

U.S. History

6th Grade

Section	Date Assigned	Date Due
6A, 6C, 6E	Tues. 9/22/2020	Thur. 9/24/2020
6B, 6D	Wed. 9/23/2020	Thur. 9/24/2020

Classwork & Homework

DIRECTIONS: read the following section with your group and together answer #1 to #5 of the following activity, Fill In the Blanks. Numbers 1-5 will be graded as Classwork. For Homework answer numbers 6-10 on your own.

Chapter 2, Section 1

- **Expanding Horizons** (pages 38–39)

After the fall of the Roman Empire, the people of western Europe lived in small kingdoms and city-states. In 1295, after traveling across Asia and learning about China's culture, Marco Polo returned to Italy and wrote a book about the wonders of Asia. His book, *Travels*, inspired Christopher Columbus and others to find a route to the East.

Italian merchants made money by selling spices and luxuries. They sold goods such as silks, perfumes, and gems from the Orient to wealthy Europeans. The merchants bought luxuries from Arab traders in the Middle East who sold goods from the Orient. The goods arrived in Italian ports by ship after being transported over land to the Mediterranean Sea. The Arab merchants sold the goods for a very high price. However, as East-West trade increased, Europeans began to look for other routes to the East that avoided the Arab traders.

Europeans wanted to learn more about people and the world. In the 1300s scholars and artists studied the classical, or Greek and Roman, world. Scientists tested new and old theories and ideas. Authors wrote about people and the universe. The next two hundred years were a time of "rebirth." In the 1400s intellectual, scientific, and artistic creativity bloomed and spread throughout Europe. This period is known as the Renaissance. Europeans began to think differently about the world beyond their own. The age of exploration and discovery began.

- **Powerful Nations Emerge** (pages 39–40)

Merchants and bankers in the growing cities of western Europe wanted to find different routes to expand their businesses through foreign trade. If they could get the goods directly, without having to go through Arab and Italian cities, they would make more money. In order to do this, they had to find new routes that did not run through the Middle East.

By the 1400s centralized states with kings and queens in Spain, Portugal, England, and France increased trade and looked for ways to make their countries richer and more powerful. National laws, courts, taxes, and armies were created.

- **Technology's Impact** (pages 40–41)

New *technology*, or scientific knowledge, made books and new information more available. Movable type and the printing press were introduced in the 1450s. Many people read Marco Polo's *Travels* after it was printed in 1477.

Mapmakers began to make more accurate land and sea maps using information from Arab geographers and reports from explorers. The astrolabe, an instrument that measured the position of the stars, and the magnetic compass helped determine a ship's approximate location.

Better ships helped European countries, such as Spain and Portugal, search for sea routes to Asia. These ships could withstand long voyages. The Arabs invented the stern rudder used for steering and the triangular sail that allowed ships to sail into the wind. The *caravel*, a small, fast, three-masted sailing ship, was designed by the Portuguese in the late 1400s.

- **African Kingdoms** (pages 41–42)

There were powerful kingdoms south of the Sahara that expanded between 400 and 1600. These kingdoms were rich in natural resources such as gold, copper, and iron ore.

Between 400 and 1100, Ghana became a large West African trading empire. Ghana's trading grew because of taxes on trade imposed by the kings and its location between salt mines and gold mines. West Africans traded gold, ivory, and slaves for salt, cloth, and brass with Muslim traders from North Africa. Many West Africans became Muslims. People from North Africa, called Almoravids, attacked Ghana and interrupted its trade routes. While Ghana was busy fighting the Almoravids, new trade routes and gold mines were created in the east. As a result Ghana was left out of the trading process all together. Ghana began to decline, and new states surfaced in the region.

Mali, one of the new states, developed new trades routes to North Africa. By the 1200s Mali expanded its territory to include the former kingdom of Ghana. Mali was mainly agricultural, but had gold mines as well. Mali's Muslim king, Mansa Musa, who ruled from 1312 to 1337, made a *pilgrimage*, or journey, to the holy city of Makkah (Mecca) in western Saudi Arabia. He returned with an Arab architect who built great *mosques*, Muslim houses of worship, in the capital of Timbuktu. This became an important center of Islamic art and learning.

In the late 1400s the Songhai Empire became the largest in the history of West Africa under the rule of Askiya Muhammed. He divided the empire into five areas. The legal system consisted of laws based on the teachings of Islam. A uniform system of weights and measures was used throughout the empire. In the late 1500s the army of the North African kingdom of Morocco attacked Songhai gold-trading centers and defeated the Songhai Empire.

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FILL IN THE BLANKS

magnetic compass

exploration and discovery

Marco Polo

Renaissance

Africa

East

Italian

Muslims

trade

Asia

Expanding Horizons

More people became interested in India, China, and the rest of Asia as the story of **(1)** _____ spread and exotic goods from the East appeared in European marketplaces. The **(2)** _____, a period of great intellectual and artistic creativity, encouraged Europeans to pursue new ideas and paved the way for an age of **(3)** _____.

Powerful Nations Emerge

During the 1400s, merchants and bankers wanted to expand their businesses by buying goods from the **(4)** _____ directly, without going through the Arab and **(5)** _____ cities. Strong monarchs in Spain, Portugal, England, and France sought ways to increase **(6)** _____ and make their countries stronger.

Technology's Impact

Technological advances helped prepare the way for European voyages of exploration. They included navigational instruments, such as the **(7)** _____ and the astrolabe. These advances helped launch a new era of exploration as powerful countries began searching for sea routes to **(8)** _____.

African Kingdoms

Trade of such resources as gold, copper, iron ore, and ivory helped create wealthy, powerful kingdoms in **(9)** _____ south of the Sahara. Many West Africans in Ghana became **(10)** _____ as a result of their contacts with North African traders.