

Scheme of Learning: Year 7

Topic Sequence:

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
What is History?	The Norman Conquest	The Silk Roads	Religion and the Medieval Monarchy	Life in the 14 th Century	Religion and the Tudors	Tolerance in Tudor England	The English Civil War

Topic Overview:

This unit is based on Peter Frankopan's excellent book "The Silk Roads." We will examine the interpretation that The Silk Roads was "The Crossroads of Civilisation." as Frankopan describes it.

Lesson Sequence:

This unit takes place over a long period of time, beginning before the study of The Norman Conquest and finishing after. During this study, students will begin by learning what the Silk Roads was. We look at ancient maps to learn how the Silk Roads was not a physical road, but a series of links between places across which trade, ideas and religions would spread.

After this, we learn about the various civilisations that have existed across the silk roads, such as the Persian Empire, Greek Empire and the Chinese Han Dynasty. We learn about when each civilisation existed, where they existed and what happened to them.

We then look at what was traded across the silk roads- exploring how luxury items like silk were traded alongside spices, exotic fruits and crafted goods. We look at how this trade created links that spanned huge distances. We also examine the dangers of this trade by considering the remains of traders and camels that have been excavated along The Silk Roads.

We then take a similar approach to trade but with religions. We learn about how and when different religions were spread across The Silk Roads. We will contrast how some religions were spread through violence whilst others, such as Buddhism, were spread by monuments and shrines.

We then look at The Abbasid Caliphate, an Islamic Empire based in Baghdad that lasted multiple generations of Caliphs. We will look compare Baghdad to a medieval city at the time which will hopefully illuminate to students how superior Baghdad was in cleanliness, organisation and academically. To further explore the advancement of this civilisation we will learn of The House of Wisdom, a place where academics researched and wrote about science and maths, and how this was spread along the silk roads, which helps us to understand how The Silk Roads was the "Crossroads of Civilisation." Finally, we will look at how the silk roads was involved in the spreading of scientific inventions which again made it important to the entire world.

Sequence of Lessons:

1	Ancient maps
2	Civilisations
3	Trade
4	Religion
5	Abbasid Caliphate- Baghdad
6	Abbasid Caliphate- House of Wisdom
7	Inventions
8	Revisions
9	Assessment

Topic Resources:

Knowledge Map:	2 –The Silk Roads	Any other Resources:	N/A
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Assessment:

Knowledge:	Multiple choice knowledge test
Application of Knowledge:	Written piece focusing on description

Supportive Reading:

Any supported reading listed here	Peter Frankopan – The silk Roads