

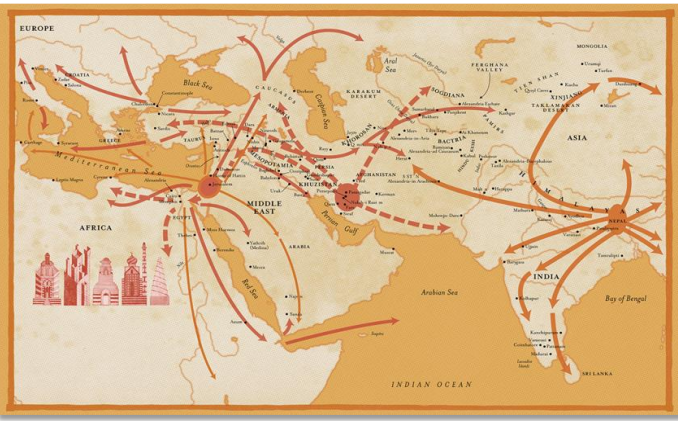
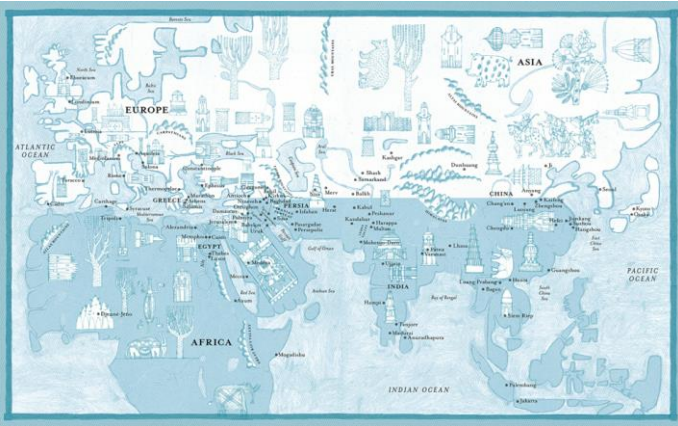
Knowledge Map: The Silk Roads

Summary:

For too long, the medieval period has been viewed as a period characterised by a lack of advancement, a lack of intellectual thought, and a lack of progression. For too often, the study of the medieval period has been focused on Britain and Europe, which are undoubtedly important but are perhaps too narrow in its view. Studying the Silk Roads will show that the medieval period was one of advancement, creativity, and critical thinking. The aim of this topic is simple, to study the medieval world from a global perspective and see just how amazing it really is.

The Silk Roads

Summary



The Spread of Empire

Summary

The Silk Roads would be dominated by different civilisations, cultures and empires during the medieval period. Each of these civilisations influenced the expansion of trade, religion and ideas. The Silk Roads were not just trade routes, they were also routes in which to attack your enemy.

Key Knowledge

15	Persian Empire	The Persian Empire dominated the Middle East and the area around modern-day Iran. It existed from 550 to 330 BCE.
16	Greek Empire	The Greek Empire followed the Persian Empire and whilst short lived (333 to 323 BCE) it was incredibly influential. The Greek Empire was led by General Alexander the Great, who created the Greek Empire all by the age of 32.
17	Chinese Han Dynasty	The Chinese Han Dynasty would have a huge influence over the creation of the Silk Roads. During its time (206 BCE to 220 CE) it would see key inventions spread across the world including paper and gunpowder.
18	Roman Empire	One of the most famous empires to ever exist. Lasting from 27 BCE to 476 BCE, it would see its capital move slowly East from Rome to Constantinople. Constantinople would become one of the key trading cities along the Silk Roads, and the Roman Empire one of its most wealthy.
19	Islamic Caliphate	The Islamic Caliphate existed from 622 to 750 CE and came to dominate the Middle East. Started by the Prophet Muhammad and expanded under successive Caliphs until at its peak it would stretch across North Africa and even into European countries such as Spain.
20	Abbasid Caliphate	Perhaps the longest and most successful of Islamic empires and the period known as the Islamic Golden Age. The Abbasid Caliphate lasted from 750 to 1258 CE.
21	Mongol Empire	The largest continuous land empire in history; it originated in Mongolia in the Far East. At its peak it would stretch from Eastern Europe to the Sea of Japan. It was led by the Genghis Khan and would last from 1206 to 1368 CE.

The Spread of Trade

Summary

The Silk Roads developed out of trade. There was not one continuous road that silk was traded on but it was more a series of different trade routes that became more and more connected over time. They eventually stretched from China all the way to Europe. These trade routes were given the name 'The Silk Roads'.

Key Knowledge

1	The Silk Roads	The name given to a series of trade routes that connected East to West for hundreds of years. Along these routes, trade, religion and ideas would flow from one area to another.
2	Peter Frankopan	Peter Frankopan is an historian who wrote the book <i>The Silk Roads - A New History of the World</i> . His book would be the basis for this study of the Silk Roads and their importance in world history.
3	Medieval Period	The period of time usually associated with 500 CE to 1500 CE. This is the period when the Silk Roads were at their peak with goods flowing from China to Europe and back again.
4	Trade	Trade is the buying and selling of goods between a customer and supplier.
5	Silk	The commodity that the trade routes were named after. A Chinese secret for a long time, silk is a luxury item that is made from the unwound cocoons of silkworms that have fed on mulberries.
6	Horses	During the medieval period, horses were a valuable commodity. They could be used for transportation and in warfare. Mongolian horses were prized for their speed and power.

The Spread of Religion

Summary

As trade spread from China to Europe and back again, so did other things and one of the most important of these was religion. Different religions and ideas spread from one place to another as traders brought their beliefs with them.

Key Knowledge

7	Christianity	Christianity is a religion based on the person and teachings of Jesus Christ. It spread along the Silk Roads mainly in the direction of Europe. In fact, the Roman Empire would make Christianity its main religion under the Emperor Constantine (306-337 CE).
8	Buddhism	Buddhism is a religion based on the teachings of Buddha that originated in India but became popular in China and the Far East.
9	Judaism	Judaism was developed by the Ancient Hebrews and it is based on a belief in one God who revealed himself to Abraham, Moses and the Hebrew prophets.
10	Islam	Islam was founded by the Prophet Muhammad in the 7th Century and based on the belief and teachings of one God, Allah. It would come to dominate the Middle East during the medieval period; in fact, at one point it would dominate territory and lead the world in intellectual thinking.
11	Jerusalem	Jerusalem was, and is, a city with huge importance for three separate religions: Christianity, Islam and Judaism. During medieval times it would be the focus of a number of wars and invasions as different religions tried to capture it.
12	The Crusades	The name given to a series of wars that took place between East and West. The word 'Crusader' was adopted by Western soldiers and armies who tried to remove the 'threat' of Islam in the Middle East, particularly Jerusalem.
13	Jerusalem	Jerusalem was, and is, a city with huge importance for three separate religions: Christianity, Islam and Judaism. During medieval times it would be the focus of a number of wars and invasions as different religions tried to capture it.
14	Islamic Golden Age	The name given to the period in Islamic history which is characterised by advancements in intellectual thinking, especially in Maths and Science with the House of Wisdom. The capital city, Baghdad, was an incredible city that would have huge significance along the Silk Roads.