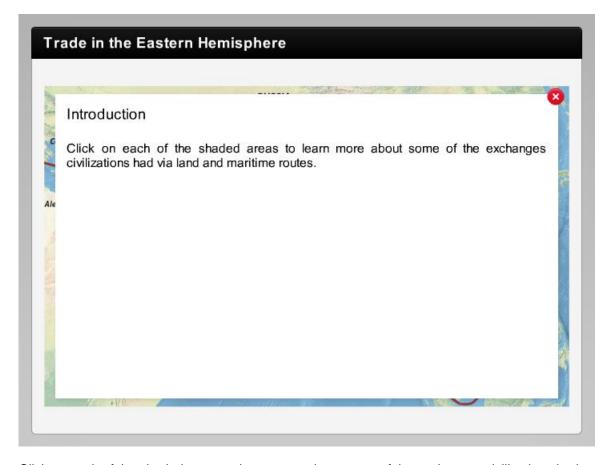
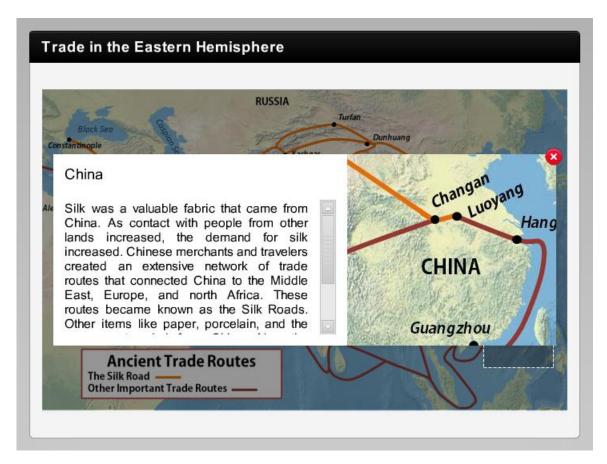
Introduction



Click on each of the shaded areas to learn more about some of the exchanges civilizations had via land and maritime routes.



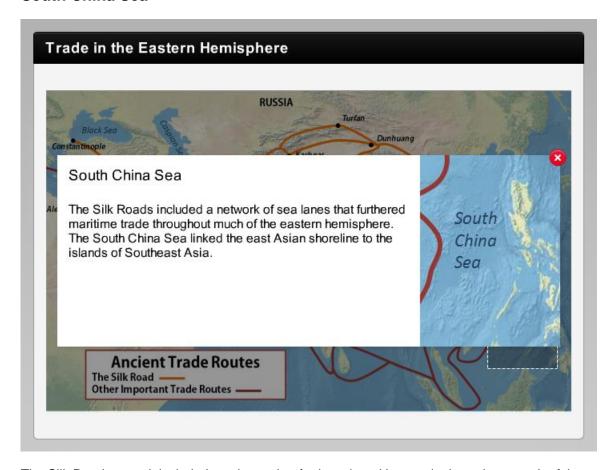
China



Silk was a valuable product that came from China. As contact with people from other lands increased, the demand for silk increased. Chinese merchants and travelers created an extensive network of trade routes that connected China to the Middle East, Europe, and north Africa. These routes became known as the Silk Roads. Other items like paper, porcelain, and the compass traveled from China. Also, the ideas behind printing and paper money came from this civilization. Moreover, Buddhism spread from China to Korea and Japan.



South China Sea



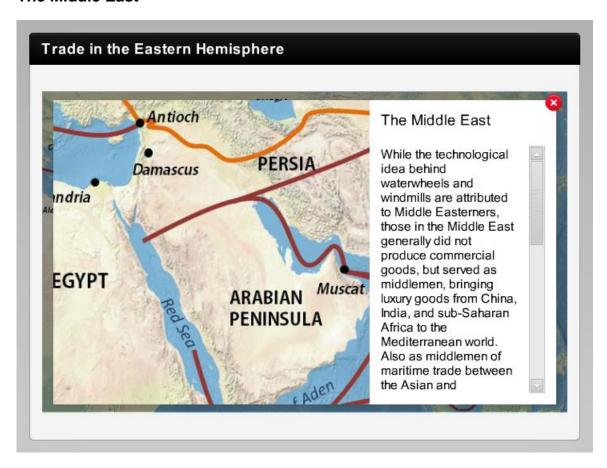
The Silk Road network included sea lanes that furthered maritime trade throughout much of the eastern hemisphere. The South China Sea linked the east Asian shoreline to the islands of Southeast Asia.



Module 10: Asian Civilizations and their Cultural Exchanges

Topic 3 Content: Trade in the Eastern Hemisphere

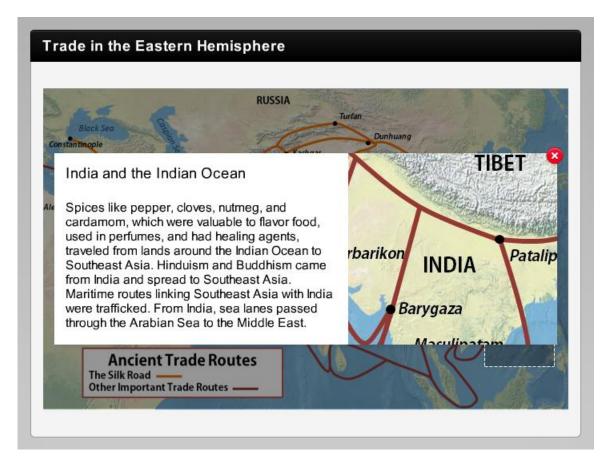
The Middle East



While the technological idea behind waterwheels and windmills are attributed to Middle Easterners, those in the Middle East generally did not produce commercial goods, but served as middlemen, bringing luxury goods from China, India, and sub-Saharan Africa to the Mediterranean world. Also as middlemen of maritime trade between the Asian and Mediterranean world, the Arabs and Persians relied on a variety of navigational technologies. They borrowed the compass from the Chinese; the lateen sail, a triangular sail that increased a ship's maneuverability, from the Southeast Asian and Indian sailors; and the astrolabe, an instrument that enabled them to calculate latitude, from the Europeans. From the Middle East, the Persian Gulf and the Red Sea offered access to land routes leading to the Mediterranean basin. As a result, the Arab world dominated maritime trade across the Indian Ocean and grew in wealth and power.



India and the Indian Ocean



Spices like pepper, cloves, nutmeg, and cardamom, which were valuable to flavor food, used in perfumes, and had healing agents, traveled from lands around the Indian Ocean to Southeast Asia. Hinduism and Buddhism came from India and spread to Southeast Asia. Maritime routes linking Southeast Asia with India were trafficked. From India, sea lanes passed through the Arabian Sea to the Middle East.

