

# UNIT 4 Empires and Cultures of Asia

395 to 1641

B.C. (B.C.E.) < > A.D. (C.E.)

622  
Islam begins to spread.

800-1200  
Khmer kingdoms flourish in Southeast Asia.

1054  
Eastern and Western Christianity split into two separate churches.

1398  
Mongol ruler Timur invades Delhi.

1453  
Ottoman Turks conquer Byzantine Empire.

500

395  
Byzantine Empire separates from Western Roman Empire.

By 620  
Hindu-Arabic numbers used in India.

1000

751  
Chinese expansion into Islamic lands is halted.

1180-1603  
Japan is engulfed by civil wars.

1279-1368  
Mongols conquer and rule China.

1500

1640  
Japan expels European traders.

## Ideas Travel the Silk Road

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

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

**Silk Road and Other Trade Routes 400-1500**

Tundra or ice	Forest	Grass	Shrub or desert

Silk Road    Other trade route  
 PERSIA Culture region

**Sources of Trade Goods**

Frankincense	Cotton	Horses
Gems	Silk	Glassware
Spices	Wool	Porcelain

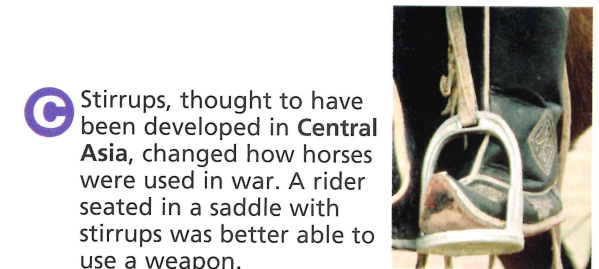
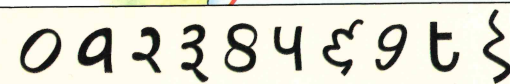
0 500 1000 miles  
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**A** From the 700s to the 1400s, the Arab world was the center of scientific discovery. Many advances were made in science and medicine, as shown by this text on the human eye.

**B** The digits 0-9 that are used by people all over the world today are called Hindu-Arabic numerals. This system was developed in India over hundreds of years and then spread westward.



**C** Stirrups, thought to have been developed in Central Asia, changed how horses were used in war. A rider seated in a saddle with stirrups was better able to use a weapon.



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



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