirit whose writing often centered on nature. Probably the best-known poem in China, “Quiet Night Thoughts” has been memorized by schoolchildren for centuries.

**Science, Technology, & Society**

The Development of Printing in China

Woodblock printing began in the seventh century A.D., during the Tang dynasty. Each page of a text required its own wooden block, with each character carefully carved in reverse into it. The wooden block was then inked and a piece of paper applied. The printer rubbed the sheet of paper with a brush to transfer inked text. Each block could be reused to make thousands of copies.

Woodblock printing was a major advancement in printing, but no changes could be made to a page once it was carved. In the eleventh century, Pi Sheng solved this problem by inventing movable type. With movable type, the printer arranged individual characters to compose a page, making changes easier.

**Critical Thinking Skills**

1. **Drawing Inferences** What effect would the invention of movable type have upon the availability of books? How would societies be affected?
2. **Explaining** Explain why movable type was an improvement over woodblocks.
PRIMARY SOURCE

"Beside my bed the bright moonbeams bound
Almost as if there were frost on the ground.
Raising up, I gaze at the Mountain moon;
Lying back, I think of my old home town."
—Li Bo

Where Li Bo was carefree, Du Fu was a serious Confucian. In “Spring Prospect,” the poet has returned to his home in the capital after a rebellion has left the city in ruins.

PRIMARY SOURCE

“The capital is taken. The hills and streams are left,
And with spring in the city the grass and trees grown dense.
Mourning the times, the flowers trickle their tears;
Saddened with parting, the birds make my heart flutter.
The army beacons have flamed for three months;
A letter from home would be worth ten thousand in gold.
My white hairs have I anxiously scratched ever shorter;
But such disarray! Even hairpins will do no good."
—Du Fu

Painting and Ceramics

During the Song and Mongol dynasties, landscape painting reached its high point. Influenced by Daoism, artists went into the mountains to find the Dao, or Way, in nature. The word landscape in Chinese means “mountain-water” and reflects the Daoist search for balance between the earth and water. Chinese artists tried to reveal the hidden forms of the landscape. Rather than depicting the realistic shape of a specific mountain, for example, they tried to portray the idea of “mountain.” Empty spaces were left in the paintings because in the Daoist vision, one cannot know the whole truth. Daoism also influenced the portrayal of humans as insignificant in the midst of nature. Chinese artists painted people as tiny figures fishing in small boats or wandering up a hillside trail, living in but not dominating nature.

Tang artisans perfected the making of porcelain—a ceramic made of fine clay baked at very high temperatures. Porcelain-making techniques did not reach Europe until the eighteenth century. An Arab traveler in 851 described Chinese porcelain:

PRIMARY SOURCE

“There is in China a very fine clay from which are made vases having the transparency of glass bottles; water in these vases is visible through them, and yet they are made of clay.”
Life in Genghis Khan’s Army

Most states that have disappeared into history met their demise in the same way: they were conquered by a foreign army. There have always been outsiders who threaten force to take territories and goods away from other groups. One of the most feared of these outside forces was the army of the Mongol ruler Genghis Khan. It was an army and state in one—and it could move. What was it like to march with him on his conquests that built the largest empire in history?

The Mongols on the Move

The Mongol army was a highly disciplined fighting force. A group of ten 1,000-man units formed the 10,000-man Mongol fighting unit called the tumen. Tumens traveled separately from one another, but could converge rapidly on horseback to form an intimidating 100,000-man army. When battle was anticipated, horse soldiers left the women, children, and animals behind and became a highly mobile fighting force.

A Mongol tumen moved very slowly. The procession could be 50 miles long and move only 5 miles a day.

Each cavalry rider had two to four remounts to keep his horse fresh for and during battle.

75,000 oxen and camels carried the Mongols’ felt tents, called ger, as well as supplies and gear.
“An army,” Napoleon Bonaparte was believed to have said, “marches on its stomach.” Genghis Khan knew as much 500 years earlier. Not surprisingly, meat and dairy products formed the basis of the marching Mongols’ diet. They cooked mutton and lamb on and over rocks heated by dung fires. Milk tea and fermented mare’s milk were common drinks.

1. **Evaluating** What do you think the tumen’s main strengths were? Its greatest weaknesses?

2. **Comparing and Contrasting** How was life for Mongol children similar to and different from the life of children in other cultures you have read about?
Early Japan and Korea

**GUIDE TO READING**

**The BIG Idea**

**Physical Geography** The geography of Japan, a string of islands, and of Korea, a peninsula bordering China, have had a huge impact on their respective histories.

**Content Vocabulary**
- samurai (p. 280)
- Bushido (p. 280)
- shogun (p. 280)
- daimyo (p. 281)
- Shinto (p. 282)
- Zen (p. 282)

**Academic Vocabulary**
- revenue (p. 279)
- code (p. 280)

**People and Places**
- Ōsaka (p. 278)
- Kyōto (p. 278)
- Shōtoku Taishi (p. 279)
- Minamoto Yoritomo (p. 281)
- Murasaki Shikibu (p. 282)
- Yi Sŏng-gye (p. 283)

**Reading Strategy**

**Categorizing Information** As you read, create a chart like the one below to help you study which elements of Chinese culture were adopted by Korea and Japan.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Chinese Culture in . . .</th>
<th>Japan</th>
<th>Korea</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

**Early Japan**

Early Japan was unified by a noble family that gave rise to a line of emperors. Over time, power passed from the hands of the emperor to powerful aristocratic families, then to military leaders called shoguns. Finally, centralized power disappeared altogether. Korea’s history during this period is one of a struggle for independence against the neighboring Chinese.

**Early Japan**

Japan’s history has been marked by power struggles between rulers and independent families.

**HISTORY & YOU** How has geography played an important role in the growth of your area? Read about geography’s role in the development of Japan.

The ancestors of present-day Japanese settled in the Yamato Plain near the location of the modern cities of Ōsaka and Kyōto in the first centuries A.D. Their society was made up of clans. The people were divided between a small aristocratic class (the rulers) and a large population of rice farmers, artisans, and household servants. The local ruler of each clan protected the population in return for a share of the annual harvest.

Eventually, one ruler of the Yamato clan achieved supremacy over the others and became, in effect, ruler of Japan.

**The Impact of Geography**

Chinese and Japanese societies have historically been very different. One of the reasons for these differences is geography. Whereas China is located on a vast continent, Japan is a chain of many islands. The population is concentrated on four main islands: Hokkaidō, the main island of Honshū, and the two smaller islands of Kyūshū and Shikoku. Japan’s total land area is approximately 146,000 square miles (378,000 sq. km)—about the size of the state of Montana.

Like China, much of Japan is mountainous. Only about 11 percent of the total land area can be farmed. The mountains are volcanic in origin. Volcanic soils are very fertile, which has helped Japanese farming. The area, however, is prone to earthquakes. In 1923 an earthquake nearly destroyed the entire city of Tokyo.

The fact that Japan is an island nation has also affected its history. Because of their geographical isolation, the Japanese developed a number of unique qualities. These qualities contributed to the Japanese belief that they had a destiny separate from that of the peoples on the continent.
Chinese Influences

In the early seventh century, Shōtoku Taishi, a Yamato prince, tried to unify the various clans so that the Japanese could more effectively resist an invasion by the Chinese. To do this, Prince Shōtoku sent representatives to the Tang capital of China to learn how the Chinese organized their government. He then began to create a new centralized system of government in Japan, based roughly on the Chinese model.

Prince Shōtoku wanted a centralized government under a supreme ruler. His objective was to limit the powers of the aristocrats and enhance the Yamato ruler’s (his own) authority. As a result, the ruler was portrayed as a divine figure and the symbol of the Japanese nation.

Shōtoku Taishi’s successors continued to make reforms based on the Chinese model. The territory of Japan was divided into administrative districts, and the senior official of each district was selected from among the local nobles. As in China, the rural village was the basic unit of government. A new tax system was set up. Now all farmland technically belonged to the state. All taxes were to be paid directly to the central government rather than to local aristocrats.

The Nara Period

After Shōtoku Taishi’s death in 622, political power fell into the hands of the Fujiwara clan. A Yamato ruler was still emperor. He was, however, strongly influenced by the Fujiwara family. In 710 a new capital was established at Nara. The emperor began to use the official title “Son of Heaven.”

Though the reforms begun by Prince Shōtoku continued during this period, Japan’s central government could not overcome the power of the aristocrats. These powerful families were able to keep the taxes from the lands for themselves. Unable to gain tax revenues, the central government steadily lost power and influence.
The Heian Period

In 794 the emperor moved the capital from Nara to nearby Heian-kyo, on the site of present-day Kyōto. At Heian-kyo, the emperor continued to rule in name, but actual power remained in the hands of the Fujiwara clan. In fact, the government was returning to the decentralized system that had existed before the time of Shōtoku Taishi. Powerful families whose wealth was based on the ownership of tax-exempt farmland dominated the rural areas.

With the decline of central power, local aristocrats took justice into their own hands. They turned to military force, and a new class of military servants emerged whose purpose was to protect the security and property of their employers. Called the samurai (“those who serve”), these warriors fought on horseback, clad in helmet and armor, and carried a sword and a bow. Like knights, the samurai were supposed to live by a strict warrior code, known in Japan as Bushido (“the way of the warrior”).

Japanese isolation

Mongol emperor Kublai Khan expected an easy victory when he attacked Japan in 1272. Strengthened with Korean and Chinese troops, the Mongols seized the beach at Hakata when a huge storm sank 200 of his ships, drowning about 13,000 men.

In 1281, Kublai Khan attacked with a larger fleet, but most of the ships were destroyed by a typhoon. The Japanese called the storms kamikaze, or “divine wind.” They took this as a sign that they were invincible because they were protected by divine powers. After defeating the Mongol invaders, Japan isolated itself from foreign influence until 1945.

1. Determining Cause and Effect
   How did the “divine wind” change Japan?

2. Evaluating
   How did Japan’s policy of isolation help the country? How was it detrimental to the country?
The Kamakura Shogunate

By the end of the twelfth century, rivalries among Japanese aristocratic families had led to almost constant civil war. Finally, a powerful noble named Minamoto Yoritomo defeated several rivals and set up his power near the modern city of Tokyo.

To strengthen the state, he created a more centralized government under a military leader known as the shogun (general). In this new system—called the shogunate—the emperor remained ruler in name only, and the shogun exercised the actual power. The Kamakura Shogunate, founded by Yoritomo, lasted from 1192 to 1333.

At first the system worked well. The Japanese were fortunate that it did, because the government soon faced a serious challenge from the Mongols. In 1281 Kublai Khan invaded Japan with an army nearly 150,000 strong. Fortunately for the Japanese, almost the entire fleet was destroyed by a massive typhoon (violent storm).

Fighting the Mongols put a strain on the political system. In 1333 the Kamakura shogunate was overthrown by a group of powerful families led by the Ashikaga family.

Collapse of Central Rule

The power of the local aristocrats grew during the fourteenth and fifteenth centuries. Heads of noble families, now called daimyo (DY•mee•oh), “great names,” controlled vast landed estates that owed no taxes to the government. As family rivalries continued, the daimyo relied on the samurai for protection, and political power came into the hands of a loose coalition of noble families.

By 1500, Japan was close to chaos. A disastrous civil war known as the Onin War, which lasted from 1467 to 1477, led to the virtual destruction of the capital city of Kyoto. Central authority disappeared. Powerful aristocrats in rural areas seized control over large territories, which they ruled as independent lords. Their rivalries caused almost constant warfare.

Life in Early Japan

Main Idea
Japan’s small size and relative isolation have had a major effect on the development of its economy, religion, and culture.

History & You
Have you read any books categorized as “women’s literature?” Read about female authors in early Japan.

Early Japan was mostly a farming society. Its people took advantage of the limited amount of farmland and abundant rainfall to grow wet rice (rice grown in flooded fields). Trade in Japan was slow to develop. Barter, rather than money, was used until the twelfth century.

Manufacturing began to develop during the Kamakura period. Markets appeared in the larger towns, and industries such as the making of paper and porcelain and iron casting emerged. Trade between regions also grew. Goods were carried in carts, on boats, or on human backs. Foreign trade, mainly with Korea and China, began during the eleventh century. Japan shipped raw materials, paintings, swords, and other manufactured items in return for silk, porcelain, books, and copper coins.

The Role of Women

In early Japan, women may have had a certain level of equality with men. An eighth-century law code, for example, guaranteed the inheritance rights of women. Wives who were abandoned could divorce and remarry. Later practices, however, show women were considered subordinate to men. A husband could divorce his wife if she did not produce a son or if she committed adultery, talked too much, was jealous, or had a serious illness.

Although women did not possess the full legal and social rights of men, they played an active role at various levels of society. Aristocratic women were prominent at court. Some became known for their artistic or literary talents.

Women often appear in the paintings of the period along with men. The women are doing the spring planting, threshing and hulling rice, and acting as salespersons and entertainers.
Religion in Early Japan

Early Japanese people worshiped spirits, called kami, whom they believed resided in trees, rivers, streams, and mountains. The Japanese also believed that the spirits of their ancestors were present in the air around them. In Japan, these beliefs evolved into a religion called Shinto (“the Sacred Way” or “the Way of the Gods”), which is still practiced today. Over time, Shinto became a state doctrine linked to a belief in the divinity of the emperor and the sacredness of the Japanese nation. Shinto, however, did not satisfy the spiritual needs of all the Japanese people. Some turned to Buddhism, which Buddhist monks from China brought to Japan during the sixth century A.D. Among the aristocrats in Japan, one sect, known as Zen, became the most popular. Zen beliefs became part of the samurai warrior’s code of behavior. Zen Buddhism teaches that enlightenment comes through strong self-discipline and a long process of meditation.

Culture in Early Japan

During much of the history of early Japan, aristocratic men believed that prose fiction was merely “vulgar gossip” and was thus beneath them. Consequently, from the ninth to the twelfth centuries, women were the most productive writers of prose fiction in Japanese. From this tradition appeared one of the world’s great novels, The Tale of Genji, written by court author Murasaki Shikibu. Her novel traces the life of nobleman Genji as he moves from youthful adventures to a life of compassion in his later years.

Little is known about the life of Lady Murasaki Shikibu, the author of The Tale of Genji—even her real name is unknown. It is believed that she began writing Genji around the time of her husband’s death in 1001. In 1006, she was called to serve in the court of the empress and probably completed writing The Tale of Genji a few years later.

1. Analyzing How did the circumstances of Shikibu’s life help her write Genji?

2. Making Inferences What does the excerpt tell us about the aristocracy of Heian-era Japan?

The Tale of Genji covers four generations of a fictitious imperial family and reveals much about the culture of the aristocracy in Heian-era Japan. Most of the book focuses on the nobleman Genji’s life, his many love affairs, and the consequences of these relationships upon his career as a government official. An excerpt from The Tale of Genji, translated by Suyematz Kenchio, describes the young Genji:

“The young Prince, whom we now style Genji (the Gen), was still with the Emperor. . . . When he attained the age of twelve the ceremony of Gembuk (or crowning) took place. . . .

About ten o’clock in the forenoon Genji appeared on the scene. The boyish style of his hair and dress excellently became his features; and it almost seemed matter for regret that it should be altered. The Okura-Kiô-Kurahito, whose office it was to rearrange the hair of Genji, faltered as he did so. . . . After he had been crowned the Prince withdrew to a dressing-room, where he attired himself in the full robes of manhood. Then descending to the Court-yard he performed a measured dance in grateful acknowledgment. This he did with so much grace and skill that all present were filled with admiration; and his beauty, which some feared might be lessened, seemed only more remarkable from the change.”

Murasaki Shikibu and The Tale of Genji

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The Emergence of Korea

The early history of Korea was marked by the presence of dominating neighbors.

HISTORY & YOU Recall the Chinese response to the Mongol invasion. As you read, compare it with the Korean response.

The Korea Peninsula, only slightly larger than the state of Minnesota, is relatively mountainous. Its closeness to both China and Japan has greatly affected its history. Indeed, no society in East Asia was more strongly influenced by the Chinese model than Korea.

In 109 B.C., the northern part of the Korea Peninsula came under the control of the Chinese. The Koreans, however, drove them out in the A.D. 200s. Eventually, three separate kingdoms emerged: Koguryo in the north, Paekche (PAK•chuh) in the southwest, and Silla in the southeast. Each of the kingdoms was governed by the combination of a hereditary monarch and powerful aristocratic families. From the fourth to the seventh centuries, the three kingdoms were bitter rivals. This period also saw the introduction of Buddhism to Korea, which quickly became the state religion of each of the kingdoms. After 527 Silla kings adopted Buddhist names and sponsored the building of many Buddhist temples. One was a nine-story wooden pagoda, which was perhaps the tallest in East Asia. As the Silla kingdom became more allied with the Chinese, the monarchy turned to Confucian ideals to run the country.

Gradually, with the support of the Tang dynasty of China, the kingdom of Silla gained control of the peninsula. After the king of Silla was assassinated, however, Korea sank into civil war. Finally, in the early tenth century, a new dynasty called Koryo (the root of the modern word Korea) arose in the north. This kingdom adopted Chinese political institutions in order to unify its territory and remained in power for four hundred years.

In the thirteenth century, the Mongols seized the northern part of Korea. By accepting Mongol authority, the Koryo dynasty managed to remain in power. Mongol rule led to much suffering for the Korean people, especially the thousands of peasants and artisans who were forced to build ships for Kublai Khan’s invasion of Japan.

After the collapse of the Mongol dynasty in China, the Koryo dynasty broke down. In 1392 Yi Sŏng-gye, a military commander, seized power and founded the Yi dynasty, which would rule Korea for over five hundred years. The Korean people were once again in charge of their own destiny.

✓ Reading Check Identifying Which Asian country had the greatest influence on Korean political institutions?

Vocabulary
1. Explain the significance of: Osaka, Kyotò, Shôtoku Taishi, revenue, samurai, code, Bushido, Minamoto Yoritomo, shogun, daimyo, Shinto, Zen, Murasaki Shikibu, Yi Sŏng-gye.

Main Ideas
2. List the reforms in government made by Shôtoku Taishi and his successors.
3. Create a cluster diagram like the one below that clarifies the role of women in early Japan.

4. Explain why China had such a large role in Korea’s history.

Critical Thinking
5. The BIG Idea Hypothesizing If Korea had been an island instead of a peninsula, how might its history have been different?
6. Assessing How did the samurai and shogun affect the government of early Japan?
7. Analyzing Visuals Examine the color woodblock on page 282. What does the illustration tell us about the clothing, customs, and living conditions among the nobility in Heian-era Japan?

Writing About History
8. Descriptive Writing Imagine you are a samurai living in Japan during the fourteenth century. Explain why you became a samurai and describe your duties.
After the Gupta Empire collapsed, Muslim conquerors moved into India, eventually taking control of nearly all of the subcontinent. The majority of the population in India remained Hindu, which often led to tension and open conflict.

The Impact of Religion

Buddhism, Hinduism, and Islam all influenced the development of India.

For hundreds of years, Buddhism had retained widespread acceptance among the Indian people. The teachings of the Buddha came to be interpreted in different ways, however. People did not always agree on the meaning of the Buddha’s teachings. As a result, a split developed among the followers of Buddhism in India.

One group believed that they were following the original teachings of the Buddha. They called themselves the school of Theravada, “the teachings of the elders.” Followers of Theravada see Buddhism as a way of life, not a religion that is centered on individual salvation. They continue to insist that an understanding of oneself is the chief way to gain nirvana, or release from the “wheel of life.”

Another view of Buddhist doctrine was emerging in northwest India. This school, known as Mahayana Buddhism, said that Theravada teachings were too strict for ordinary people. To Mahayana Buddhists, Buddhism is a religion, not a philosophy. The Buddha is not just a wise man, but also a divine figure. Nirvana is not just a release from the wheel of life, but a true heaven. Through devotion to the Buddha, people can achieve salvation in this heaven after death.

The Decline of Buddhism

In the end, neither the Mahayana nor the Theravada sect of Buddhism remained popular in Indian society. By the 600s, Theravada had declined rapidly. Mahayana was absorbed by a revived Hinduism and later by a new arrival, Islam. Despite their decline in India, though, both schools of Buddhism found success abroad. Carried by monks to China, Korea, Southeast Asia, and Japan, the practice of Buddhism has remained active in all four areas to the present.
1. Analyzing  Why would Buddhism and Hinduism share many similarities?
2. Making Inferences  Why might it be difficult to trace the religious history of India?

The Eastward Expansion of Islam

In the early eighth century, Islam became popular in the northwestern part of the Indian subcontinent and had a major impact on Indian civilization. This impact is still evident today in the division of the subcontinent into mostly Hindu India and two Islamic states, Bangladesh and Pakistan. One reason for Islam’s success was the state of political disunity in India when it arrived. The Gupta Empire had collapsed, and no central authority had replaced it. India was divided into about 70 states, which fought constantly. During this time, warriors were held in very high esteem. One Indian poet wrote:

**Primary Source**

“When you see a fight, rush to the front, divide your enemy’s forces, stand before them, and get your body scarred by the deep cuts of their swords; thus your fame is pleasant to the ear, not your body to the eye. As for your enemies, when they see you, they turn their backs, and with bodies whole and unscarred, they are pleasant to the eye, not so their shame to the ear.”
When the Arab armies reached India in the early eighth century, they did little more than move into the frontier regions. At the end of the tenth century, however, a new phase of Islamic expansion took place when a group of rebellious Turkish slaves founded a new Islamic state known as Ghazna (Ghaznī), located in what is now Afghanistan.

When the founder of the new state died in 997, his son, Maḥmūd of Ghazna, succeeded him. Maḥmūd, an ambitious man, began to attack neighboring Hindu kingdoms to the southeast. Before his death in 1030, he was able to extend his rule throughout the upper Indus Valley and as far south as the Indian Ocean.

Resistance against the advances of Maḥmūd and his successors into northern India was led by the Rajputs, who were Hindu warriors. They fought bravely, but their military tactics, based on infantry supported by elephants, were no match for the cavalry of the invaders. Maḥmūd’ s cavalry was able to strike with great speed. Maḥmūd’s successors continued their advances. By 1200, Muslim power had spread over the entire plain of northern India, creating a new Muslim state known as the sultanate of Delhi. In the fourteenth century, this state extended its power into the Deccan Plateau.

The Impact of Timur Lenk

During the latter half of the fourteenth century, the sultanate of Delhi began to decline. Near the end of the century, a new military force crossed the Indus River from the northwest. The invaders raided the capital of Delhi, and then withdrew. As many as 100,000 Hindu prisoners were massacred before the gates of the city. It was India’s first meeting with Timur Lenk (Tamerlane).

Timur Lenk was the ruler of a Mongol state based in Samarqand, to the north of the Pamirs. Born sometime during the 1330s in Samarqand, Timur Lenk seized power in 1369 and immediately launched a program of conquest. It took more than a century for the city of Delhi to recover from the destruction caused by the invasion.

During the 1380s, Timur Lenk placed the entire region east of the Caspian Sea under his authority and then occupied Mesopotamia. After his brief foray into northern India, he turned to the west. He died in 1405 in the midst of a military campaign.

The death of Timur Lenk removed a major menace from the various states of the Indian subcontinent, but the calm did not last long. By the early sixteenth century, two new challenges had appeared from beyond the horizon. One came from the north in the form of the Moguls, a newly emerging nomadic power. The other came from Europe, from Portuguese traders arriving by sea in search of gold and spices. Both the Moguls and the Portuguese would exert a major impact on the later course of Indian civilization.

✓ Reading Check

Evaluating What was the impact of the introduction of Islam in India?

Timur Lenk was a shrewd warrior who built an empire that stretched from modern-day Iraq to India, and from the Arabian Sea to modern-day Kazakhstan. His initial rise to power involved first rebelling against the khan to whom he had vowed allegiance, then turning on the brother-in-law who had helped him overthrow the khan. His cruelty toward his enemies and the people he conquered was legendary. For example, when conquered Persians tried to rebel against Timur’s forces in 1395, the residents of entire cities were killed and towers built of the victims’ skulls.

Why might Timur’s life have been the subject of legends?
Indian Society and Culture

The ruling class of India was made up of Muslims, but some members of the Hindu population also prospered. The rich culture of India was reflected in its art, literature, architecture, and technological advances.

**HISTORY & YOU** Recall the interaction between Aryans and Dravidians. Read to compare with the interaction between Hindus and Muslims.

The imposition of Islamic rule by Mahmūd of Ghazna and his successors created a level of general tension in Indian society. The life of the typical Indian, however, remained about the same as it had been for the past several hundred years.

Islam and Indian Society

The Muslim rulers in India viewed themselves as foreign conquerors. They tried to maintain a strict separation between the Muslim ruling class and the Hindu population. Like rulers elsewhere at this time, many Muslim rulers in India were intolerant of other faiths. They generally used peaceful means, however, to encourage people to convert to Islam. Still, some could be fierce when their religious zeal was aroused. Said one,

**PRIMARY SOURCE**

“I forbade the infliction of any severe punishment on the Hindus in general, but I destroyed their idol temples and raised mosques in their place.”

—a Muslim ruler

Most Muslim rulers realized that there were simply too many Hindus to convert them all. They reluctantly accepted the need to tolerate religious differences. Nevertheless, Muslim rulers did impose many Islamic customs on Hindu society. Overall, the relationship between Muslims and Hindus was that of conqueror and conquered, a relationship marked by suspicion and dislike rather than friendship and understanding.

Islamic Architecture

1. **Drawing Conclusions** Why did the sultan of Delhi destroy Hindu and Jain temples?
2. **Describing** How does this mosque represent Indo-Islamic architecture?

Adhai-Din-Ka Jhonpra was built by the Jains, a minority religious group in India. It may have been used as a temple and college for teaching Sanskrit. In 1198, the sultan of Delhi turned it into a mosque and built a seven-arched wall inscribed with verses in Arabic. The wall and minarets may have been built with mortar from Hindu and Jain temples that the Sultan destroyed. The interior of the Jhonpra resembles a Hindu temple more than a mosque. The pointed arches and minarets are characteristic of Islamic architecture.
Economy and Daily Life

Between 500 and 1500, most Indians lived on the land and farmed their own tiny plots. These peasants paid a share of their harvest each year to a landlord, who in turn sent part of the payment to the local ruler. In effect, the landlord worked as a tax collector for the king, who in theory owned all the land in his state.

The rents paid by the farmers funded the sumptuous lifestyle, the wars, and the grand temples of the rich and high born. At best the peasants scraped by. At worst, they fell into debt and were victims of money-lenders who charged high rates of interest.

Although the vast majority of Indians were peasants, reports by foreign visitors between 500 and 1500 indicate that many people lived in the cities. It was here that the landed elites and rich merchants lived, often in conditions of considerable wealth.

Rulers naturally had the most wealth. One maharaja (great king) of a small state in southern India, for example, had more than 100,000 soldiers in his pay, along with 900 elephants and 20,000 horses. Another ruler kept a thousand high-caste women to sweep his palace. Each carried a broom and a brass basin holding a mixture of cow dung and water.

**Primary Source**

“When the King goes from one house to another, or to a house of prayer, he goes on foot, and these women go before him with their brooms and basins in their hands, plastering the path where he is to tread.”

Agriculture was not the only source of wealth in India. Since ancient times, India’s location had made it a center for trade between Southwest Asia and East Asia. It had also been a source for other goods shipped throughout the world.

Internal trade within India probably declined during this period, primarily...
because of the fighting among the many states of India. The level of foreign trade, however, remained high, especially in the south and along the northwestern coast. Both areas were located along the traditional trade routes to Southwest Asia and the Mediterranean Sea region.

Wealthy Hindu merchants with close ties to the royal courts carried on much of the foreign trade. Others, including Muslims, also participated in this trade. Sometimes, traders from other lands settled in India; in other cases Indian traders traveled elsewhere.

Culture in India

Between 500 and 1500, Indian artists and writers built on the achievements of their predecessors while making innovations in all fields of creative endeavor, both secular and religious. Here, we examine two such fields: architecture and prose literature.

During this period, religious architecture in India developed from caves to new, magnificent structures. From the eighth century on, Indian architects built monumental Hindu temples. Each temple consisted of a central shrine surrounded by a tower, a hall for worshipers, an entryway, and a porch, all set in a rectangular courtyard. Temples became ever more ornate. The towers became higher and the temple complexes more intricate. Some became walled compounds set one within the other, resembling a town.

Probably the greatest examples of Hindu temple art of this period are found at Khajuraho. Of the 80 temples originally built there in the tenth century, 20 remain standing today. All of the towers on these temples are buttressed (supported by stone walls) at various levels on the sides. This gives the whole temple a sense of unity and creates an upward movement similar to that of Gandisê (Kailas) in the Himalaya, a sacred place to Hindus.

The use of prose in fiction was well established in India by the sixth and seventh centuries. This is truly astonishing in light of the fact that the novel did not appear in Japan until the tenth or eleventh century and in Europe until the seventeenth century.

One of the greatest masters of Sanskrit prose was Danđin, a seventh-century author. In The Adventures of the Ten Princes, he relates the exploits of 10 princes as they search for love and power. He created a fantastic world, fusing realistic portrayal of human behavior with supernatural occurrences, including the direct intervention of gods in worldly affairs. His powers of observation, details of everyday life, and humor give his writing much vitality.
Civilization in Southeast Asia

UNLIKE MOST OF THE OTHER REGIONS OF ASIA, SOUTHEAST ASIA WAS NEVER UNIFIED UNDER A SINGLE GOVERNMENT, LARGELY DUE TO ITS FORMIDABLE GEOGRAPHIC BARRIERS. THEREFORE, THE HISTORY OF THE AREA TELLS OF THE COMPETITION AND INTERACTION BETWEEN SEVERAL SMALL STATES.

The Formation of States

The geography of Southeast Asia led to the development of distinct cultures throughout the region.

HISTORY & YOU Millions of people have visited the monuments in Southeast Asia. Which structures would you be most interested in seeing?

Between 500 and 1500, a number of organized states developed throughout Southeast Asia. When the peoples of the region began to form states, they used models from China and India. At the same time, they adapted these models to their own needs and created their own unique states.

The Impact of Geography

Between China and India lies the region that today is called Southeast Asia. It has two major parts. One is the mainland region, extending southward from the Chinese border down to the tip of the Malay Peninsula. The other is an extensive archipelago, or chain of islands, most of which is part of present-day Indonesia and the Philippines.

Ancient mariners called the area the “golden region” or “golden islands.” Located between India and China—two highly advanced and densely populated regions—Southeast Asia contains a vast mixture of races, cultures, and religions.

Mainland Southeast Asia consists of several north-south mountain ranges. Between these ranges are fertile river valleys that run in a southerly or southeasterly direction. The mountains are densely forested and often infested with malaria-bearing mosquitoes. Thus, the people living in the river valleys were often cut off from one another and had only limited contact with the people living in the mountains.

These geographical barriers may help explain why Southeast Asia is one of the few regions in Asia that was never unified under a single government. The geographical barriers encouraged the development of separate, distinctive cultures within Southeast Asia, with diverse cultural practices, such as different religions and languages.
Vietnam

The Vietnamese were one of the first peoples in Southeast Asia to develop their own state and their own culture. This strong sense of cultural identity caused difficulties for would-be conquerors. China, larger and more powerful than Vietnam, first attempted an invasion in the 200s B.C., but quickly ran into problems:

**Primary Source**

“The Viet people fled into the depths of the mountains and forests, and it was not possible to fight them. The soldiers were kept in garrisons to watch over abandoned territories. This went on for a long time, and the soldiers grew weary. Then the Viet came out and attacked; the Chinese soldiers suffered a great defeat; the dead and wounded were many.

After this, the emperor deported convicts to hold the garrisons against the Viet people.”

— Keith W. Taylor, *The Birth of Vietnam*

After over a hundred years of warfare, the Chinese finally conquered Vietnam in 111 B.C. They tried for centuries to make Vietnam part of China; however, Chinese officials were often frustrated by the Vietnamese. As one official said,

**Primary Source**

“The people are like birds and beasts; they wear their hair tied up and go barefoot, while for clothing they simply cut a hole in a piece of cloth for their head or they fasten their garments on the left side. It is useless to try to change them.”

— Keith W. Taylor, *The Birth of Vietnam*
The Vietnamese clung to their own identity. In the tenth century, they finally overthrew Chinese rule. Chinese influence remained, however. Vietnamese rulers realized the advantages of taking over the Chinese model of centralized government. The new Vietnamese state, which called itself Dai Viet—Great Viet—adopted state Confucianism. Following the Chinese model, the rulers called themselves emperors and adopted Chinese court rituals. They also introduced the civil service examination as a means of recruiting government officials on the basis of merit instead of heredity. The Vietnamese adopted much of the Chinese administrative structure. This included the village at the lowest level, which, like its Chinese model, was basically independent.

The state of Dai Viet became a dynamic force on the Southeast Asian mainland. As its population grew, it expanded southward. Several centuries of bitter warfare with its southern neighbor, Champa, ended in Vietnamese victory by 1500. Continuing their march to the south, the Vietnamese reached the Gulf of Thailand (formerly Gulf of Siam) by 1600.

Angkor

In the ninth century, the kingdom of Angkor arose in the region that is present-day Cambodia. The kingdom was formed when a powerful figure named Jayavarman united the Khmer (kuh•MEHR) people and established a capital at Angkor Thom. In 802 Jayavarman was crowned as god-king of his people. For several hundred years, Angkor—or the Khmer Empire—was the most powerful state in mainland Southeast Asia.

Angkor faced enemies on all sides. To the east were the Vietnamese and the kingdom of Champa. To the west was the Burmese kingdom of Pagan (modern Bagan). With the arrival in the 1300s of new peoples from the north—known today as the Thai—Angkor began to decline.

In 1432 the Thai from the north destroyed the Angkor capital. The Angkor ruling class fled to the southeast, where they set up a new capital near Phnom Penh, the capital of present-day Cambodia.

Thailand

The Thai first appeared in the 500s as a frontier people in China. Beginning in the eleventh or twelfth century, Thai groups began moving southward. This process was encouraged by the Mongol invasion of China in the mid-1200s. These migrating peoples eventually came into conflict with Angkor, destroying the Angkor capital in 1432.

The Thai set up their own capital at Ayutthaya (ah•yoo•TY•uh) on the Chao Phraya River, where they remained as a major force in the region for the next 400 years. Although many converted to Buddhism, the Thai were also influenced by Hindu religion and Indian culture in their political practices, dance, and literature. This unique blend eventually became the modern-day culture of Thailand.

Burma

The Thai were also threatened from the west by the Burmese peoples, who had formed their society along the Salween and Irrawaddy Rivers. The Burmese had migrated from Tibet beginning in the 600s, probably to escape Chinese armies.
The Burmese were pastoral peoples, but they adopted farming soon after their arrival in Southeast Asia. In the eleventh century, they founded the first great Burmese state, the kingdom of Pagan. Like the Thai, they converted to Buddhism and adopted Indian political institutions and culture.

During the next two hundred years, Pagan became a major force in the western part of Southeast Asia. The capital city was at the center of a network of highways, which allowed it to exert power over large distances. It also played an active role in sea trade throughout the region. Attacks by the Mongols in the late 1200s, however, weakened Pagan, causing it to decline.

**The Malay World**

In the Malay Peninsula and the Indonesian archipelago, a different pattern emerged. For centuries, this area had been tied to the trade that passed from East Asia into the Indian Ocean. The area had never been united under a single state, however. The vast majority of the people of the region were of Malay background, but the peoples were divided into numerous separate communities.

Two organized states eventually emerged in the region. In the eighth century, the state of Srivijaya (sree•wih•JAW•yuh) came to dominate the trade route passing through the **Strait of Malacca**.

At the same time, the kingdom of Sailendra emerged in eastern Java. Both states were influenced by Indian culture. Whereas Srivijaya depended on trade, the wealth of Sailendra was based primarily on farming.

In the late 1200s, the new kingdom of Majapahit (mah•jah•PAH•hiht) was founded. It became the greatest empire the region had yet seen. In the mid-fourteenth century, Majapahit incorporated most of the archipelago and perhaps even parts of the mainland under a single rule. Majapahit did not have long to enjoy its status, however. By the 1400s, a new state was beginning to emerge in the region.
After the Muslim conquest of northern India, Muslim merchants—either Arabs or Indian converts—settled in port cities in the region and began to convert the local population. Around 1400, an Islamic state began to form in Melaka, a small town on the western coast of the Malay Peninsula. Traders found it a natural place to replenish their supplies of food and water. Melaka soon became the major trading port in the region and a chief rival to Majapahit. From Melaka, Muslim traders and the Muslim faith moved into the interior of the peninsula. Eventually, almost the entire population of the region was converted to Islam and became part of the sultanate of Melaka.

Reading Check
Examining Why was Southeast Asia never unified under a single government?

Life in Southeast Asia

The states of Southeast Asia can be divided into two groups: agricultural societies, whose economies were largely based on farming, and trading societies, which depended primarily on trade for income. States such as Vietnam, Angkor, Pagan, and Sailendra drew most of their wealth from the land. Others, such as Srivijaya and the sultanate of Melaka, supported themselves chiefly through trade.

Angkor Wat

Angkor Wat was originally a Hindu temple but was taken over by Buddhists during the sixteenth century.

A 3-mile (5-km) moat surrounds Angkor Wat.

Angkor Wat is a model of the Hindu universe, with a shrine at its hub, enclosed by three courtyards, and topped by five towers.

The walls are decorated with hundreds of statues and bas-reliefs; showing scenes from ancient Indian stories.

Making Connections
How does Angkor Wat show the influence of Indian culture?

Making Inferences
What protection might the moat have provided Angkor Wat?
Trade through Southeast Asia expanded after the emergence of states in the area and reached even greater heights after the Muslim conquest of northern India. The rise in demand for spices also added to the growing volume of trade. As the wealth of Europe and Southeast Asia increased, demand grew for the products of East Asia.

At the top of the social ladder in most Southeast Asian societies were the hereditary aristocrats. They held both political power and economic wealth. Most aristocrats lived in the major cities. Angkor Thom, for example, was a city with royal palaces and parks, a massive parade ground, reservoirs, and numerous temples.

Beyond the major cities lived the rest of the population, which consisted of farmers, fishers, artisans, and merchants. In most Southeast Asian societies, the majority of people were probably rice farmers who lived at a bare level of subsistence and paid heavy rents or taxes to a landlord or local ruler.

Most of the societies in Southeast Asia gave greater rights to women than did their counterparts in China and India. Women worked side by side with men in the fields and often played an active role in trading activities.

Chinese culture made an impact on Vietnam. In many other areas of Southeast Asia, Indian cultural influence prevailed. The most visible example of this influence was in architecture. Of all the existing structures at Angkor Thom, the temple of Angkor Wat is the most famous and most beautiful. It combines Indian architectural techniques with native inspiration in a structure of impressive grace. Surrounded by walls measuring 1,700 by 1,500 feet (518 by 457 m), Angkor Wat rises like a 200-foot-high (61-m-high) mountain in a series of three great terraces. The construction of Angkor Wat, which took 40 years to complete, required an enormous quantity of stone—as much as it took to build Egypt’s Great Pyramid.

Hindu and Buddhist ideas began to move into Southeast Asia in the first millennium A.D. However, the new religions did not entirely replace existing beliefs. In all Southeast Asian societies, as in China and Japan, old beliefs were blended with those of the new faiths. In this process, the king played a central role. The ruler of Angkor, for example, was seen as a living link between the people and the gods.

Buddhism also spread to Southeast Asia. It made little impact, however, until the introduction of Theravada Buddhism in the eleventh century. From Burma, Theravada spread rapidly to other areas of Southeast Asia.

Eventually, Theravada Buddhism became the religion of the masses in much of Southeast Asia. Why did it have such appeal? For one thing, it teaches that people can seek nirvana through their own efforts; they do not need priests or rulers. Moreover, it tolerated local gods and posed no threat to established faiths.

Vocabulary
1. Explain the significance of: region, Malay Peninsula, archipelago, area, Vietnam, Angkor, Jayavarman, Pagan, Thai, Thailand, Strait of Malacca, Melaka, agricultural society, trading society.

Main Ideas
2. Explain the importance of Islam in the development of Melaka.
3. Create a diagram like the one shown below to represent the social hierarchy in most Southeast Asian societies discussed in this section.

Critical Thinking
4. The Big Idea Contrasting How did the development of the Malay Peninsula and the Indonesian archipelago differ from the development of Southeast Asia?
5. Considering How would an increase in trade and exporting cause a region to develop more complex forms of political and social organization? Use examples from the text to support your answer.
6. Analyzing Visuals Compare the temple on page 288 with Angkor Wat on page 294. What features do they have in common?

Writing About History
7. Descriptive Writing When Vietnam was conquered by China, the people clung to their own identity. Write a paragraph describing the aspects of conquered peoples that conquerors would want to change and why.

For help with the concepts in this section of Glencoe World History, go to glencoe.com and click Study Central.
### CHINA’S DYNASTIES
- The Tang dynasty, stable for 300 years, renewed trade in silk and porcelain over the Silk Road.
- The Song dynasty took over in the 900s and vastly increased crop yields and trade.
- In the 800s, the scholar-gentry class emerged, an influential group down to 1911, while a revived, practical Confucianism was dominant in religion.
- Northern invaders, always a threat, finally triumphed with the Mongol Invasion in 1270.
- Chinese poetry and ceramics were inspired by nature and Confucian philosophy.

### JAPAN AND KOREA
- The islands of Japan are isolated and mountainous.
- The heads of Japanese noble families, daimyos, competed for power with fighting samurai, which led to frequent civil wars.
- The religion of Shinto contributed to emperor worship, while Buddhism’s spirituality appealed to other Japanese.
- Korea, dominated by nearby China, and borrowing many cultural elements, finally gained its independence in the 900s.

### SOUTH AND SOUTHEAST ASIA
- India fragmented into many states in the medieval period; later rulers from the north introduced Islam, but Hinduism remained the religion of most Indians.
- In Southeast Asia, new states were influenced by the Chinese and Indian examples in both government and religion.
- The trade in spices was profitable for several southeastern Asian states.
Reviewing Vocabulary

Directions: Choose the word or words that best complete the sentence.

1. ______ is a type of translucent ceramic made from very fine clay.
   A Dowry
   B Archipelago
   C Porcelain
   D Daimyo

2. The heirs of Genghis Khan divided up his empire into
   ________
   A khanates
   B samurais
   C dowries
   D trading societies

3. ________ was the name for the strict code of behavior followed by the warrior class of early Japan.
   A Bushido
   B Shogunate
   C Daimyo
   D Mahayana

4. In early Chinese society, ________ produced most of the candidates for civil service.
   A artisans
   B farmers
   C scholar-gentry
   D traders

Reviewing Main Ideas

Directions: Choose the best answers to the following questions.

Section 1 (pp. 264–269)

5. What emperor used forced labor to build the Grand Canal?
   A Wu Zhao
   B Sui Yangdi
   C Tang Xuanzang
   D Kublai Khan

6. When a girl in early China married, how would her life change?
   A She became part of her husband’s family.
   B She remained with her parents.
   C She was able to participate in business and trade.
   D She was able to take the civil service examination.

Section 2 (pp. 270–275)

7. Which of the following best describes the Mongol Empire?
   A Militarily powerful, but poor
   B The largest land empire in history
   C The last government to control China
   D An Islamic state

8. Which of these was most often the philosophical basis of Chinese government?
   A Buddhism
   B Daoism
   C Islam
   D Confucianism

Need Extra Help?

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GO ON
Section 3 (pp. 278–283)

9. Who was the author of *The Tale of Genji*, one of the finest achievements of world literature?
   A Yi Sŏng-gye  
   B Minamoto Yoritomo  
   C Shōtoku Taishi  
   D Murasaki Shikibu

10. After a long struggle, which kingdom gained control over the Korean peninsula?
   A Silla  
   B Paekche  
   C Koguryo  
   D Kamakura

Section 4 (pp. 284–289)

11. Which of these introduced the idea that the Buddha was not just a wise man, but a divine figure?
   A Theravada Buddhism  
   B Mahayana Buddhism  
   C Zen Buddhism  
   D Daoism

12. Who were the Hindu warriors who led the resistance against the advances of Mahmūd and his successors into northern India?
   A Moguls  
   B Samurai  
   C Uighurs  
   D Rajputs

Section 5 (pp. 290–295)

13. Who founded the kingdom of Angkor?
   A Jayavarman  
   B Dai Viet  
   C Timur Lenk  
   D Đađin

Critical Thinking

Directions: Choose the best answers to the following questions.

Use the following information to answer question 15.

Read the following quote about the Japanese samurai.

“I spurred my horse on, careless of death in the face of the foe. I braved the dangers of wind and wave, not reckoning that my body might sink to the bottom of the sea, and be devoured by monsters of the deep.”

14. How does this quote reflect the code of the samurai?
   A It describes the riding ability of the samurai.  
   B It shows the importance placed on honor and loyalty, above all other concerns.  
   C It portrays the most common initiation ritual of the samurai.  
   D It displays the samurai’s hatred of the sea.

15. Which of the following religions did not play a major role in the history of Southeast Asia?
   A Islam  
   B Theravada Buddhism  
   C Mahayana Buddhism  
   D Hinduism

16. In early Japan, why was prose fiction written primarily by women?
   A All men were samurai and therefore had little time for artistic pursuits.  
   B Women were better educated than men.  
   C Men believed prose fiction was beneath them.  
   D The Shinto religion forbade the writing of fiction by men.

17. What was a major cause of the expansion of trade throughout Southeast Asia?
   A The construction of stronger vessels  
   B The blessings of important religious figures  
   C The growing demand for spices  
   D The construction of beautiful temples

Need Extra Help?

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18. Which of the following images would you most likely see in an early Chinese painting?
A. A small figure in the midst of a nature scene
B. An aristocrat at home with his family
C. Warriors in battle
D. People worshiping at a temple

19. In what geographic direction did the population shift during this period?
A. To the northeast
B. To the northwest
C. To the southeast
D. To the southwest

20. Can you detect any echoes of Daoism in this excerpt? What are they?
21. How do the ideas in this quotation conflict with the basic ideas of Buddhism?

Extended Response
22. Imagine that you are a Korean person who is traveling through the states of Southeast Asia during the fifteenth century. Which states will seem most familiar to you? Which will seem most foreign? Why?