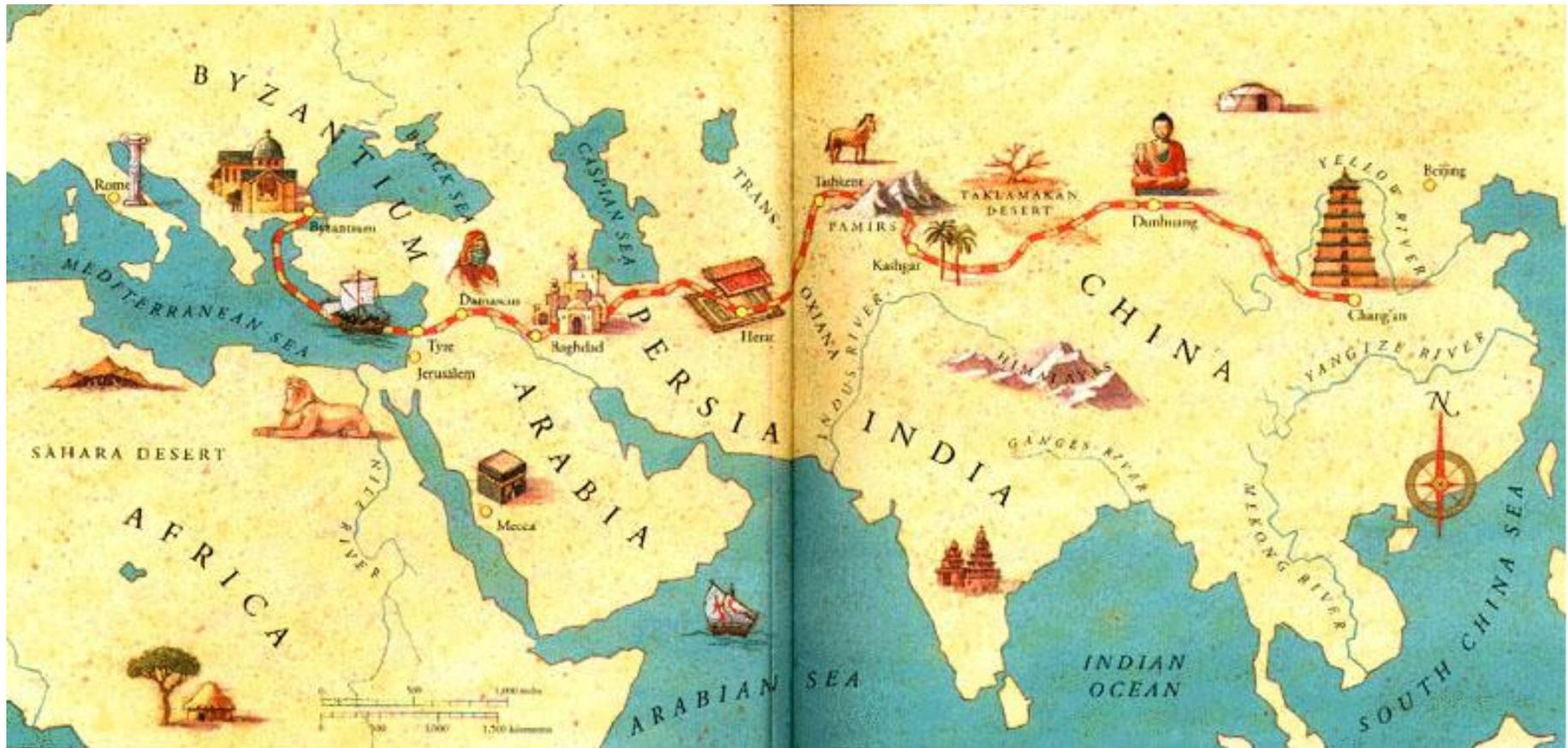


Mini Q

# The Silk Road: Recording the Journey



# SILK ROAD



# What is our rationale?

- **Ohio's Learning Standard: Early Civilizations**
- Early civilizations (**China**) with unique governments, **economic systems**, social structures, **religions**, technologies and agricultural practices and **products** flourished as a result of favorable geographic characteristics. The cultural practices and products of these early civilizations can be used **to help understand the Eastern Hemisphere today.**



In this Mini-Q, you will examine several documents and then write five journal entries in the voice of a fictitious person traveling the Silk Road.



# The Silk Road Mini Q

Document A: The Silk Road Route Map

Document B: The Dunhuang Caves

Document C: Crossing the Gobi Desert

Document D: The City of Marakanda

Document E: Silk Road Ledger (chart)

Qi Na (Chinese, f)

Pi Lin (Chinese, m)

Xin Qian (Chinese, f)

Yul (Sogdian, m)

Lee (Chinese, m)

Chuluun (Mongolian, m)

### Profile Sheet

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Age at the time of the journey \_\_\_\_\_

Occupation \_\_\_\_\_

Place of birth \_\_\_\_\_

Marital status/spouse's name (if married) \_\_\_\_\_

Children (if any) \_\_\_\_\_

Reason for going on the Silk Road \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Other personal information \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Hook Exercise: **Give your traveler a name**  
**from the list in your packet.**

Choose the type of traveler you wish to be from  
the collection of descriptions on the following  
page.



# Job choices

## Caravan Leader

Many caravan leaders were Sogdians, who came from the region of Marakanda in the Kushan Empire of northern Asia. They were basically in charge of the group. They determined how long the caravan should travel each day and where it should stop to rest. In addition, they were aware of possible dangers, like bandits lurking along the northern edge of the Taklimakan Desert.

CV

## Caravan Guide

Caravan guides made sure that the caravan was heading in the right direction. Since compasses were not used during the Silk Road period, guides had to rely on the stars for their bearings. Indeed, many caravan guides were trained at nautical schools in India, where they learned how to read the stars. Also, guides might know the best paths to take through difficult terrain, such as the rugged Pamir Mountains.

## Han Official

Han emperors liked to keep tabs on the western lands. To do this, they sent officials along the Silk Road to gather information. Some of these officials made it as far as the Parthian Empire (see map on page 431). However, the Parthians did not want an alliance to form between China and Rome, so they stopped Han officials at the border. For a Han official to reach the Roman Empire, he had to travel incognito, or in secret.

## Merchant

Merchants interested in trading their goods at cities along the Silk Road often traveled with caravans. Some of them wrote itineraries that listed cities and oases on the Silk Road and mentioned the pros and cons of these places. In this way, the itineraries acted as travel guides. Successful merchants often became very wealthy and were respected in their home cities.

## Soldier

Bandits were a constant threat along the Silk Road. During the Han period, some parts of the Silk Road were protected by military outposts. However, bandits sometimes attacked caravans in areas that were far away from these outposts. Also, the region west of the Pamirs was not controlled by the Han and so did not have military protection. To protect caravans from bandits, soldiers often traveled with the caravans.

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Chin  
silk  
mag  
Asia

**Profile sheet-** fill out the profile of this person using the biographical information and your historical imagination

- **Name:**

(Qi Na, Xin Qian, Lee, Pilin, Yul, Chuluun)

- **Age at the time of the journey:**

- **Occupation:** (caravan leader, caravan guide, Song official, merchant, soldier)

- **Place of birth:** (choose an ancient city)

- **Marital status:**

- **Children:**



# Profile Sheet Example

- Name: **Lee** (Chinese, M)
- Age at the time of the journey: **Not sure, about 35**
- Occupation: **merchant**
- Place of birth: **Chang'an, Song China**
- Marital status: **Wife is Li Nang**
- Children: **three**



# Reason for going on the Silk Road

- ... need to make money to support my family
- Caravan leader-
- Caravan guide-
- Song official- was gathering information to bring back to the emperor (brings honor to family and country). **SPY**
- Merchant- sell goods at a higher price and will bring great wealth and honor to family and country.
- Soldier- (brings honor to family and country).



# Other Personal Information

- Lee has been married for seven years and has three children. He realizes that, if he travels the entire Silk Road, he will be away from his family for more than a year. Lee knows that he will miss his family, but he has convinced himself and his wife that the rewards of taking such a long trip will be worth the hardships. The primary good that Lee trades is silk, though he also trades other Chinese products, including iron and ceramics.

# Read the Background Essay

## Background Essay

Ancient Silk Roads Mini-Q

### The Silk Road: Recording the Journey

*The Heavenly Horses are coming  
Across the pastureless wilds  
A thousand legs at a stretch  
Following the eastern road.*

– Poem by Han Emperor Wu-Ti, circa 140 BC. He wrote as he waited for the arrival of new horses on the Silk Road.

When you sit down to a bowl of spaghetti at home or a math problem in school, you probably aren't thinking about history. Yet it is a fact that noodles from China and a number system from Persia and India first made their way into the European world along ancient trade routes called the **Silk Road**.

The Silk Road was actually a series of roads and routes that together made up a huge trade network that stretched from China to Rome with many branching offshoots to the north and the south. The Silk Road began as far back as 4,000 years ago and got its name from the luxurious, brightly colored cloth that was China's biggest **export**. The Silk Road owes an important part of its success to the **domestication** of the camel – an animal that could carry heavy loads over long

from western China into northern India. The Kushans established themselves as a kind of toll booth that collected taxes on goods moving back and forth between China and points west.

Beyond Kush was the powerful empire of Parthia, which covered much of modern-day Iran and Iraq. The Parthians became skilled middlemen, buying up goods flowing into their country and reselling them at a higher price to traders who carried them further along the Silk Road.

Meanwhile, the Roman Empire had come to dominate the west, eventually controlling much of the land that rimmed the Mediterranean Sea. As the empire got richer, Romans



demanded more and more luxury goods, especially that wonderful Chinese fabric, silk.

In time these four empires collapsed, but

# Background Essay Questions

1. How long ago did trade between china and the Mediterranean region begin?

1. About 4,000 years ago

2. How did the domestication of the camel help the development of the Silk Road?



2. Camels can carry heavy loads and travel long distances and require little water to do so.



3. Why did trade along the Silk Road flourish during the time of the Song, Kushan, Sassanids, and Byzantine empires?

3. The Han, Kushan, Parthian, and Roman empires increased the **political stability** in their regions and thereby made the Silk Road *safer (cracked down on bandits because they wanted the goods).*

4. Why did the Chinese trade silk for horses from Ferghana? What did Emperor Wi-Ti think of them?

4. The horses of Ferghana were superior to the horses bred in China. Wu-Ti called the horses “heavenly” and even wrote a poem about them.



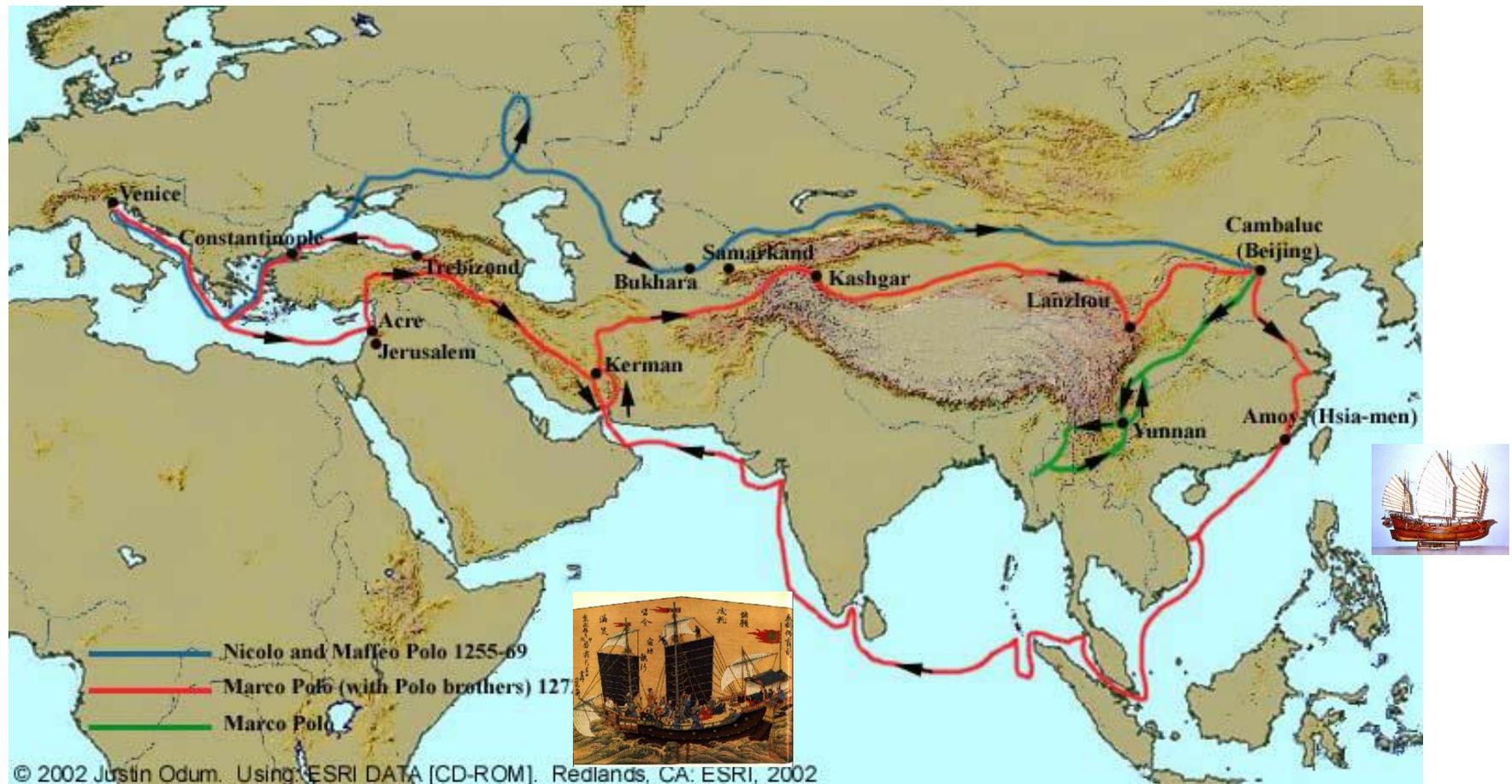
5. What was an important role of the Parthians in the Silk Road trade?

5. The Sassanids acted as **middlemen** in trade between Rome and China and taxed all goods going through Parthia.

6. What brought an end to the dominance of the Silk Road?



# 6. The development of sea routes between Europe and Asia in the 1400s.



7. Define these terms:

- **Silk Road:** a vast overLAND trade network extending from China to the Mediterranean Sea
- **Export:** sending goods to other countries or regions for sale or trade
- **Domestication:** the process of making an animal accustomed to living with or near people

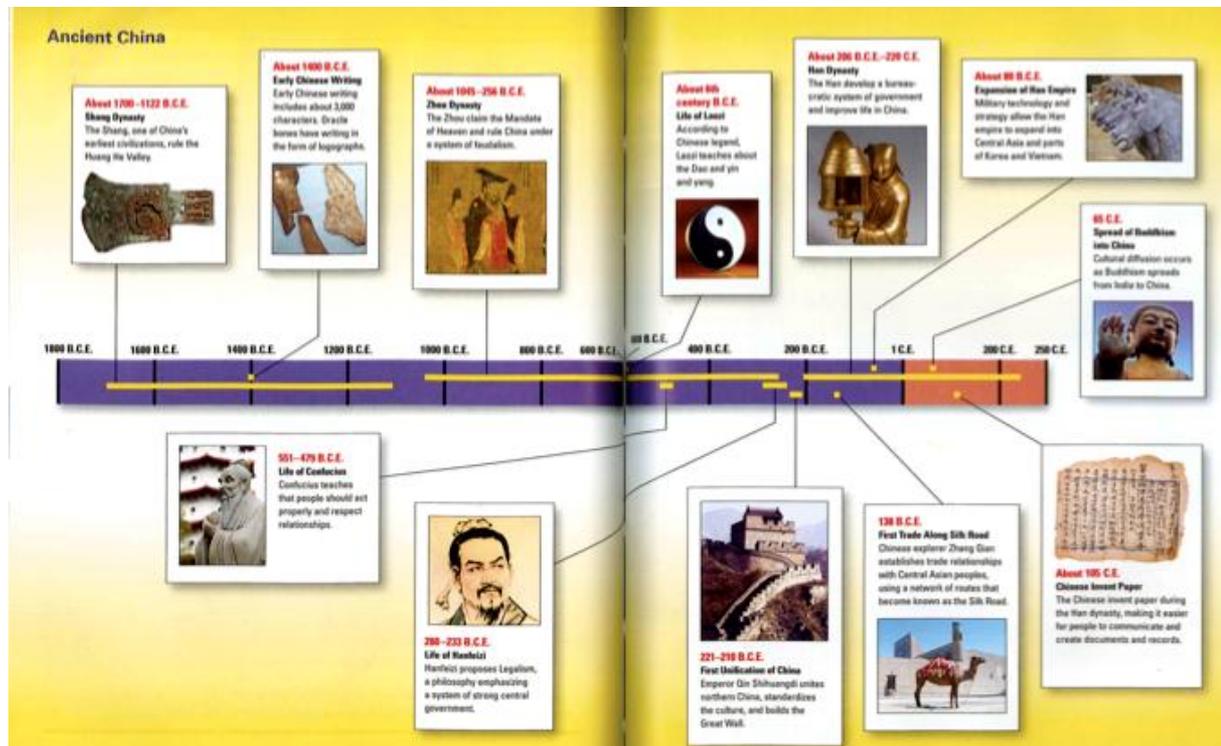
## 7. Define these terms:

- **Caravans:** large groups of people traveling together, usually with a lot of gear
- **Dynasty:** a succession of rulers from the same family
- **Heyday:** a time of great strength or success

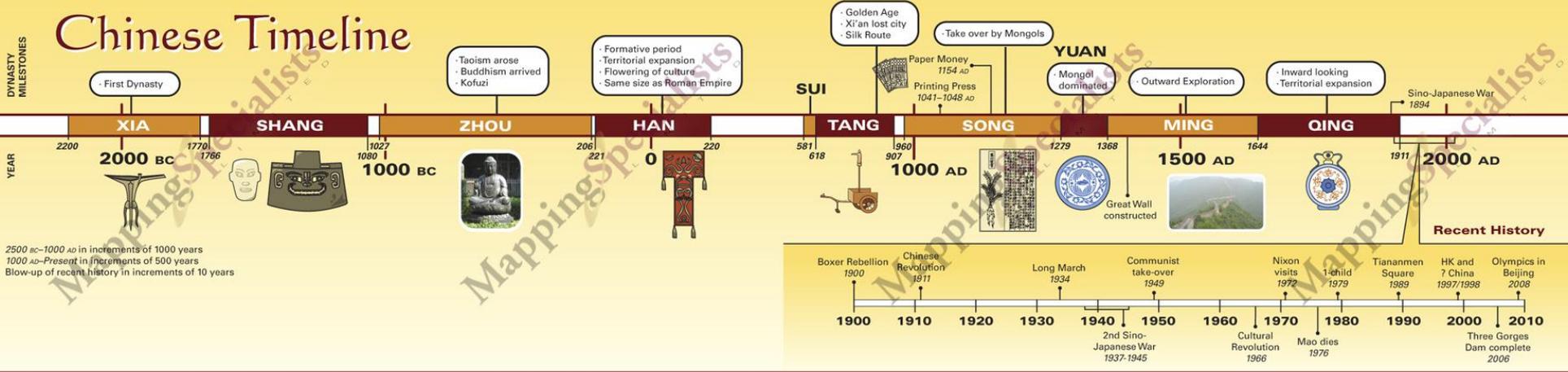
# What is our rationale?

## Historical Thinking Grade 6

- Content Statement - 1. Events can be arranged in order of occurrence using the conventions of B.C. and A.D. or B.C.E. and C.E.



# Chinese Timeline



About 4000 BCE-

About 2000 BCE-

206 BCE-

27 BCE-

1 CE-100 CE-

220 CE-

Early 400s CE-

1260-1295-

1400s-

# Timeline

**About 4000 BCE-** Silk cultivation begins in China

**About 2000 BCE-** Trade between China and the Mediterranean region begins.

**206 BCE-** The Han begin to rule China.

**27 BCE-** The Roman Empire begins.

**1 CE-100 CE-** Buddhism spreads along the Silk Road and reaches China.

**220 CE-** The Han Dynasty is overthrown.

**Early 400s CE-** The Roman Empire collapses.

**1260-1295-** Marco Polo travels along the Silk Road.

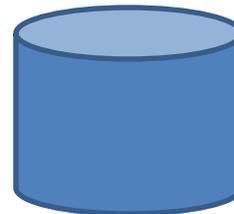
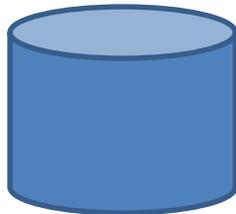
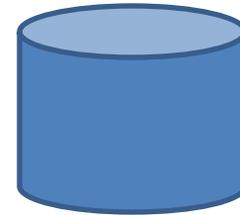
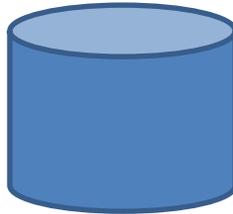
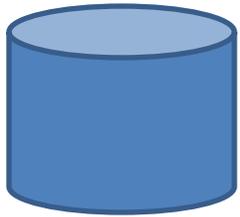
**1400s-** Sea routes develop between Europe and Asia: the Silk Road declines.

# Understanding the task

- You will be writing five entries in a personal Silk Road Journal. One entry will be made after examining each of the five documents in the Mini-Q.

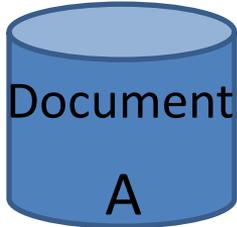


**Pre-Bucketing-** given the task, what is a simple way to bucket this writing assignment?

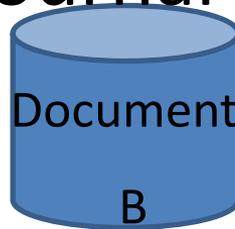


**Pre-Bucketing-** given the task, what is a simple way to bucket this writing assignment?

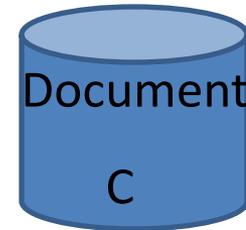
Journal #1



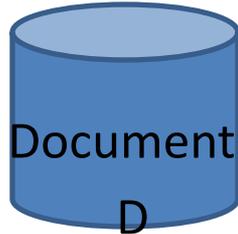
Journal #2



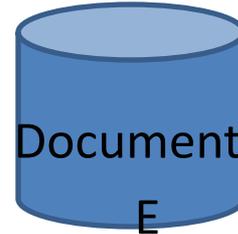
Journal #3



Journal #4



Journal #5



# What is our rational?

- **Ohio's Learning Standard: Early Civilizations**
- Early civilizations (**China**) with unique governments, **economic systems**, social structures, **religions**, technologies and agricultural practices and **products** flourished as a result of favorable geographic characteristics. The cultural practices and products of these early civilizations can be used **to help understand the Eastern Hemisphere today.**

# Document A content notes:

During ancient times, the Silk Road was just one of many trade routes that were used. For example, the Eurasian Steppe Route connected China with Northern Europe. Travelers using this northern route headed northwest from China across the vast Kirghiz Steppe, which extended from Mongolia to the Carpathian Mountains in Eastern Europe. The flat terrain of the Kirghiz Steppe made the Eurasian Steppe Route easier to travel than the Silk Road.

## SILK ROAD



**What was the danger of using this easier route?**

The danger of raiding bandits and nomadic tribes reduced the traffic on this route.

# Document A:

## The Silk Roads in Han-Roman Times

- The Silk Road divided into two routes west of Dunhuang.
- Note that many other trade routes connected to the Silk Road => (effect) was that goods were available from regions that were a long distance from the Silk Road. For example, spices from India could be found in cities along the Silk Road.

### SILK ROAD



# Document A Analysis

1. How far was it along the Silk Road from:

Chang'an to Dunhuang?

To Marakanda?

To Antioch?

To Rome?



2. The Silk Road crossed many types of terrain. What do you think was the most difficult terrain to travel across? Explain.

3. What goods and ideas came from China? Central Asia? Africa? India? Europe?

# Document A Analysis

1. How far was it along the Silk Road from:  
Chang'an to Dunhuang? (**about 1000 miles**)



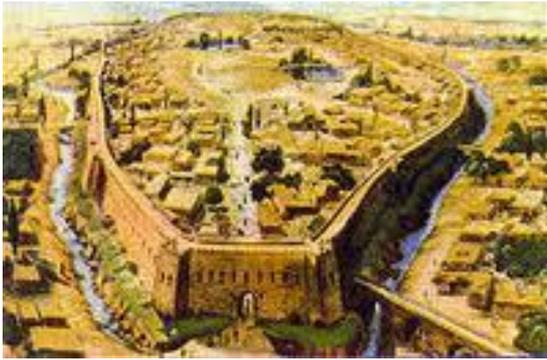
To Marakanda?

To Antioch?

To Rome?

# Document A Analysis

1. How far was it along the Silk Road from:  
Chang'an to Dunhuang? (**about 1000 miles**)



To Marakanda? (**about 3000 miles**)

To Antioch?

To Rome?

# Document A Analysis

1. How far was it along the Silk Road from:  
Chang'an to Dunhuang? **(about 1000 miles)**



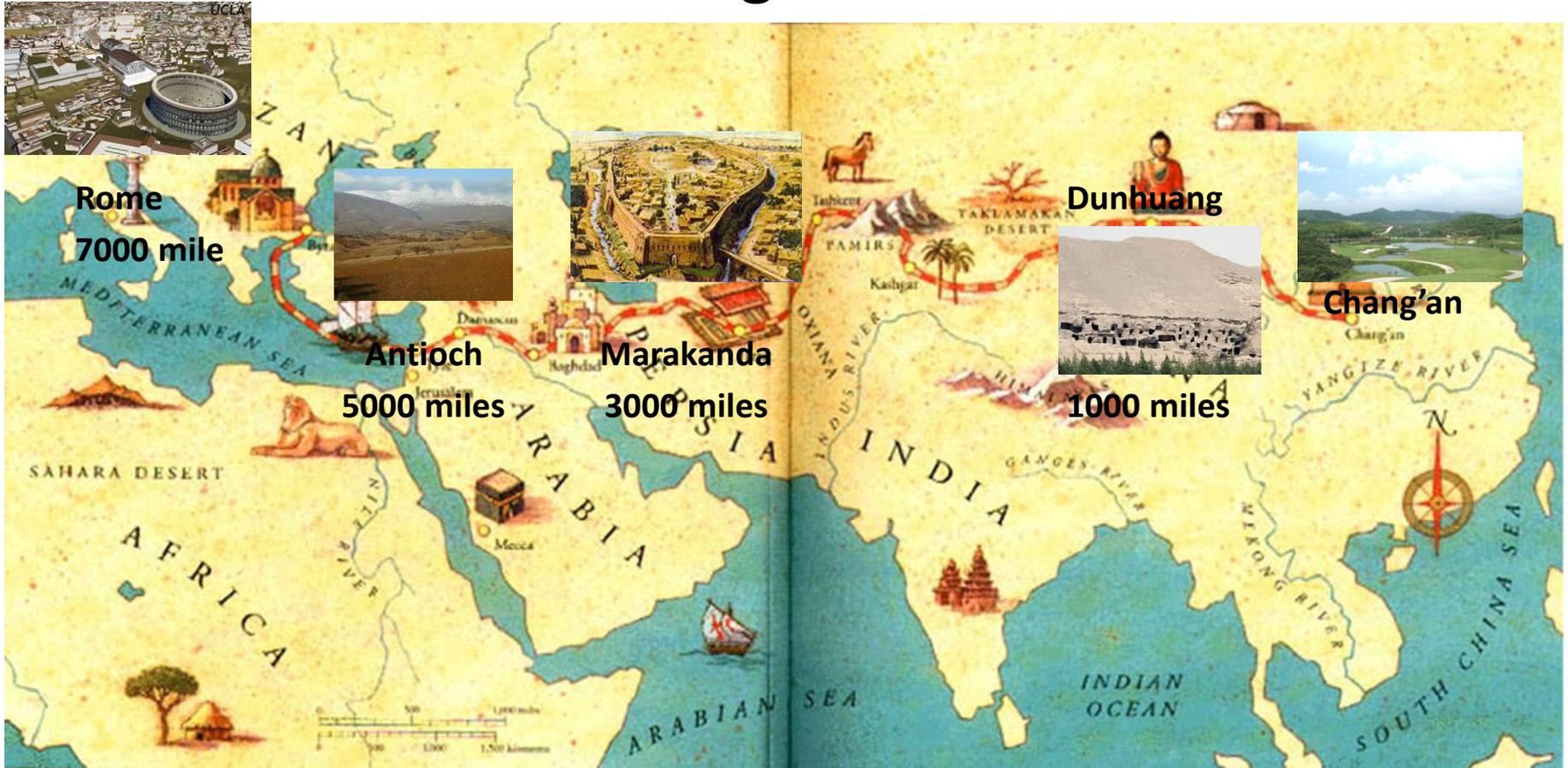
To Marakanda? **(about 3000 miles)**

To Antioch? **(about 5000 miles)**

To Rome?

# Document A Analysis

1. How far was it along the Silk Road from:



# KWL- what do you think about before going on a journey?

- Basic needs (food, water)
- clothing
- Money
- Health care (comb, toothbrush, toothpaste...)
- ICE- “**In Case of Emergency**”-
- Firestarters- (flint...)

# Document A Analysis



2. The Silk Road crossed many types of terrain. What do you think was the most difficult terrain to travel across? Explain.

**Taklimakan and Gobi deserts have extreme heat and lack water VS. Pamir Mountains are rugged and steep terrain.**

3. What goods and ideas came from China? Central Asia? Africa? India? Europe?

# Writing Journal Entry #1

<b>Directions and prompts.</b>	<b>Thesis to Essay Writing: Journal Entry #1</b>
Label your entry	“Chang’an, April 5, 1170, Dawn.”
You are ready to head west from Chang’an, the easternmost city on The Silk Road. You look over the map to get a sense of what lies ahead of you. You will be taking the main Silk Road route, not the southern route. How far to travel?	1.
How do you feel (excited, anxious, sad...)?	2.
What else are you thinking as you wait to leave?	3.

# Thesis to Essay Writing: Journal Entry #1

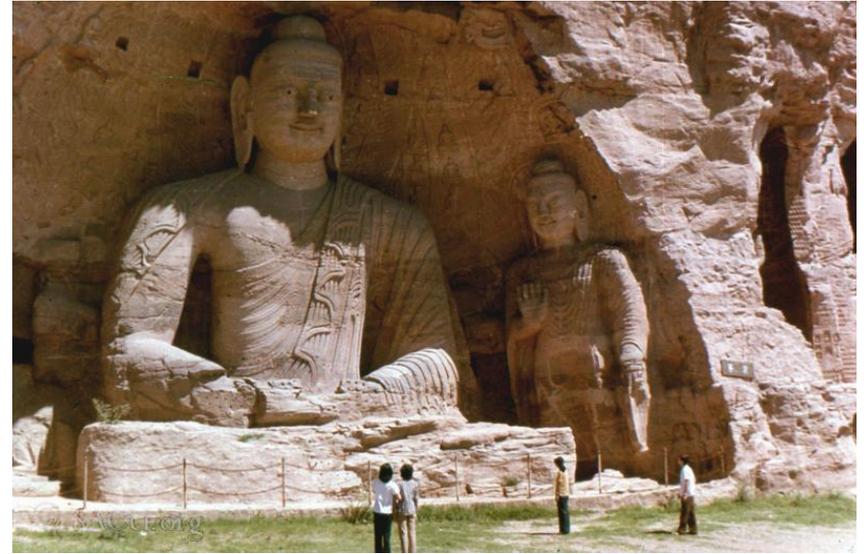
1.

2.

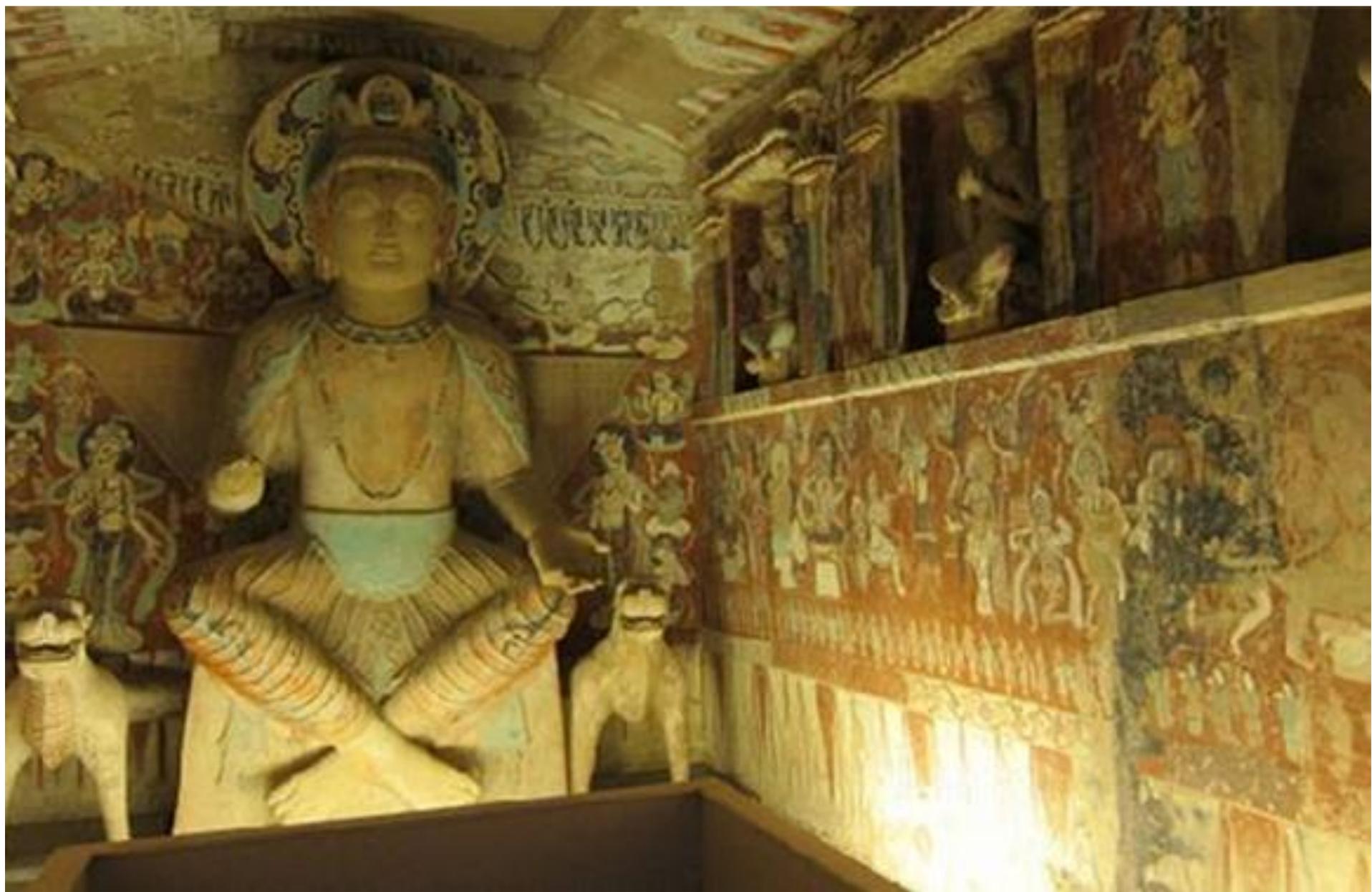
3.

Document B content notes 1

# Caves of the Thousand Buddhas



- In the early 300s CE, a Buddhist monk saw a vision of many Buddhas shining on the cliffs near [Dunhuang](#) (“dun-wong”). Inspired by this vision, the monk began to dig out caves in the cliffs to use as shrines. Buddhist monks continued this practice for about 700 years, during which time about [500 caves](#) were dug. The monks placed clay statues of Buddha in most of the caves and painted many of the walls with Buddhist images. These honeycombed caves came to be called the **Caves of the Thousand Buddhas**.



# Document B

- 1. Describe the interior of the cave shrine shown in the photograph.



- 2. What do the manuscripts found in the cave tell you about the concerns and interests of the travelers along the Silk Road?
- 3. What do the manuscripts tell about the homeland of the various Silk Road travelers?

# Document B Analysis

1. Describe the interior of the cave shrine shown in the photograph. **The cave is filled with religious statues and piles of scrolls, and the walls are covered with art work.**



Document B analysis #2- **Highlight part of text which answers question.**

... (the cave) walls were carpeted with hundreds of miniature Buddhas.... In several shrines the ceiling teemed with Hindu angels and lotus flowers.

...[manuscripts] revealed a multicultural world, which had barely been suspected ... inventories, wills, legal deeds, private letters. Chinese ballads and poems came to light..., even a funeral address for a dead donkey... And beside the mass of Chinese prayers are documents in Sanskrit, Tibetan, Uighur, Sogdian, Khotanese, Turki in a mélange of scripts: a letter in Judeo-Persian, a Parthian fragment in Manichean script, a Turkic tantric tract in the Uighur alphabet.

**What do the manuscripts found in the cave tell you about the concerns and interests of the travelers along the Silk Road?**

Document B analysis #2- **Highlight part of text which answers question.**

... (the cave) walls were carpeted with hundreds of miniature Buddhas.... In several shrines the ceiling teemed with Hindu angels and lotus flowers.

...[manuscripts] revealed a multicultural world, which had barely been suspected ... inventories, wills, legal deeds, private letters. Chinese ballads and poems came to light..., even a funeral address for a dead donkey... And beside the mass of Chinese prayers are documents in Sanskrit, Tibetan, Uighur, Sogdian, Khotanese, Turki in a mélange of scripts: a letter in Judeo-Persian, a Parthian fragment in Manichean script, a Turkic tantric tract in the Uighur alphabet.

**What do the manuscripts found in the cave tell you about the concerns and interests of the travelers along the Silk Road?**

## Document B analysis #2

... (the cave) walls were carpeted with hundreds of miniature Buddhas.... In several shrines the ceiling teemed with Hindu angels and lotus flowers.

...[manuscripts] revealed a multicultural world, which had barely been suspected ... inventories, wills, legal deeds, private letters. Chinese ballads and poems came to light..., even a funeral address for a dead donkey... And beside the mass of Chinese prayers are documents in Sanskrit, Tibetan, Uighur, Sogdian, Khotanese, Turki in a mélange of scripts: a letter in Judeo-Persian, a Parthian fragment in Manichean script, a Turkic tantric tract in the Uighur alphabet.

- What do the manuscripts found in the cave tell you about the concerns and interests of the travelers along the Silk Road? **The travelers had a variety of concerns, including legal matters like leaving a proper will and personal issues like a beloved dead donkey.**
- 3. What do the manuscripts tell about the homeland of the various Silk Road travelers?

## Document B analysis

... (the cave) walls were carpeted with hundreds of miniature Buddhas.... In several shrines the ceiling teemed with Hindu angels and lotus flowers.

...[manuscripts] revealed a multicultural world, which had barely been suspected ... inventories, wills, legal deeds, private letters, Chinese ballads and poems came to light..., even a funeral address for a dead donkey... And beside the mass of Chinese prayers are documents in Sanskrit, Tibetan, Uighur, Sogdian, Khotanese, Turki in a mélange of scripts: a letter in Judeo-Persian, a Parthian fragment in Manichean script, a Turkic tantric tract in the Uighur alphabet.

### 3. What do the manuscripts tell about the homeland of the various Silk Road travelers?

Languages	Region
Sanskrit	India
Tibetan	Tibet
Uighur	northwestern China
Sogdian	ancient Iran
Khotanese	Buddhist kingdom on southern edge of Talkimakan Desert
Turk-	Central Asia
Judeo-Persian	Western Iran
Parthian	Northeastern Iran

# The Languages of the Silk Road



## Document B content notes 2

In 1900, a Taoist monk named Abbot Wang Yuanlu was poking around Cave 16 (of the Caves of the Thousand Buddhas). This cave had been abandoned for a thousand years. Wang happened to find a concealed door, which he opened. He walked through the doorway and entered a small cave filled from floor to ceiling with scrolls and paintings. He had discovered, by accident, the world's oldest paper archive. The room contained manuscripts from 400 to about 1000 CE. The contents included Jewish, Buddhist and Confucian texts and also many secular texts dealing with the economy and social structure of the region. This chance discovery illuminated life on the Silk Road.



## Document B content notes 3

- The ancient artwork found in Silk Road regions had a strong multicultural influence. For example, artworks made in the Sassanid Empire influenced artwork in the Byzantine Empire and medieval Europe. This influence was made possible by the exchange of goods *and* ideas along the Silk Road.



**RABBIT**

1939, 1951, 1963, 1975, 1987, 1999, 2011, 2023  
Luckiest of all signs, you are also talented and articulate. Affectionate, yet shy, you seek peace throughout your life. Marry a Sheep or Boar. Your opposite is the Cock.



**DRAGON**

1942, 1954, 1966, 1978, 1990, 2002, 2014  
You are eccentric and your life complex. You have a very passionate nature and abundant health. Marry a Monkey or Rat late in life. Avoid the Dog.



**SNAKE**

1941, 1953, 1965, 1977, 1989, 2001, 2013  
wise and intense with a tendency towards physical beauty. Vain and high tempered. The Boar is your enemy. The Cock or Ox are your best signs.



**HORSE**

1942, 1954, 1966, 1978, 1990, 2002, 2014  
Popular and attractive to the opposite sex. You are often ostentatious and impatient. You need people. Marry a Tiger or a Dog early, but never a Rat.



**SHEEP**

1943, 1955, 1967, 1979, 1991, 2003, 2015  
Elegant and creative, you are timid and prefer anonymity. You are most compatible with Boars and Rabbits but never the Ox.



**MONKEY**

1944, 1956, 1968, 1980, 1992, 2004, 2016  
You are very intelligent and are able to influence people. An enthusiastic achiever, you are easily discouraged and confused. Avoid Tigers. Seek a Dragon or a Rat.



**TIGER**

1938, 1950, 1962, 1974, 1986, 1998, 2010, 2022  
Tiger people are aggressive, courageous, candid and sensitive. Look to the Horse and Dog for happiness. Beware of the Monkey.



**OX**

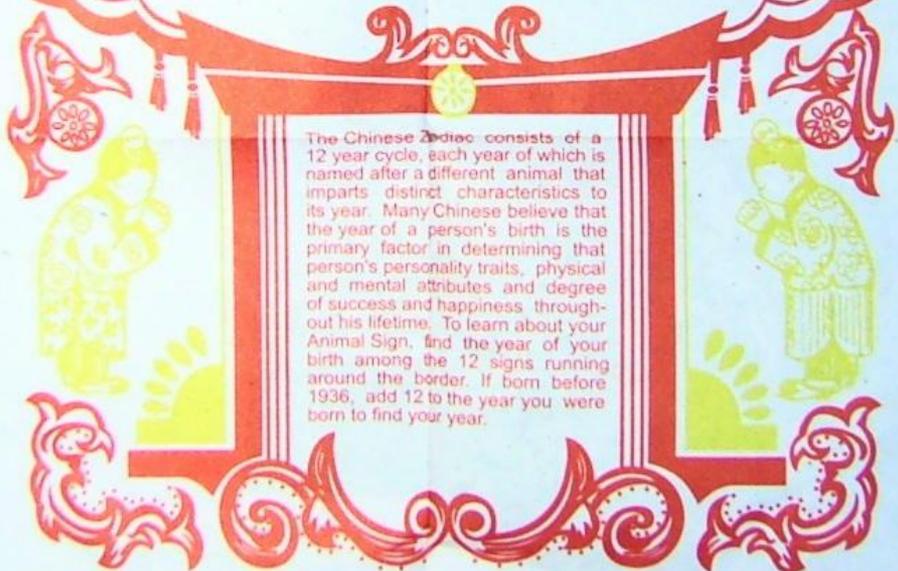
1937, 1949, 1961, 1973, 1985, 1997, 2009, 2021  
Bright, patient, and inspiring to others. You can be happy by yourself, yet make an outstanding partner. Marry a Snake or Cock. The Sheep will bring trouble.



**RAT**

1936, 1948, 1960, 1972, 1984, 1996, 2008, 2020  
You are ambitious yet honest. prone to spend heavy. Gossip make lasting friendships. Most compatible with Dragons and Monkeys. Least compatible with Horses.

# CHINESE ZODIAC



The Chinese Zodiac consists of a 12 year cycle, each year of which is named after a different animal that imparts distinct characteristics to its year. Many Chinese believe that the year of a person's birth is the primary factor in determining that person's personality traits, physical and mental attributes and degree of success and happiness throughout his lifetime. To learn about your Animal Sign, find the year of your birth among the 12 signs running around the border. If born before 1936, add 12 to the year you were born to find your year.



**COCK**

1945, 1957, 1969, 1981, 1993, 2005, 2017  
A pioneer in spirit, you are devoted to work and quiet after knowledge. You are selfish and egotistic. Rabbits are trouble. Snakes and Oxen are fine.



**DOG**

1946, 1958, 1970, 1982, 1994, 2006, 2018  
Loyal and honest, you work well with others. Generous yet stubborn and often selfish. Look to the Horse or Tiger. Watch out for Dragons.



**BOAR**

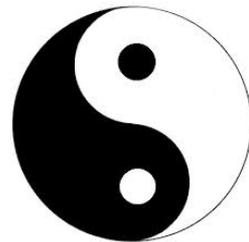
1947, 1959, 1971, 1983, 1995, 2007, 2019  
Noble and chivalrous. Your friends will be lifelong, yet you are prone to marital strife. Avoid other Boars. Marry a Rabbit, or a Sheep.

# Writing Journal Entry #2

Directions and prompts.	Thesis to Essay Writing: Journal Entry #2
Label your entry	Dunhuang, June 1, 1170, Evening
<p>You have traveled more than 1,000 miles with the caravan.</p> <p>Around the campfire at Dunhuang, you listen to fellow travelers discussing the teachings of <a href="#">Buddhism</a>, Hinduism, and Confucianism. You sit down to record your thoughts about Dunhuang and the conversation around the campfire and the upcoming trek across the Gobi desert. What are your concerns about the upcoming trek across the Gobi Desert?</p>	1.
Why do you think you have come across so many different religions on the Silk Road?	2.
What effect do you think the Silk Road has on the spread of religion and ideas?	3.

# Philosophies

- The turbulent period generated a strong desire for a strong, enduring political ideology. People were longing for a better world. Buddhism could offer some satisfaction. On the other hand, Buddhism believes that everyone can attain enlightenment and become a Buddha through his own effort. Life is suffering, but one can get rid of the suffering and gain eternal bliss through practice. This belief matches the similar *Confucius* saying that “Everyone can be a sage”, as well as the Daoist philosophy which focuses on how to get rid of worldly suffering which people experienced too much during war. The Buddhist meditation and the Daoist, especially *Zhuang Zi's*, contemplation also have much in common. Moreover, the Buddhist monastic life is similar in some ways to the hermit life of the traditional Chinese intellectuals. So Buddhism slowly overcame the rejection by some and integrated into the main stream of Chinese culture.



# Document C: Gobi Desert



## Document C

**Source:** An excerpt describing the Taklimakan Desert in *Encyclopedia*, a natural history of Asia written in the early 1300s by Chinese historian Ma Twan-lin.

**Note:** In ancient times, the Taklimakan Desert was sometimes referred to as the Gobi. Today, as then, the temperature in the desert reaches over 100° F and rainfall is minimal.

... you have to cross a plain of sand, extending for more than 100 leagues [about 300 miles]. You see nothing in any direction but the sky and the sands, without the slightest trace of road; and travelers find nothing to guide them but the bones of men and beasts and the droppings of camels. During the passage of this wilderness you hear sounds, sometimes of singing, sometimes of wailing; and it has often happened that travelers going aside to see what these sounds might be have strayed from their course and been entirely lost; for they were voices of spirits and goblins.

**Source:** The Hedin Foundation, National Museum of Ethnography, Stockholm, Sweden.



# Document C Analysis Questions

1. Describe the climate of the Gobi Desert.
2. According to Ma Twan-lin, what guided Silk Road travelers through the Gobi Desert?
3. Why do you think road markers, such as the one in the photograph above, were set up in the Gobi Desert?

# Document C content notes:

- Since water is in such short supply in the Gobi and Taklimakan deserts, caravans sometimes preferred to travel through this region during the winter. During this season, the cold weather allowed caravans to carry blocks of ice.
- During the warmer season, the caravans often traveled through the deserts at night and used the stars to guide them.



# Document C content notes:

- Because the oases were spaced further apart, the southern route of the Silk Road was more difficult to travel than the northern route. However, this difficulty made the southern route less popular with bandits. As a result, travelers often decided to take the southern route.

# Document C content notes:

- During the warmer season, the caravans often traveled through the deserts at night and used the stars to guide them. Indeed, many caravan guides were trained in nautical schools in India, where they learned with sailors how to navigate by the stars.

# Writing Journal Entry # 3

<b>Directions and prompts.</b>	<b>Thesis to Essay Writing: Journal Entry #3</b>
Label your entry	“Gobi Desert, June 12, 1170, Midday.”
<p>You have been traveling all day through the desert. The relentless sun and heat have made you sleepy as you trudge on. You have heard that travelers through the desert sometimes faint and, as a result, are accidentally left behind by the caravan.</p> <p>To stay alert, you decide to write in your journal.</p> <p>How are you staying alert?</p>	1.
<p>What are your thoughts as you make your way through the Gobi Desert?</p>	2.
<p>What is your impression of this endless land?</p>	3.

# Document D: The City of Marakanda



# Document D: The City of Marakanda

1. What mountains did westbound Silk Road travelers have to cross before reaching Marakanda?
2. According to Xuanzang, Marakanda was a prosperous city. Why do you think it was prosperous?
3. Judging from the picture, how was Marakanda protected?

## Document D: content notes

- The Pamir Mountains form a rugged range where the Himalayan, Hindu Kush, Kinlun, and Tian Shan mountains meet. It is one of the highest mountain ranges in the world. The mountains are mostly bare rock, with deep canyons gouged out by swiftly flowing streams. Some of this range is covered with grass, but trees are few. The Pamirs are located mostly in modern-day Tajikistan.

# Writing Journal Entry #4

Directions and prompts.	Thesis to Essay Writing: Journal Entry #4
Label your entry	“Marakanda, September 23, 1170, Afternoon.”
You arrived in the thriving city of Marakanda this morning. What is your impression of Marakanda? How do you plan to spend your time there? Take a few moments to write your thoughts and concerns in your journal.	1.
Once you leave, you will be on the long journey to Antioch, the western end of the Silk Road. Review the map of the Silk Road in Document A. What do you expect from the rest of your journey?	2.
What interesting events have happened so far?	3.

# Document E: Silk Road Ledger (chart)

- Note:** After leaving Marakanda, Silk Road travelers continued west into the Parthian Empire. This prosperous region served as a bridge or “middleman” between the eastern lands and the Roman Empire. This final destination was the large city of Antioch, which marked the western end of the Silk Road. Below is a hypothetical but historically accurate list of goods you traded on your journey.

Location	Goods Given	Goods Received
Tunhuang	1 book of Confucian Lessons	1 book of Buddhist prayers
Ferghana	100 bolts of silk	200 Ferghana horses (pick up on return)
Marakanda	10 ceramic vases	20 bags of Indian pepper (1 pound each)
Marakanda	10 bolts of silk	20 skeins of wool (from Eastern Europe)
Rhague	500 seeds for orange trees	500 seeds for grape vines
Palmyra	50 sheets of paper	5 rhinoceros horns (from Ethiopia)
Antioch	500 bolts of silk	Unspecified amounts of gold
Antioch	50 bars of iron	30 roman colored glass vases
Lost in Gobi Desert: 1 camel and driver carrying 30 bolts of Chang’an silk		

# Document E Analysis Questions

1. What region acted as a middleman in the trade between the Roman and Song empires?
2. Do you think the Song Officials would be pleased about trading 100 bolts of silk for 200 horses?
3. Review the map in Document A. How do you think pepper got to Marakanda? How do you think wool got there?
4. Review the map. How do you think the silk bought in Antioch got to Rome?

# Document E Analysis Questions

1. What region acted as a middleman in the trade between the Byzantine and Song empires?

The Indo-Parthian region

2. Do you think the Song Officials would be pleased about trading 100 bolts of silk for 200 horses?

YES! China

produced large amounts of silk and because they kept the making of silk a secret, did not have to worry about other countries competing with them on the silk market. However, the horses bred in Ferghana were superior to the horses bred in China and so were in high demand. Song officials would be happy to trade silk for Ferghana horses.

3. Review the map in Document A. How do you think pepper got to Marakanda? How do you think wool got there?

Pepper most likely got to Marakanda via the route through northern India (the Indian Grand Road.) Wool most likely got to Marakanda via the northernmost route (the Eurasian Steppe Route).

4. Review the map. How do you think the silk bought in Antioch got to Rome?

Silk was most likely shipped to Rome via a sea route across the Mediterranean Sea from Antioch to Rome.

# Writing Journal Entry #5

- Label your journal entry “Antioch, April 22, 1171, Evening.” The caravan has reached its final destination- Antioch, the western end of the Silk Road. You are one of the few people to travel the entire length of the route! Reflect on this once-in-a-lifetime achievement. Also, review the ledger, which lists some of the trade transactions that took place during your journey. Has the journey turned out the way you hoped? Was the long journey worth the difficulties you endured? How do you feel about the return journey? Record your thoughts in your journal.