

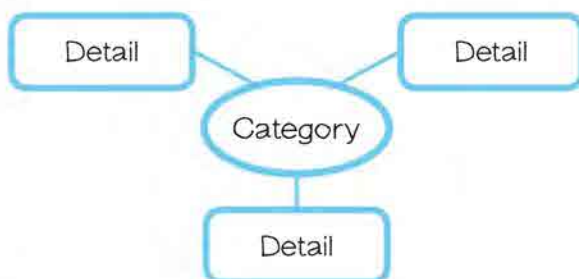
MAIN IDEAS

- 1 **Geography** The Silk Roads brought cultural and economic changes to China.
- 2 **Belief Systems** Chinese philosophies such as Confucianism and Daoism had a lasting influence on East Asia.
- 3 **Science and Technology** During Han times, China made many advances in technology, agriculture, and trade.

TAKING NOTES

Reading Skill: Categorizing

Sorting information into groups helps you understand important developments in history. Look for categories of ancient China's legacy and details about them. Record the information on a web diagram.



Skillbuilder Handbook, page R6



▲ Embroidered Silk Tapestry
This Chinese tapestry shows the Buddha preaching at a site called Vulture Peak.

Words to Know

Understanding the following words will help you read this lesson:

luxury not really needed, but giving pleasure, enjoyment, or comfort (page 277)

Some Chinese merchants made large sums of money selling luxury goods.

sesame a plant that produces small seeds that can be used for oil and flavoring (page 277)

She could smell the delightful aroma of sesame oil in the meal prepared by her host.

standard a rule or practice that is accepted as a model (page 278)

Standards for behavior can originate in religions as well as philosophies, such as Confucianism.

harness a set of straps used to attach an animal to a plow or vehicle (page 279)

The new, improved harness that he bought for his horse nearly cut his workday in half.

The Legacy of Ancient China

TERMS & NAMES

Silk Roads

trans-Eurasian

cultural diffusion

Build on What You Know Trade formed a part of Chinese life. Despite the geographic barriers that separated China from the lands to the west, trade caused Chinese contacts with other lands to increase.

The Silk Roads

- 1 ESSENTIAL QUESTION** What kinds of goods moved along the Silk Roads?

During the time of the Han Dynasty, only the Chinese knew how to make silk. It was much desired as a luxury fabric by both the Chinese and people outside of China. Chinese silk was important in opening trading routes to the west.

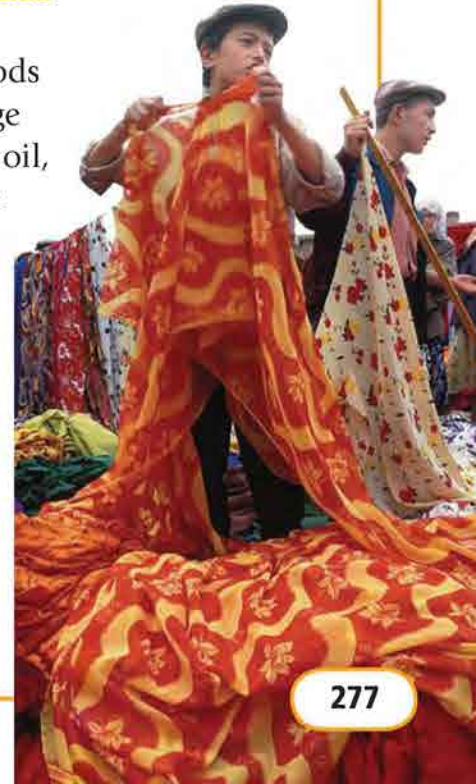
A Trans-Eurasian Link Overland trade routes were called **Silk Roads** because traders carried silk and other goods on caravan trails. The trails stretched westward from China through central Asia to Mesopotamia and Europe. (See map on pages 278–279.) Because these trails stretched across two continents, Europe and Asia, they were called **trans-Eurasian**. China was part of a huge global trade network.

By 100 B.C., the Silk Roads were well established. Goods leaving China included silk, paper, and pottery. Exchange goods coming from the west included sesame seeds and oil, metals, and precious stones. One trade item the Chinese especially valued was Central Asian horses.

Cultural Diffusion Trade goods were not the only things that moved on the Silk Roads. Ideas and cultural customs moved on the Silk Roads, too. This spread of ideas and customs is called **cultural diffusion**. For example, such things as Central Asian military methods, Buddhism, and western cultural styles reached China. In turn, Chinese art, silks, and pottery influenced the cultures to the west.

Connect to Today

Silk A modern-day seller of silk sells his goods at the ancient Silk Road market at Kashgar in China. ▼





Silk Roads, 150 B.C.–A.D. 500

A branch of the Silk Roads near Bamiyan, Afghanistan

GEOGRAPHY SKILLBUILDER INTERPRETING MAPS

Movement What explains the split in the main route of the Silk Roads between Dunhuang and Kashgar?

The Spread of Buddhism In Chapter 7, you learned about the beginnings of Buddhism in India. During the Han Dynasty, Buddhist missionaries entered China along the Silk Roads. Buddhism spread to Japan and Korea from China. Chinese Buddhists modified Buddhism to make it fit better with their own traditions.

REVIEW Why were the Silk Roads important to Chinese civilization?

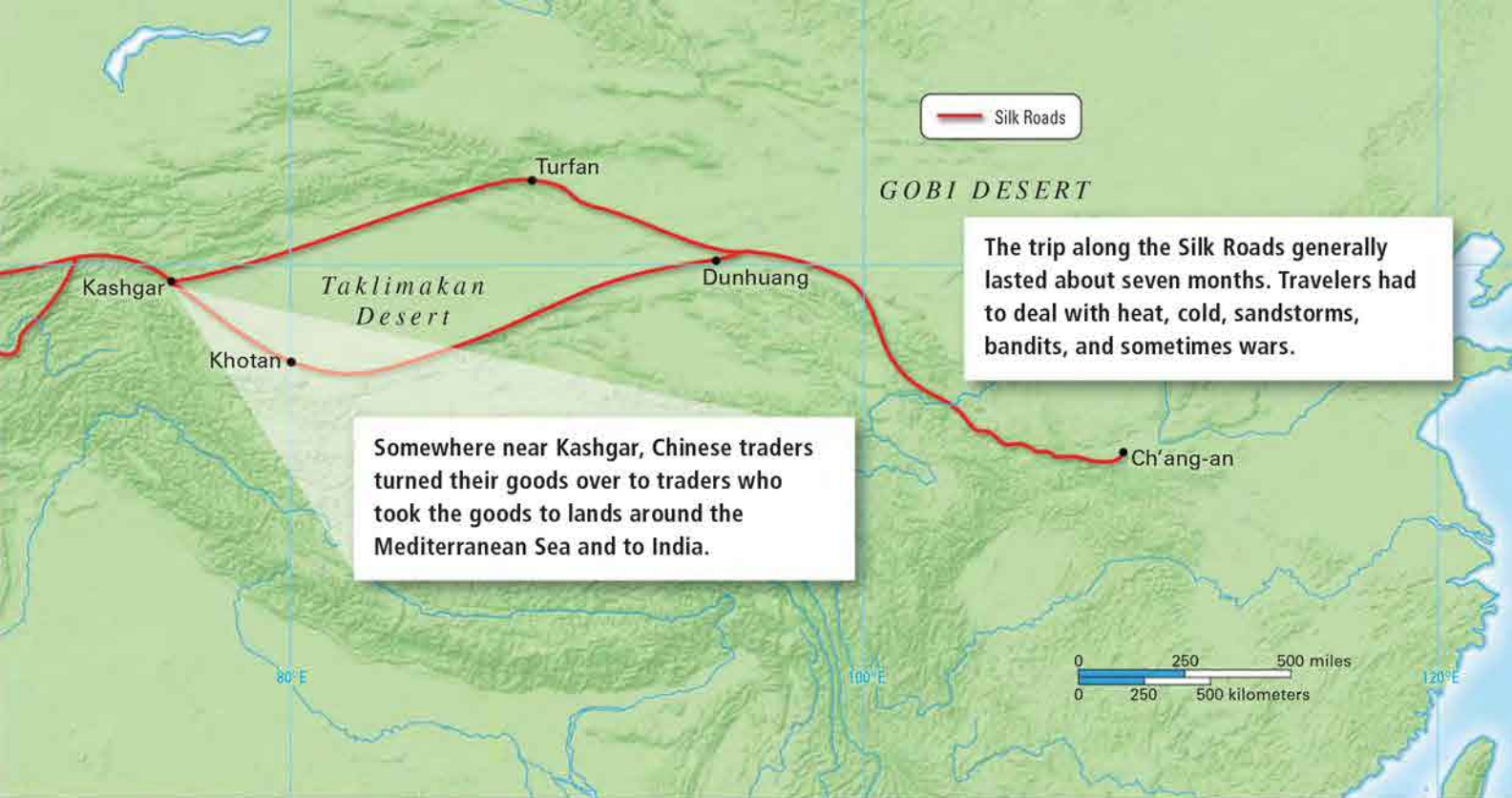
Influential Ideas and Beliefs

2 ESSENTIAL QUESTION How important were Confucianism and Daoism?

Confucianism The standards set by Confucianism remained significant in Chinese government and education. Today, the legacy of Confucius' ideas about social duty are still important in Chinese villages. Confucianism also became a very influential philosophy in Japan, Korea, and Vietnam.

Daoism Daoism had a lasting influence in China. By the sixth century it was a religion with priests, rituals, and volumes of collected writings. Unlike Confucianism, however, Daoism remained primarily a Chinese belief system.

REVIEW Where is Confucianism practiced today?



Chinese Inventions and Discoveries

3 ESSENTIAL QUESTION In which aspects of Chinese life did the Han make great advances?

China had a large and growing population to feed. Because agriculture was so important in China, most of the really important inventions during this period came about in agriculture.

Agricultural Improvements Chinese inventions made life easier for farmers and made more grain available for trade. For example, a better plow and farm tools helped increase crop production. The invention of a collar harness allowed horses to pull heavy loads. The wheelbarrow made it easier for farmers to move heavy loads by hand. Watermills used river power to grind grain. In a land of mostly farmers, these inventions were valuable.

Paper In A.D. 105, paper was invented in China. Before that time, books were made of costly silk. The inexpensive paper was made from a mixture of old rags, mulberry tree bark, and fibers from the hemp plant. Inexpensive paper made books available in a country that valued learning. Paper was important for a bureaucratic government that kept many records.

Silk Silk is beautiful and long lasting. It can be dyed brilliant colors. Because it was rare, it became an excellent trade product. Silk allowed the Chinese to get silver and gold from lands to the west of China. At one time, one pound of silk was equal to one pound of gold. Getting gold and silver was important to China because it did not have rich deposits of either mineral.

REVIEW Why was it necessary to make improvements in farming methods in ancient China?

Lesson Summary

- Trading routes called the Silk Roads brought goods and ideas to and from China.
- Confucianism and Daoism had a lasting influence in China.
- Chinese inventions in agriculture, paper making, and other discoveries improved daily life.

Why It Matters Now . . .

Ancient cultural patterns continue to influence life in China and elsewhere.

4 Lesson Review

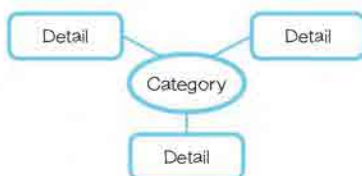
Terms & Names

1. Explain the importance of
Silk Roads trans-Eurasian cultural diffusion

Using Your Notes

Categorizing Use your completed graphic to answer the following question:

2. What ideas or goods did China give the ancient world?



Main Ideas

3. What economic changes did the Silk Roads bring to China?
4. How did the Silk Roads aid in the spread of Buddhism?
5. Why were most of the early Chinese inventions related to agriculture?

Critical Thinking

6. **Understanding Cause and Effect** Why were the Silk Roads important to ancient China?
7. **Making Inferences** Why might Confucianism continue to influence life in Chinese villages?

Activity

Internet Activity Use the Internet to research how silk is made. Create a diagram showing the process. Be sure to clearly label all the steps.

INTERNET KEYWORD: *Silk making*

Keep a Silk Roads Journal

Goal: To analyze the nature of goods, landscape, and means of transportation on the Silk Roads by writing journal entries about a trader's experience on the road

Materials & Supplies

- books on the Silk Roads
- writing paper and pen

Prepare

- 1 Research the products, landscape, and means of transportation found on the Silk Roads.
- 2 Reread the information and look at the map of the Silk Roads on pages 278–279 in this chapter.

Do the Activity

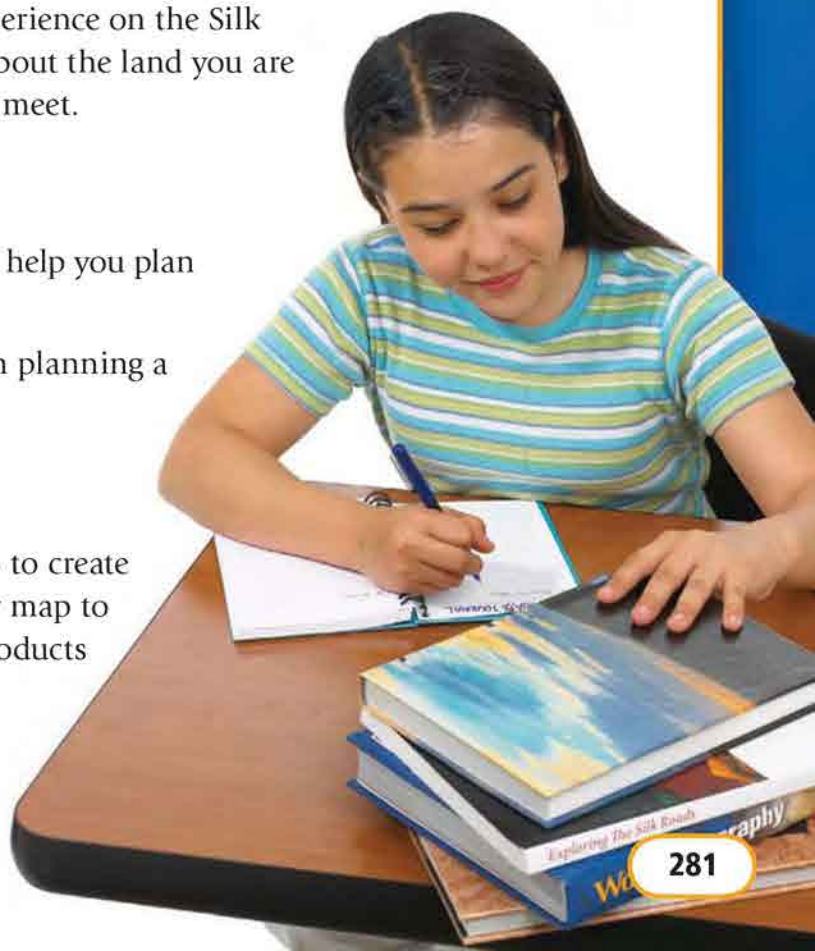
- 1 Imagine you are a Chinese trader about to start a trip on the Silk Roads. Decide what items you will trade.
- 2 Determine a route you would take starting at Chang'an and ending at Kashgar.
- 3 Decide what type of animals you will use.
- 4 Write three diary entries about your experience on the Silk Roads. Be sure to include information about the land you are traveling through and other traders you meet.

Follow-Up

- 1 How did climate and physical geography help you plan your trip?
- 2 What things must you think about when planning a long trip on the Silk Roads?

Extension

Making a Wall Map Work with a group to create a large map of the Silk Roads. Tape your map to the wall and have other students add products traded on the Silk Roads.



Chapter 8 Review

VISUAL SUMMARY

Ancient China

Science & Technology

- Chinese master the art of bronzeworking.
- A language system develops.
- Advances in agricultural technology produce more food.
- Paper is invented.
- Silk is produced.



Geography

- Early farmers settle in the river valleys of the Huang He and Chang Jiang.
- Physical landforms make contact with other parts of the world difficult.
- Goods, ideas, Buddhism, and cultural practices moved along the Silk Roads.



Government

- Shang establish first dynasty.
- Mandate of Heaven establishes authority.
- Shi Huangdi and Qin unify China.
- Builders begin the Great Wall.
- Han Dynasty rules for 400 years.



Belief Systems

- Legalism calls for strict control of the people.
- Confucius teaches that the five relationships will bring harmony.
- Daoism promotes learning the way of nature to find harmony.



TERMS & NAMES

Explain why the words in each set below are linked with each other.

1. **Qin** and **Legalism**
2. **Han Dynasty** and **bureaucracy**
3. **filial piety** and **Confucianism**
4. **Silk Roads** and **cultural diffusion**

MAIN IDEAS

Geography Shapes Life in Ancient China (pages 252–257)

5. What made the Huang He so valuable to ancient Chinese civilization?
6. How did Chinese writing develop?

China's Ancient Philosophies (pages 258–265)

7. How did the Legalists and Daoists differ in their views of society?
8. What five basic human relationships did Confucius teach?

The Qin and the Han (pages 266–275)

9. Which policies of Qin ruler Shi Huangdi caused the greatest resentment among the people?
10. What advances in government did the Han make?

The Legacy of Ancient China (pages 276–281)

11. What are some ideas that reached ancient China because of the Silk Roads?
12. Why were agricultural improvements important in ancient China?

CRITICAL THINKING

Big Ideas: Belief Systems

13. **DRAWING CONCLUSIONS** How did the teachings of Confucius support the ancient Chinese family structure?
14. **UNDERSTANDING CAUSE AND EFFECT** How did Confucianism contribute to the development of the Chinese bureaucracy?
15. **FORMING AND SUPPORTING OPINIONS** Which of the three belief systems discussed in this chapter do you think would be the most effective in ruling a land? Explain.

ALTERNATIVE ASSESSMENT

1. **WRITING ACTIVITY** Write a diary entry as a person working on the Great Wall. Include a description of your work and also your views about having to do the work.
2. **INTERDISCIPLINARY ACTIVITY—SCIENCE** Research the paper-making process. Make a poster illustrating the process and tell how it changed Chinese lives.
3. **STARTING WITH A STORY** Review your letter on the impact of Confucian teachings on society. Write a paragraph supporting the view that strict laws, not simply respect, are needed to control society.



Technology Activity

4. CREATING A MULTIMEDIA PRESENTATION

Use the library or the Internet to research the Qin tomb of Shi Huangdi and a tomb of an Egyptian ruler. Create a multimedia presentation on the tombs. Include

- location of tombs
- similarities and differences



Reading a Map The map below shows climates that are found in China and compares them to locations in North America. Answer the questions about the map.



1. **The western lands of China are similar to which state of the United States?**
 - A. Minnesota
 - B. Idaho
 - C. Kentucky
 - D. Oklahoma
2. **Which area of China has a climate similar to Nebraska?**
 - A. West Central
 - B. East Central
 - C. Northeast
 - D. Far North



Additional Test Practice, pp. 51–533