

ENDURING ISSUES PRACTICE

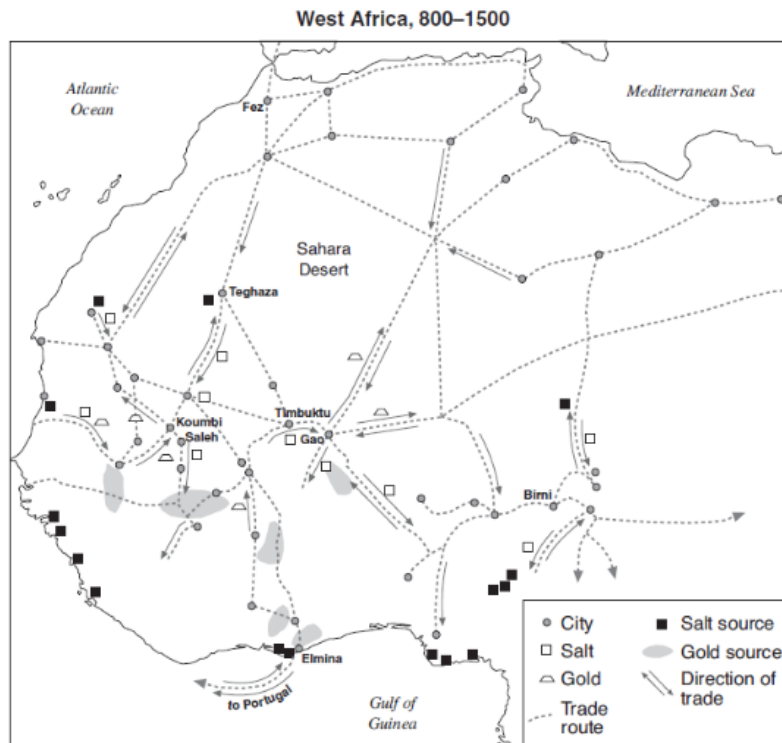
Directions: Read and analyze each of the five documents and complete the chart that follows. You need to be able to identify the main ideas, 2-3 possible enduring issues, which unit or topic it ties into, and at least one piece of outside or additional information about that unit/topic.

An enduring issue is a challenge or problem that has been debated or discussed across time.

An enduring issue is one that many societies have attempted to address with varying degrees of success.

**Some suggestions for your Enduring Issues Essay that you may want to choose from include the impact of trade, the impact of cultural diffusion, and the impact of interconnectedness. You are not limited to these suggestions*

DOCUMENT 1



Source: Patrick K. O'Brien, ed., *Oxford Atlas of World History*, Oxford University Press (adapted)

Salt from the Sahara Desert was one of the major trade goods of ancient West Africa where very little naturally occurring deposits of the mineral could be found. Transported via camel caravans and by boat along such rivers as the Niger and Senegal, salt found its way to trading centers like Koumbi Saleh, Niani, and Timbuktu, where it was either passed further south or exchanged for other goods such as ivory, hides, copper, iron, and cereals. The most common exchange was salt for gold dust that came from the mines of southern West Africa. Indeed, salt was such a precious commodity that it was quite literally worth its weight in gold in some parts of West Africa.

The 14th-century CE Muslim traveler Ibn Battuta, who visited West Africa c. 1352 CE, gives a lengthy description of life in the salt mine settlement of Taoudenni:

It is a village with no attractions. A strange thing about it is that its houses and mosques are built of blocks of salt and roofed with camel skins. There are no trees, only sand in which there is a salt mine. They dig the ground and thick slabs are found in it, lying on each other as if they had been cut and stacked under the ground. A camel carries two slabs. The only people living there are the slaves of the Massufa, who dig for the salt.

Source: *The Salt Trade of Ancient West Africa*, Mark Cartwright, ancient.edu

Pax Mongolia

Pax Mongolia, which means Mongol Peace in Latin, is a term describing the stabilizing effects of the Mongol Empire in the vast Eurasian territory that the Mongols conquered in the 13th and 14th centuries AD.

Pax Mongolia helped the development of commerce (trade) and communication in the region, especially along the Silk Road, and helped make possible the formation of closer ties between the Eastern world and the Western world.

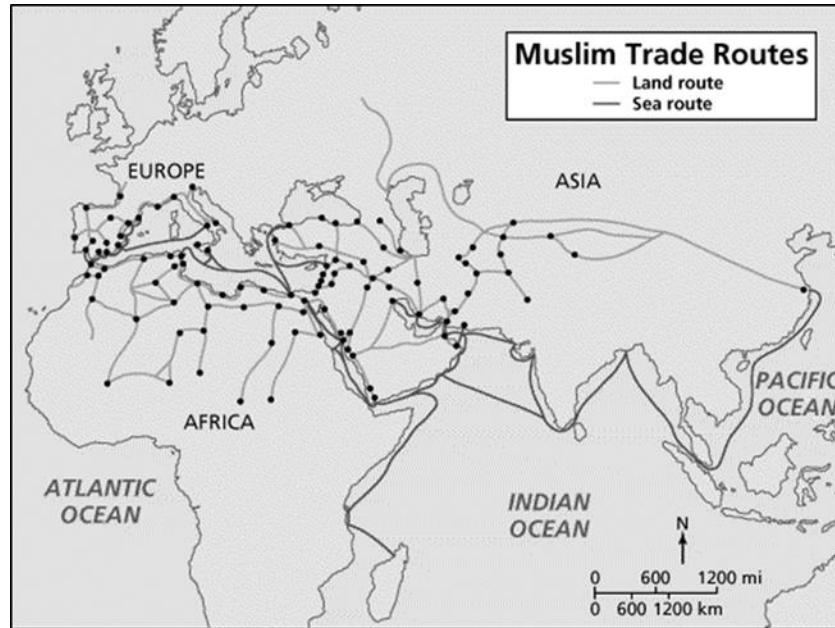
The Mongol Empire developed a reputation for fiercely guarding the Silk Road to ensure its usefulness for travelers. In contemporary sources, it is not unusual to find (probably an exaggeration) claims of how “a maiden carrying a nugget of gold on her head could wander safely throughout the realm”.

In a commercial handbook compiled around 1340, the Florentine merchant Pegolotti describes the situation like this:

“The road you travel from Tana [Sea of Azov] to Cathay [China] is perfectly safe, whether by day or by night, according to what the merchants say who have used it. Only if the merchant...should die upon the road, everything belonging to him will become the perquisite of the lord of the country in which he dies...And there is another danger: this is when the lord of the country dies, and before the new lord who is to have the lordship is proclaimed; during such intervals there have sometimes been irregularities practiced on the Franks and other foreigners...”

Source www.silk-road.com

DOCUMENT 3



The prophet Muhammad was a merchant active in the area of the Red Sea and the eastern Mediterranean... Trade, as a profession, always held a more favored position in the Islamic world than in Europe. Trade was for many Muslims almost a necessity, since carrying small amounts of merchandise to sell along the way was a common means of financing the pilgrimage to Mecca that all Muslims had to make in their lifetime.

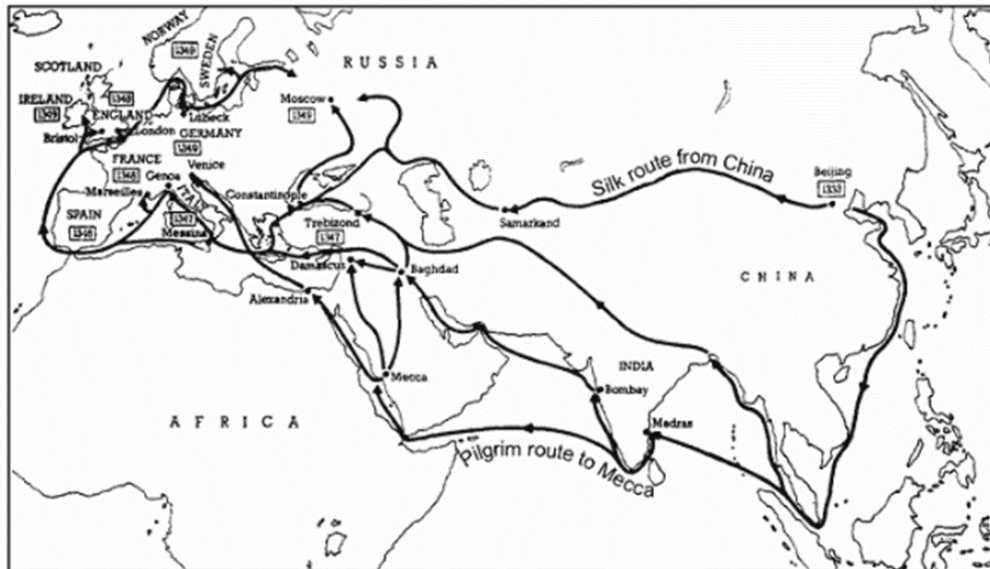
The Islamic conquest of an empire that stretched from Spain to the borders of China in inner Asia created an enormous economic unit that also linked together the maritime trade of the Mediterranean and the Indian Ocean (the greatest hubs of economic activity in the medieval world). The lack of political barriers in this vast realm aided the movement not only of trade but also of armies, craftsmen, scholars, and pilgrims. Government, cities, agriculture, and long-range trade all nourished each other and consequently flourished. The large cities of the Islamic world needed food and raw materials, while palaces, mosques, and aristocrats required luxuries for the display of wealth and power. Arab merchants were ready to supply them. Contact with Islamic traders by their counterparts in Italy also introduced new words into European languages, among them, check, broker, tariff, traffic, magazine, caravan, and bazaar.

The ease of trade in the Islamic world also meant that new ideas, techniques, and inventions could travel freely.

Source: Skeen, Bradley A. "trade and exchange in the medieval Islamic World." In Crabtree, Pam J. Encyclopedia of Society and Culture in the Medieval World. New York: Facts On File, Inc., 2008.

DOCUMENT 4

Spread of the Black Death (1333–1349)



The Silk Road provided a route for the connection of cultures located throughout Asia, the Middle East, Northern Africa, and Europe. The Silk Road was not an actual road; rather it was an interconnecting group of caravan routes that ran throughout central Asia. "These routes were called the Silk Roads because traders used them to bring silk from China to western Asia and then on to Rome." The Silk Road encouraged the sharing of knowledge and the trade of items among cities and empires in Asia, the Middle East, Northern Africa, and Europe. From China came goods such as spices, silk, and cloth... However, the connection among these continents had a negative effect. The Black Death that devastated Asia, the Middle East, Northern Africa, and Europe in the 14th century was believed to have started in Central Asia and spread over the Silk Road. "No other bacteria, perhaps organism, had so much of an effect on human history as *Yersinia pestis* [the bacteria that caused the Black Death.]" The spread of the destructive Black Death from Asia to the Middle East, Northern Africa, and Europe by way of the Silk Road shows the importance of this route as a link among these regions.

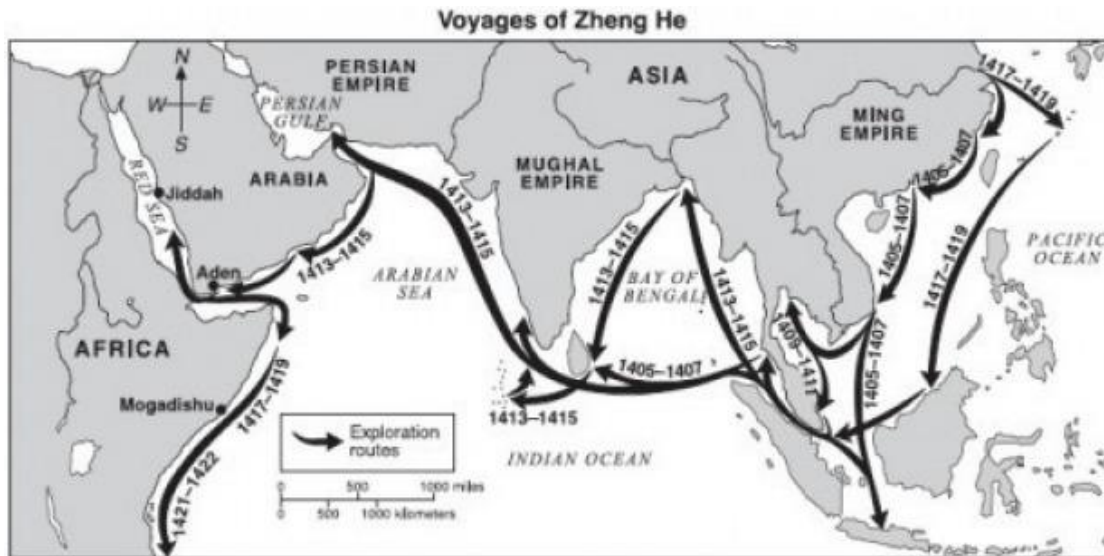
The Plague was spread to humans mainly by fleas that were transported by infected rats. Rat populations tend to follow humans because of the garbage they dispose, and [therefore] the Black Death was found in heavily populated areas, particularly along the Silk Road. The Black Death affected humans...that spread in fleas and in their host, rats, and started in warmer climates in Asia, radiating west to colder climates by way of the Silk Road.

"Plague bacteria normally reside in Central Asia, Yunan China, Arabia, East Africa, and limited areas of Iran." The reason why they inhabit these generally hotter areas is because they need a warm climate to multiply in. Some historians believe that the Black Death originated in Lake Issyk-Kul in Central Asia. Researchers found that in the years 1338 and 1339 there was a very high death rate reported in Lake Issyk-Kul that was attributed to plague. However, the most striking detail about Lake Issyk-Kul was that it was on the Silk Road. Therefore, the Black Death had its beginnings in Central Asia on the Silk Road, and then it proceeded to spread across the Silk Road into areas that it linked: the Middle East, Northern Africa, and Europe.

After the Black Death established itself in Central Asia at Lake Issyk-Kul, it began to spread into the Middle East, Northern Africa, and Europe by way of the Silk Road. During the 14th century, the Silk Road was controlled by the Mongols and was heavily used by both their warriors and by trading caravans.

Source: *The Silk Road Linking Asia, the Middle East, Northern Africa, and Europe As Evident by the Spread of the Black Death*, Seth Cassel, 2006.

DOCUMENT 5



Source: Elisabeth Ellis and Anthony Esler, *World History: Connections to Today*, Prentice Hall (adapted)

China had been poised to circumnavigate (sail around) the globe decades before the Europeans did, but instead the Ming Dynasty retracted into itself and entered a 200-year-long slump...

Under the command of the eunuch admiral Zheng He, the Chinese were routinely sailing to Africa and back decades before Columbus was even born. Yet they did not go on to conquer the world. Instead, the Chinese decided to destroy their boats and stop sailing West.

In the 1470s the government destroyed Zheng's records so that his expeditions could not be repeated. And by 1525 all the ships in the Treasure Fleet were gone.

Some claim that the vast cost of the Treasure Fleet's expeditions far outweighed the actual treasure they came back with [while others suggest that China was simply not interested in the foreign products]... But Angus Deaton, the Nobel Prize-winning Princeton economist, prefers a different theory. In his book "The Great Escape: Health, Wealth, and the Origins of Inequality," he argues that the Chinese burned their boats (almost literally) in an attempt to control foreign trade.

The Treasure Fleet was abandoned at the urging of the political elite inside the Emperor's civil service who had become alarmed at the rise of a newly rich merchant class. "The emperors of China, worried about threats to their power from merchants, banned oceangoing voyages in 1430, so that Admiral Zheng He's explorations were an end, not a beginning," Deaton writes.

Source: *500 years ago, China destroyed its world-dominating navy because its political elite was afraid of free trade*, Jim Edwards, *Business Insider*, Independent.co.uk

Name:

Enduring Issues practice

PART I: Using the provided documents fill in the chart below.

Document	Analyze the document. What is the main idea?	Enduring Issue	What historical topic would you connect it to?	Outside information (information not given by the document)
Document #1				
Document #2				

Name:
Enduring Issues practice

Document	Analyze the document. What is the main idea?	Enduring Issues	What historical topic would you connect it to?	Outside information (information not given by the document)
Document #3				
Document #4				
Document #5				

Name:

Enduring Issues practice

PART II-choose an issue and define it.

Choose an issue: Decide on an issue that is supported by three documents:

The issue is supported by the following documents:

Doc 1 Doc 2 Doc 3 Doc 4 Doc 5

Define the enduring issue you chose: