



■ Essential Question:

– Why were the Tang & Song Dynasties considered the “golden age” of China?

■ Warm-Up Question:

–?

Classical China

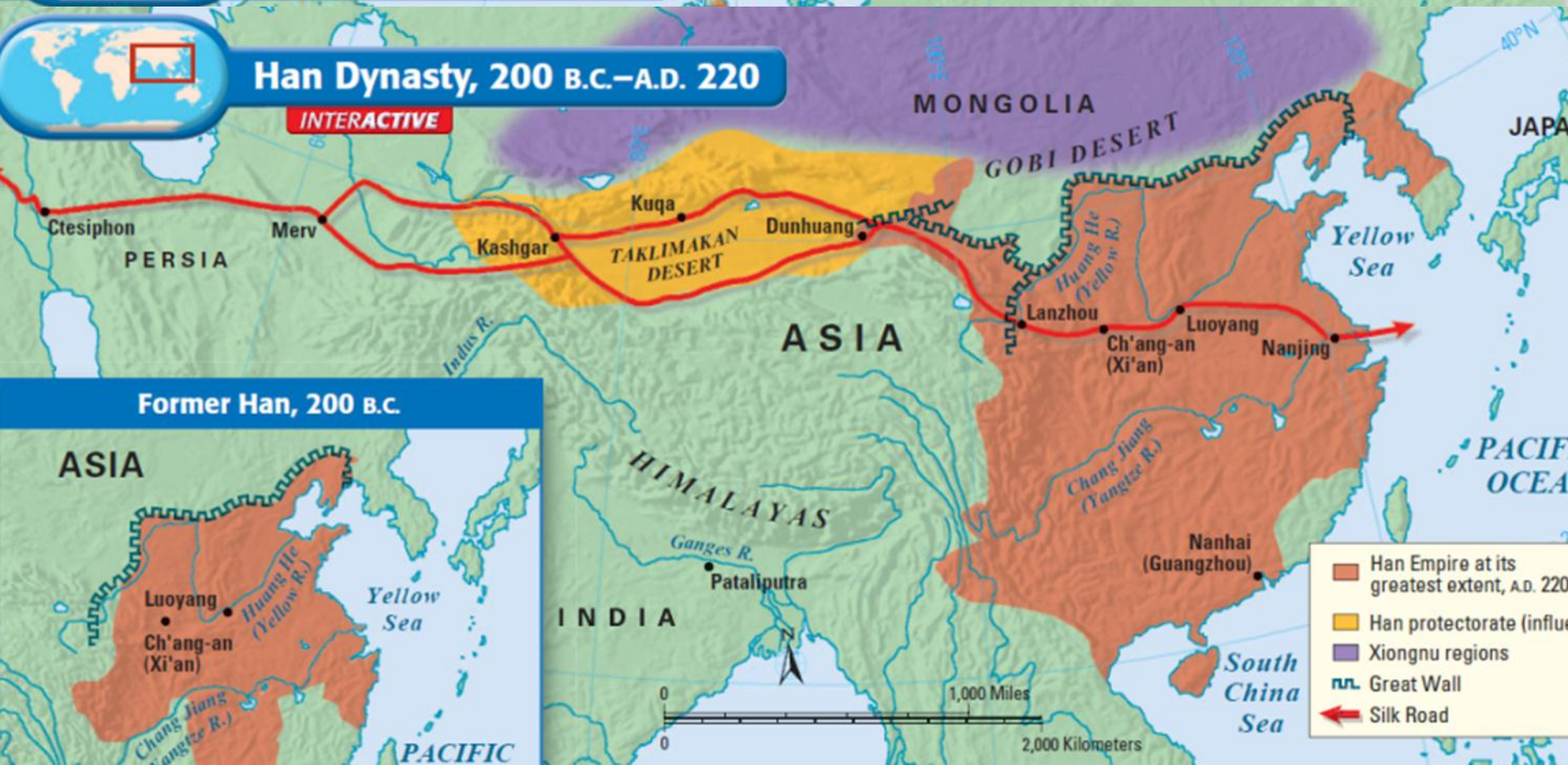


Territory Controlled by Classical Societies



Han Dynasty, 200 B.C.–A.D. 220

INTERACTIVE



Former Han, 200 B.C.



Classical Silk-roads attracted or

The Silk Road trade route brought Chinese luxury goods to Europe & Asia and increased cultural diffusion



Post-Classical China

Like the Roman Empire, Classical China under the Han Dynasty entered an era of decline & eventually fell

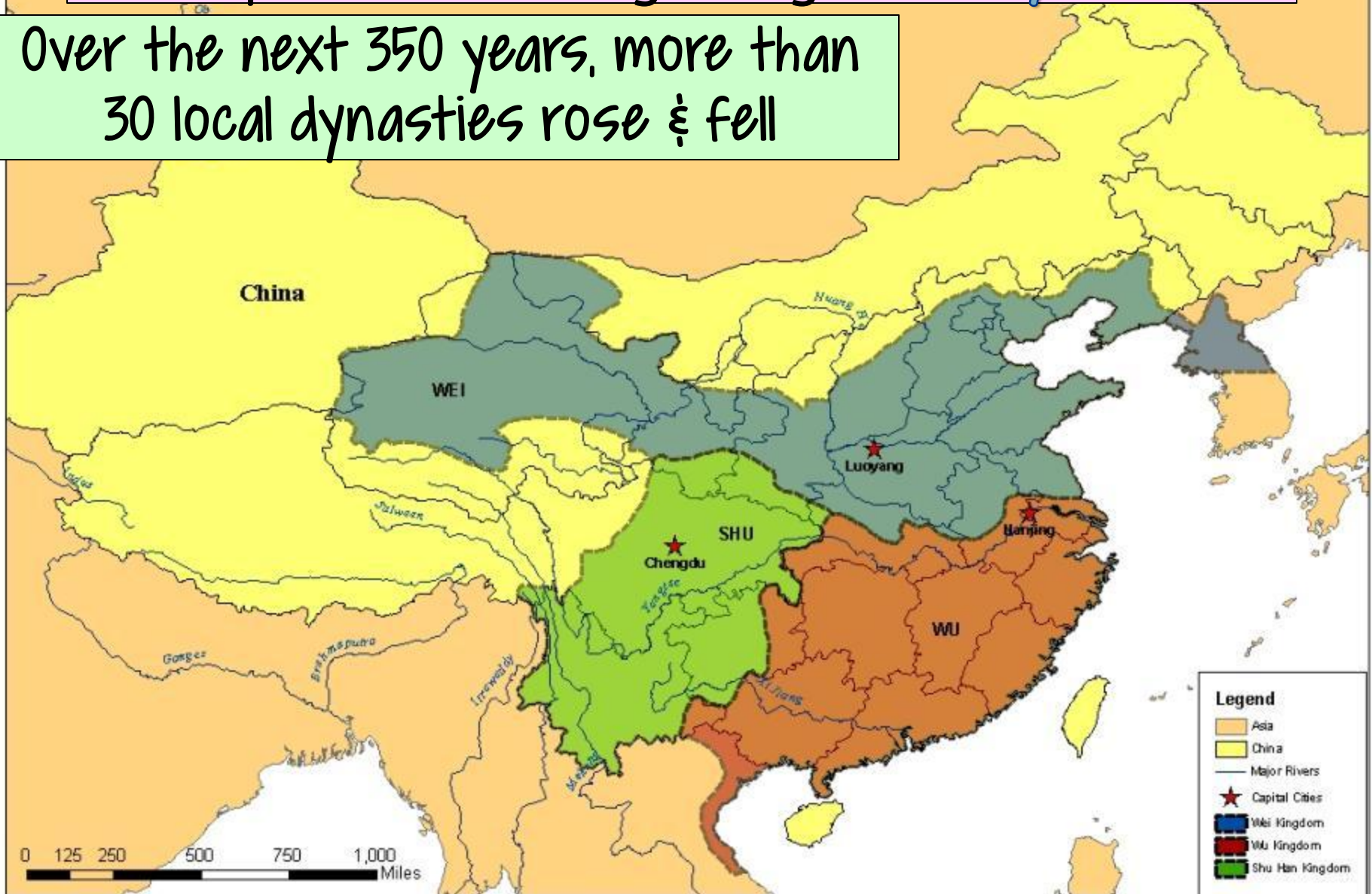


Comparing Two Great Empires: Han China and Rome	
Han Dynasty—202 B.C. to A.D. 220	Roman Empire—27 B.C. to A.D. 476
Empire replaced rival kingdoms	Empire replaced republic
Centralized, bureaucratic government	Centralized, bureaucratic government
Built roads and defensive walls	Built roads and defensive walls
Conquered many diverse peoples in regions bordering China	Conquered many diverse peoples in regions of three continents
At its height—area of 1.5 million square miles and a population of 60 million	At its height—area of 3.4 million square miles and a population of 55 million
Chinese became common written language throughout empire	Latin did not replace other written languages in empire
Ongoing conflict with nomads	Ongoing conflict with nomads
Empire fell apart; restored by Tang Dynasty in 618	Empire fell apart; never restored



After the Han Dynasty collapsed in 220 A.D., no emperor was strong enough to unify China

Over the next 350 years, more than 30 local dynasties rose & fell





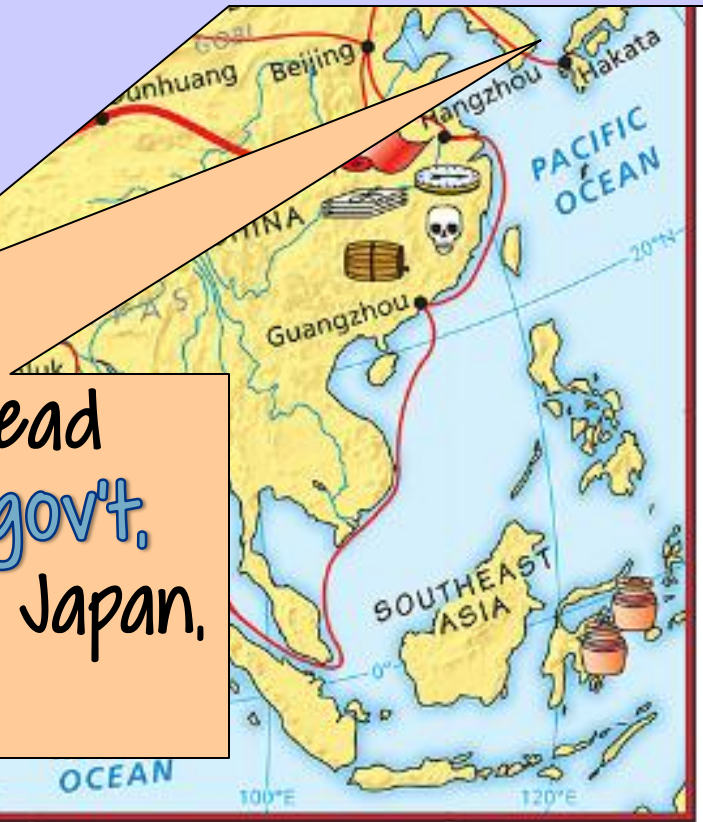
In 589, China was unified again & a strong central government was restored

...the restoration of the examination system allowed intelligent bureaucrats to

During the Tang & Song Dynasties, China experienced an extended "golden age" & became the richest, most powerful, & most advanced country in the world

Emperors did their best to try to protect the routes along the **Silk Road**

Chinese merchants relied on **ocean routes** as well to trade with India & Arabia



Increased trade led to the spread of Chinese culture (**centralized gov't, Confucianism, & writing**) to Korea, Japan, & Southeast Asia

Silk Road and Other Trade Routes 400-1500

Silk Road	Other trade route	
Sources of Trade and Cultural Exchange		
Frankincense	Cotton	Compass
Gems	Silk	Glassware
Spices	Horses	Gunpowder
1,2,3 Arabic numerals	Plague	Paper

For the 1st time in China's history, emperors **encouraged foreign trade**

5 450-500 A.D.
Hun invasions cause
empire's collapse.

1 320 A.D. Gupta dynasty
begins in northern India.

Tolerant Hindu rulers
permit free practice
of Buddhism.

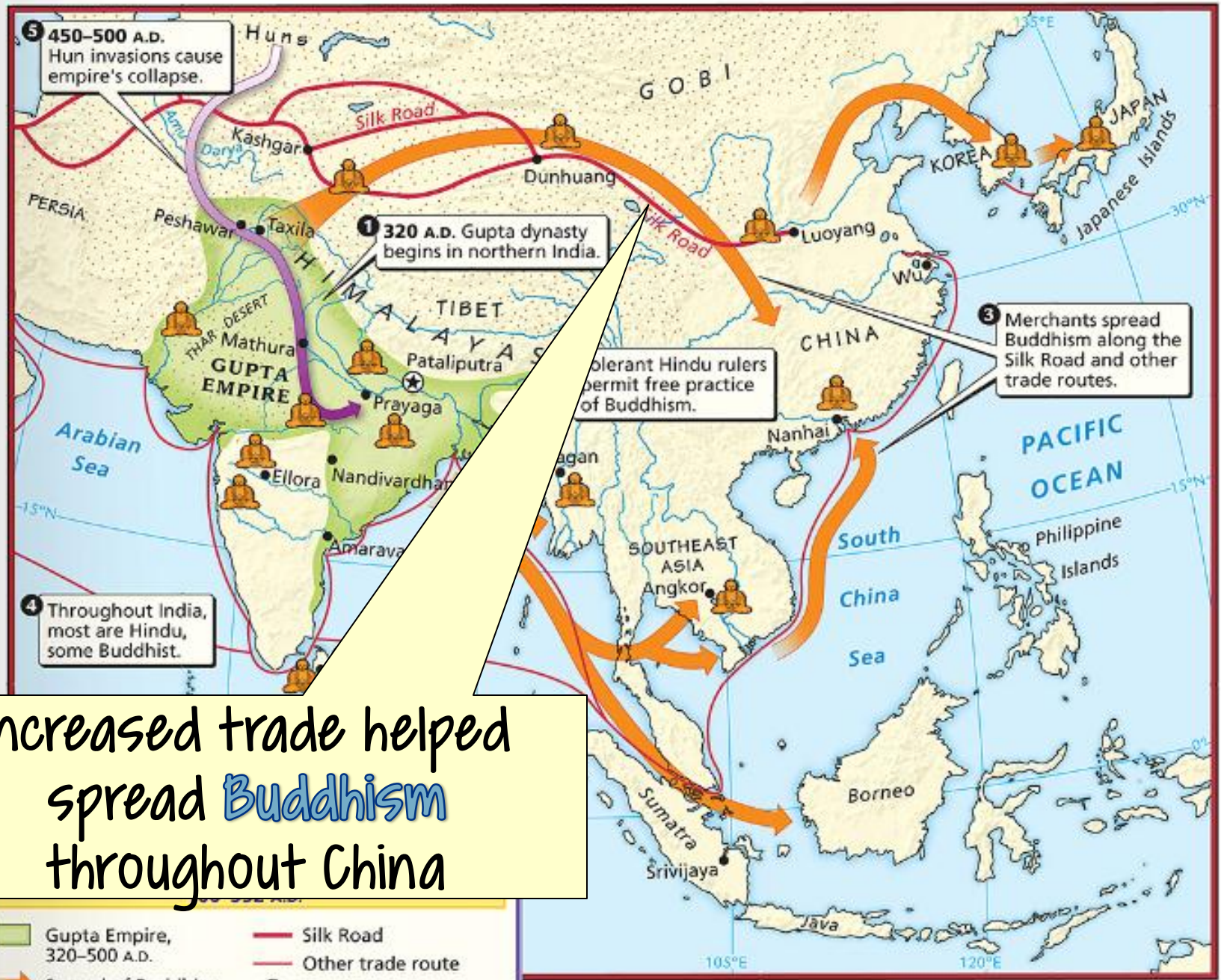
3 Merchants spread
Buddhism along the
Silk Road and other
trade routes.

4 Throughout India,
most are Hindu,
some Buddhist.

Increased trade helped
spread **Buddhism**
throughout China

- Gupta Empire, 320-500 A.D.
- Spread of Buddhism, 100-552 A.D.
- Hun invasion
- Silk Road
- Other trade route
- Capital
- Major Buddhist site

The Gupta were Hindus, but they also tolerated the spread of Buddhism. Indian traders introduced Buddhism to faraway places.

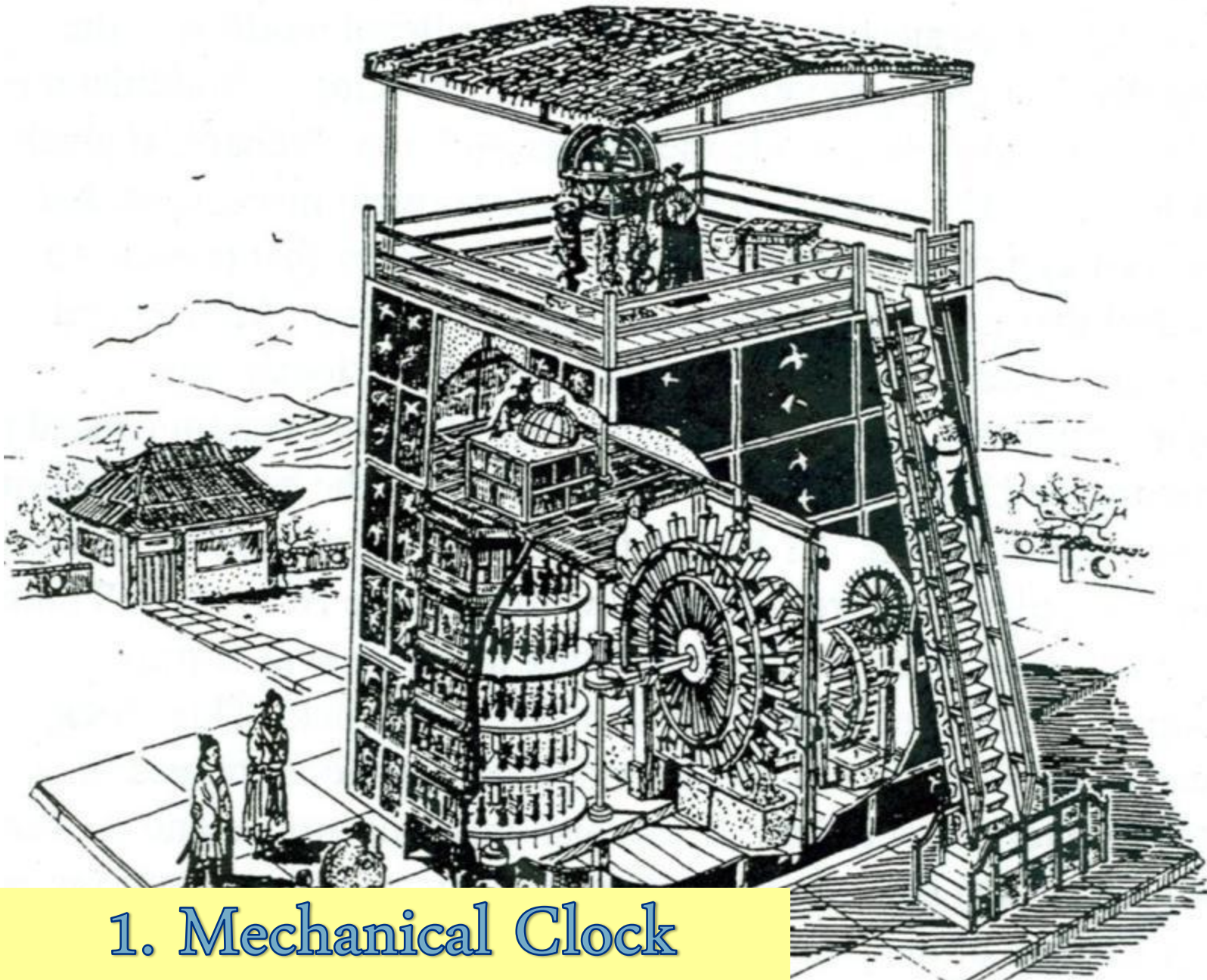


Chinese Innovations

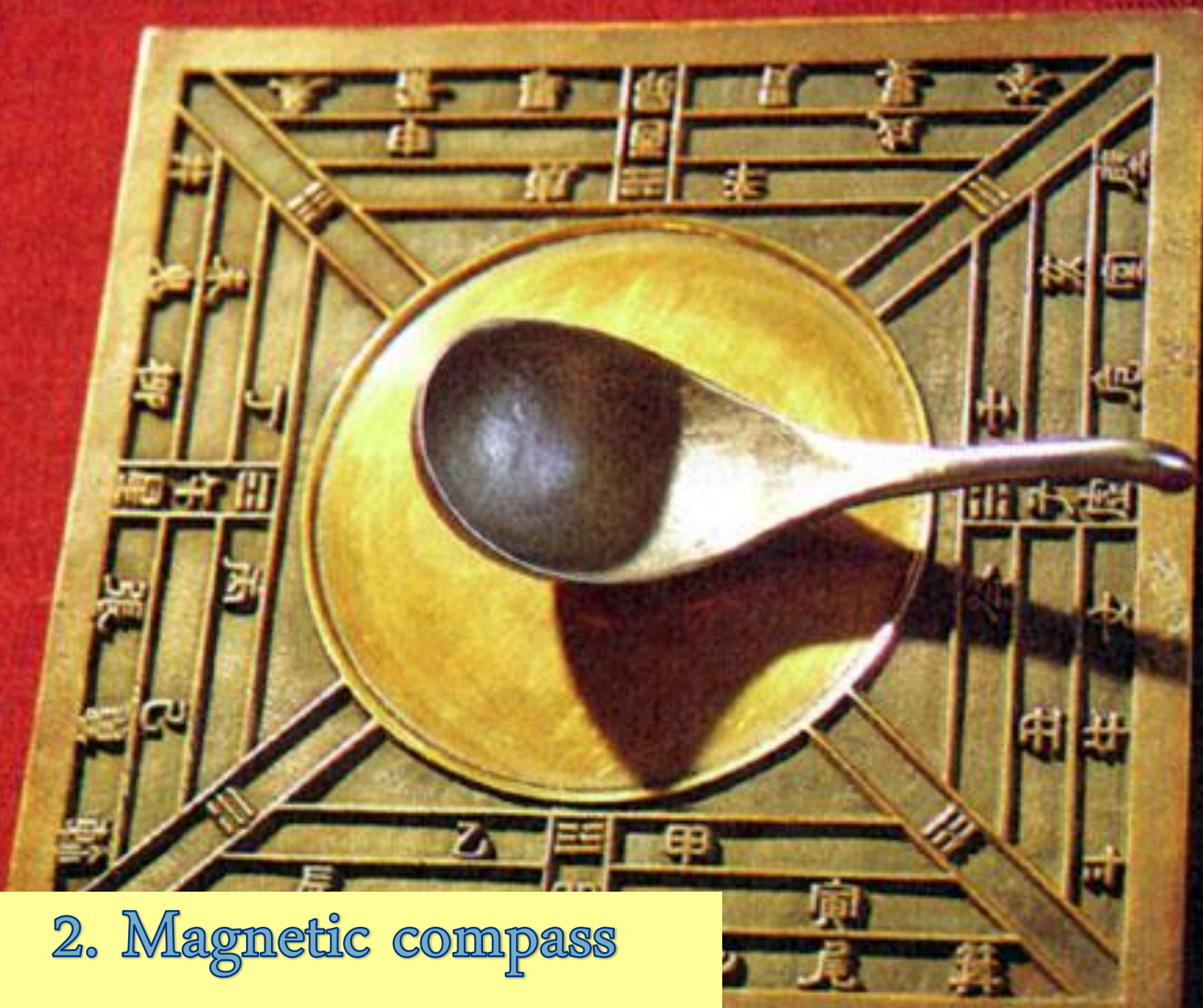
- The Tang & Song dynasties were eras of major technological advancement:
 - The technologies helped make China the most advanced country in the world
 - Much of China's technology spread to other people across trade routes

Class Activity:

Working with a partner,
guess what each of the following 10
Chinese innovations are



1. Mechanical Clock



2. Magnetic compass



3. Gunpowder



4. Printing Press



大明通行寶鈔

大明通行寶鈔	
文伯貳	
大明通行寶鈔	

中書省
奏准印造
大明寶鈔與銅錢通行
使用偽造者斬
者賞銀貳佰五十兩
仍給犯人財產
恭歲年九月

5. Paper money

琴

Chin
(Music)

飛錢

Flying Money
(Paper Money)

瓷

Porcelain
(Porcelain)

長城

Great Wall
(Rebuilding of the Great Wall)

驛站

Relay Hostel
(Roads and Relay Hostels)

舟

Ships
(Ships)

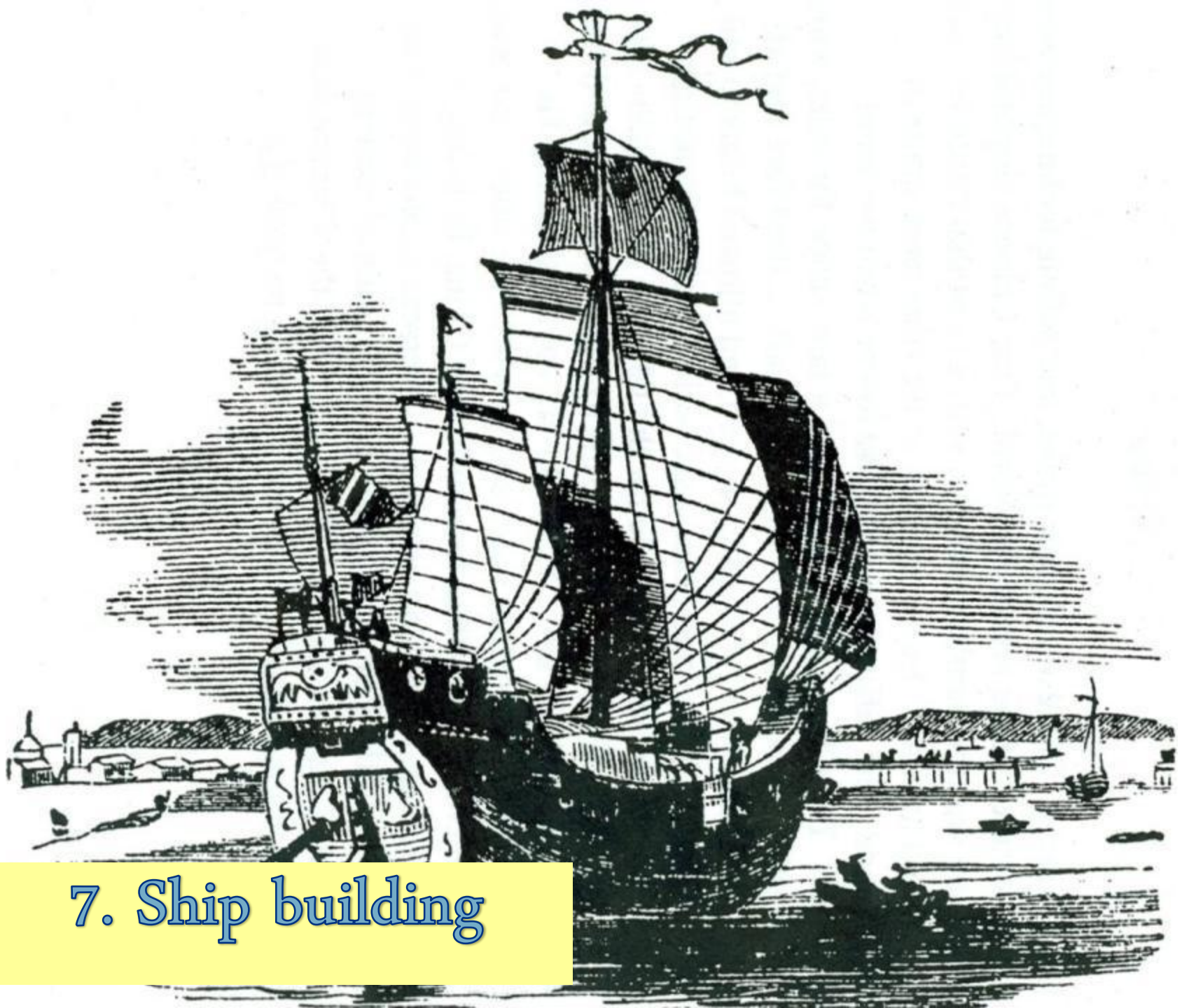
6. Chinese writing

Smallpox
(Smallpox Inoculation)

Spinning Wheel
(Spinning Wheel)

運河

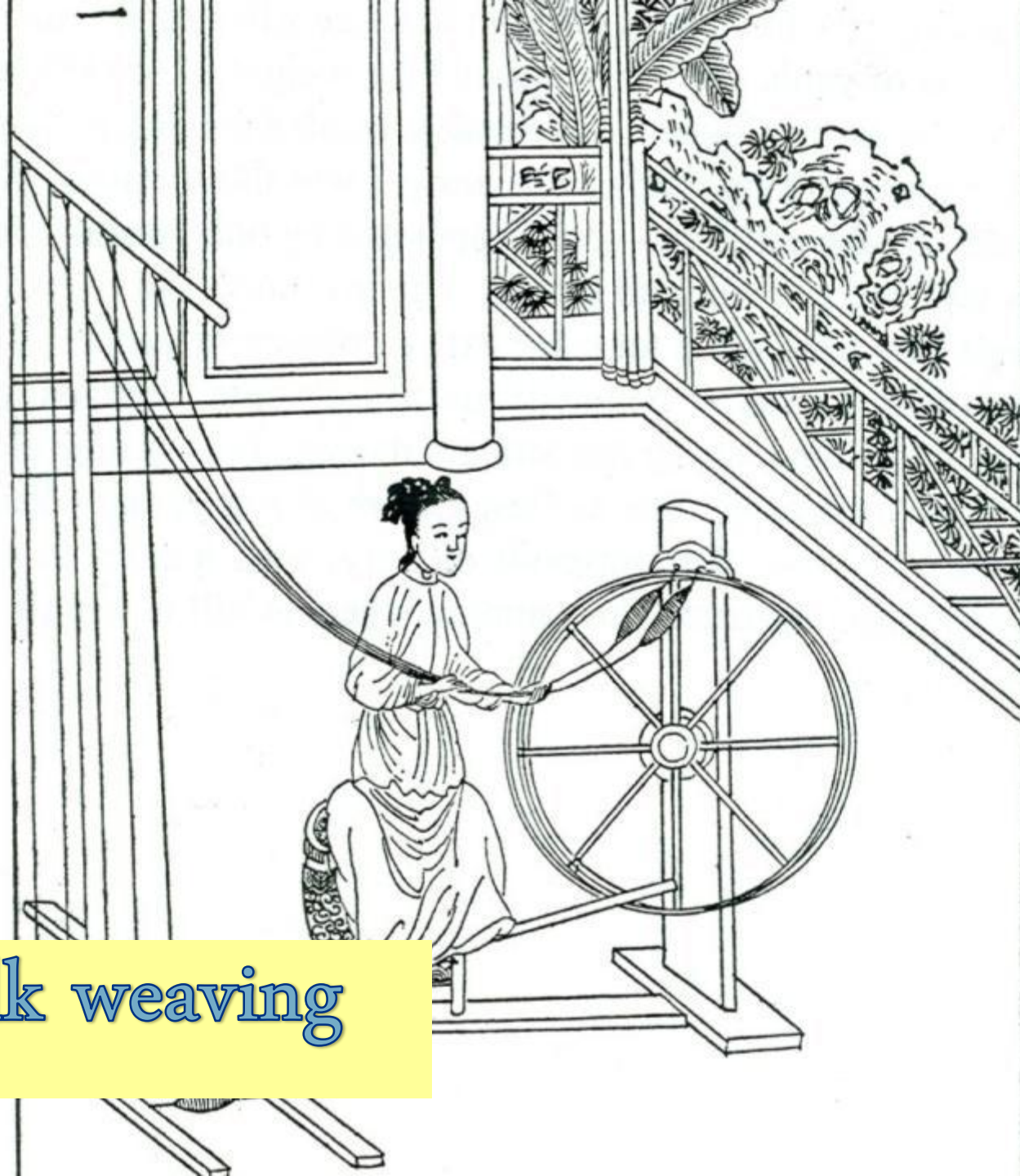
Canal
(Waterways)



7. Ship building



8. Vaccination



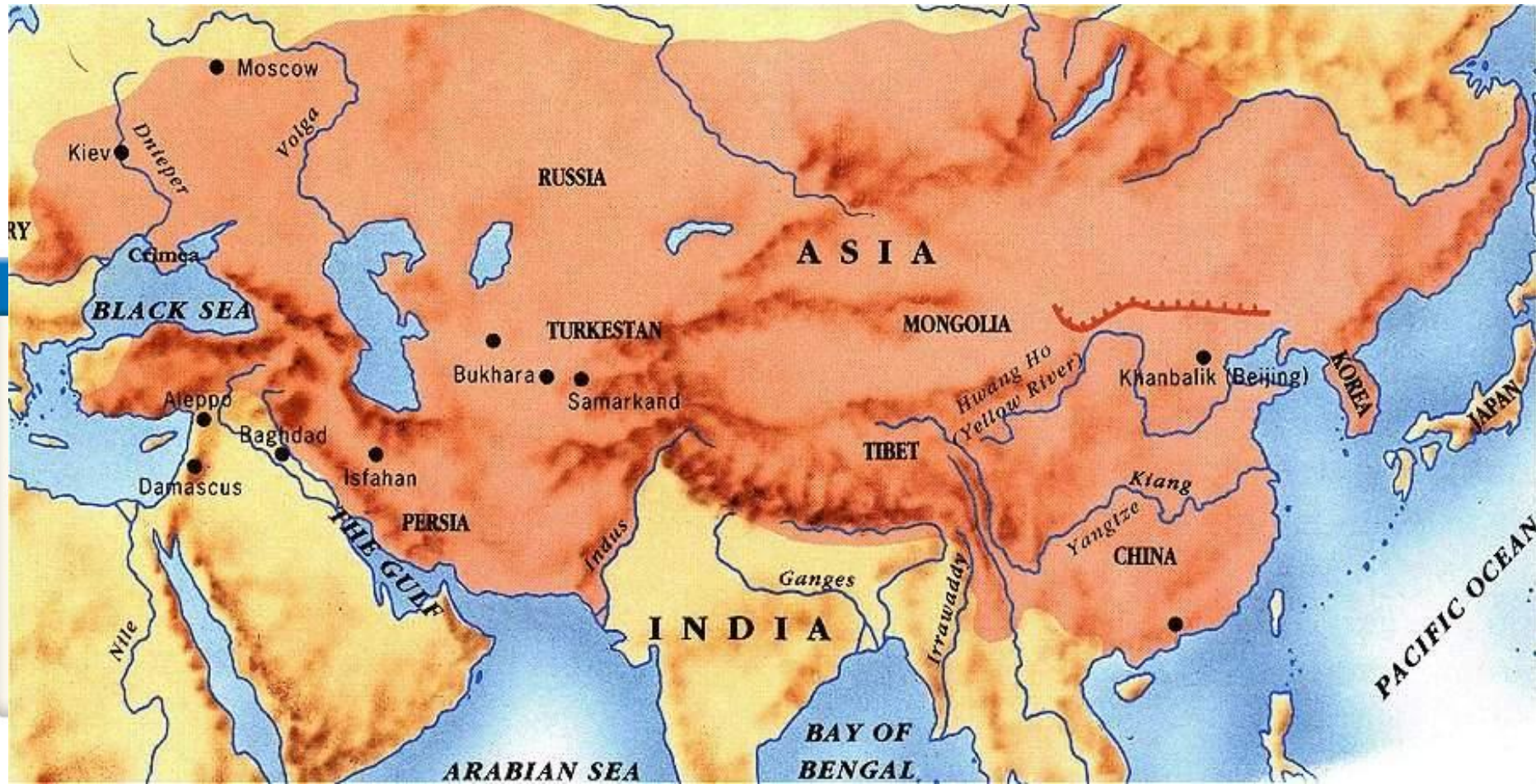
9. Silk weaving



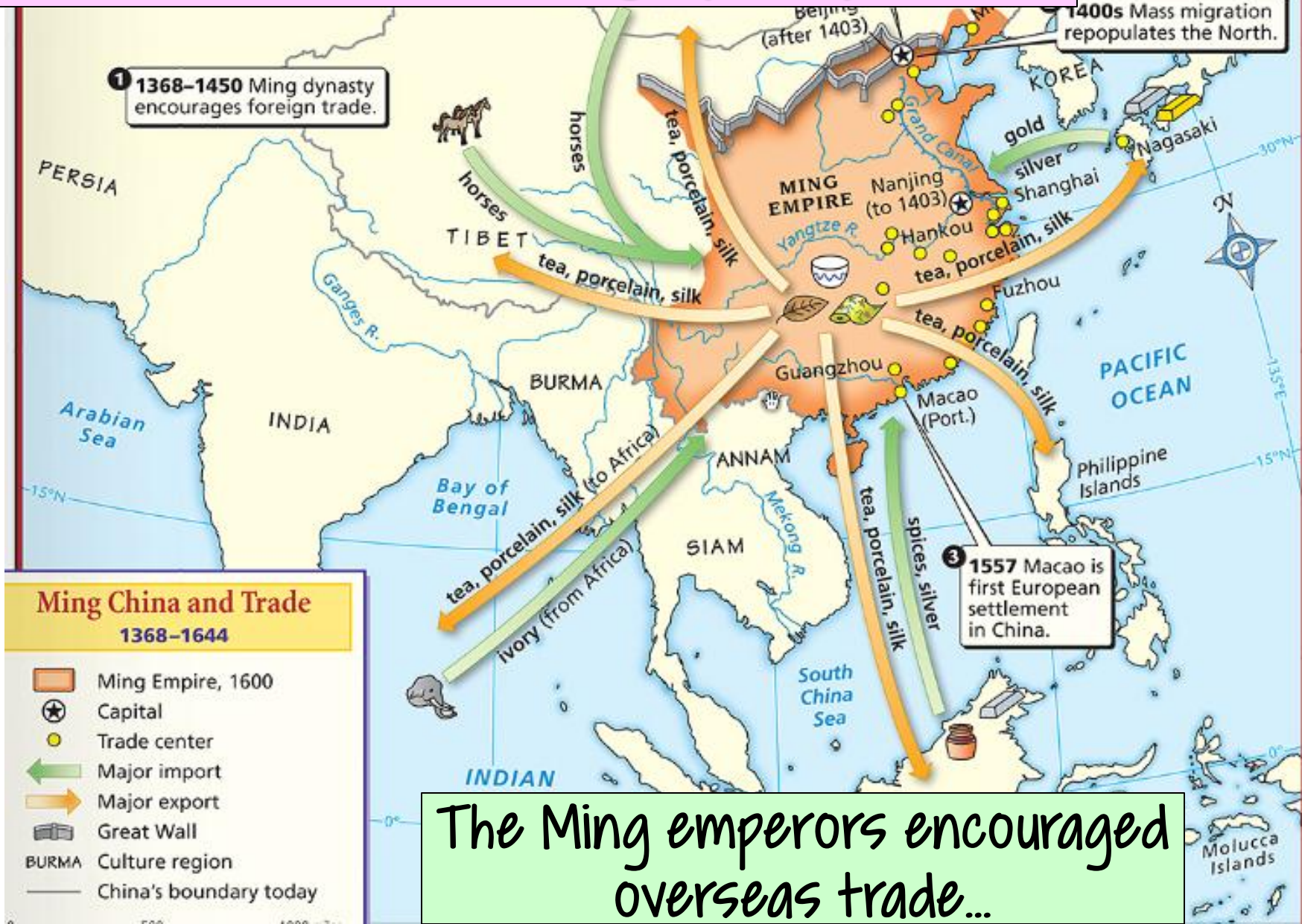
10. Porcelain

The End of the Golden Age

- Despite the wealth & culture during under the Tang & Song Dynasties, the Chinese were briefly overthrown by the **Mongols**



In 1368, the Chinese overthrew the Mongols & established the Ming Dynasty



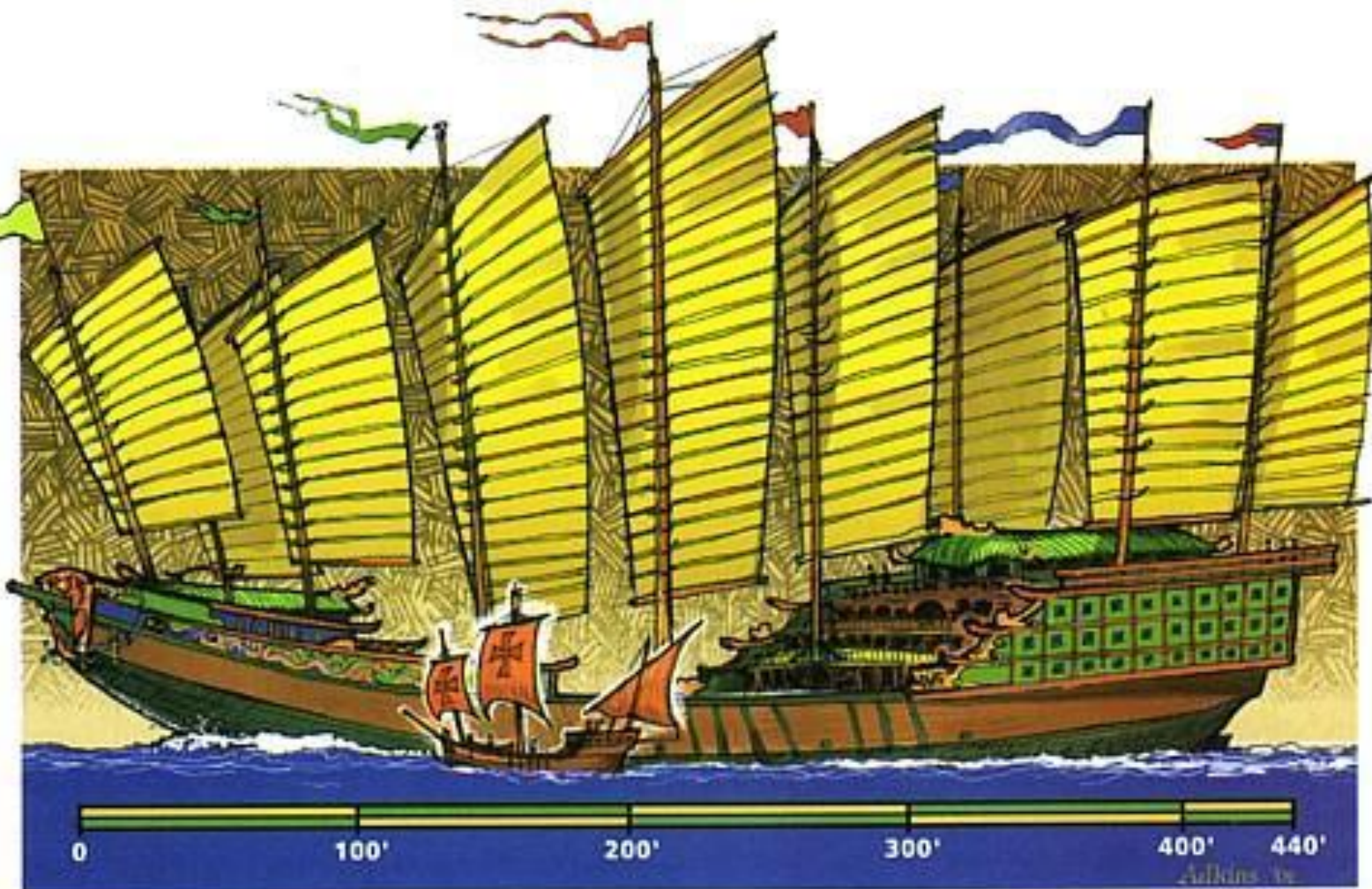
The Ming emperors encouraged overseas trade...



Early Expl



...and began a series of explorations led by **Zheng He** to demonstrate Chinese superiority



Zheng He had better ships & traveled farther than any European explorers would for 100 years

Zheng He led 7 different expeditions



Zheng He explored areas along the Indian Ocean & Africa, expand trade, & collected tribute from foreigners

Chinese Isolation

- After the 7th treasure fleet voyage in 1433, Chinese leaders unexpectedly ended the expeditions & retreated into isolationism
 - Scholar-officials complained that Zheng He's voyages used valuable resources that were needed to defend China
 - China's official trade policy was to keep the **influence of outsiders to a minimum**
 - China's geography & gov't policies kept it relatively **isolated** for the **next 300 years** until European merchants in the 1800s demanded access to Chinese trade