

Study Guide



Chapter 2, Section 1

For use with textbook pages 38–42

A CHANGING WORLD

KEY TERMS

classical	Ancient Greek and Roman (page 39)
Renaissance	A French word meaning “rebirth,” refers to the renewed interest in classical Greek and Roman learning (page 39)
technology	The use of scientific knowledge for practical purposes (page 40)
astrolabe	An instrument that measured the position of stars (page 40)
caravel	Three-masted sailing vessel having broad bows (page 40)
pilgrimage	A journey to a holy place (page 42)
mosque	Muslim house of worship (page 42)

DRAWING FROM EXPERIENCE

Have you ever traveled outside of your city, state, or country? Do you know what different regions of your country or the world are like?

This section focuses on changes that took place in Europe and Africa because new technologies made it possible for traders and explorers to introduce Europeans to the world beyond their own.

ORGANIZING YOUR THOUGHTS

Use the diagram below to help you take notes as you read the summaries that follow. Think about how the Europeans’ world began to expand.

CAUSES	EFFECT
1. _____ →	 The Age of Exploration
2. _____ →	
3. _____ →	
4. _____ →	

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READ TO LEARN

- **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.

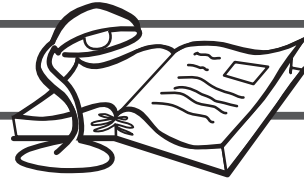
1. What effects did the Renaissance have on Europe?

- **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.

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2. What common goal did merchants, bankers, kings, and queens in Western Europe share?

- **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.

3. What scientific discoveries improved navigation and overseas exploration?

- **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.

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Mali, one of the new states, developed new trade 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 Askia 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.

4. How did the West African empires become wealthy and powerful?
