

Unit Title: Building A New Silk Road - China's political and economic rise**Grade Level:** 9-12**Subject Area:** Chinese**Duration/Length/Number of class periods:** 6 class periods**Description:**

The lessons created for this unit are designed for students learning Chinese, literature, culture, and history. Throughout the learning process, students can use Chinese to describe the Silk Road, understand the new silk road along one belt one road, analyze the differences between the East and the West in the Han dynasty, recognize the importance of the Silk Road for connecting Europe and East Asia in ancient times, comprehend the rise of China's political and economic power, and express the concept of globalization in modern world. Before the era of maritime and air transportation, the Silk Road provided early European travel explorers with opportunities to experience the Far East, and vice versa. The concepts of communication, transportation, immigration, international business, and cultural exchanges between East and West will be introduced. Students will learn how China used the Silk Road in ancient times to establish contact with the West. Students will be inspired with the importance of the Silk Road in cultural exchange. Students will learn how Asian commodities and culture affect European economic, political, and cultural characteristics, and the relationship between Eastern and Western civilizations. This module introduces students to Asian culture and world history to understand that the desire for Asian goods has triggered the demand for Western Europe to participate in the Silk Road trade. In return, East Asian countries also benefited from Western resources through the Silk Road. The development of the New Silk Road, in which more and more countries are participating, has further strengthened the international relations among countries around the world, has also increased the influence of China's political and economic power. Obviously, the Silk Road has produced globalized ideas, not just cultural, economic, political, communication and social values. The idea of globalization has brought the importance of world language teaching and the concept of world history as well as international relationships.

Established Goals (National, State, Local):

- Content: Students address concrete and factual topics related to the immediate and external environment.
- Communication: Students engage in oral and written conversations.
- Functions: Students produce and present a written and oral product in a culturally authentic way.
- Cultures: Students describe similarities and differences within the target cultures and among students' own cultures.
- Structures: Students use the knowledge of text structure to understand topics related to the external environment.
- Settings: Students use language in informal and some formal settings.

What Enduring Understandings are desired?

This unit will help students understand how far people in the past would go to get what they wanted. Students will understand that the desire for military horses triggered the Han Dynasty's need to explore the West and establish the Silk Road. Students will also understand that the demand for Asian goods sparked a demand for Western Europe to participate in Silk Road trade. The Silk Road created an interdependent global economic and cultural exchange center. More importantly, the Silk Road also provides opportunities for language, culture, religious

beliefs, philosophy, and scientific exchanges. The paper invented by the Chinese in the Han Dynasty spread to Europe via the Silk Road, making the exchange of news and information more extensive and having a clear and lasting impact on Western culture. In addition, the rich spices of the East quickly became popular in the West and changed the cuisine of most parts of Europe. Similarly, glass-making technology has moved from the Islamic world to the east to China. The Silk Road also provides opportunities for explorers seeking to understand Oriental culture and geographical environment. Via the Silk Road, Venice explorer Marco Polo traveled from Italy to China. His famous "Marco Polo Travels" gave Europeans a better understanding of Asian trade and culture. The "One Belt One Road" initiative borrows the historical symbols of the ancient "Silk Road" and is committed to jointly building trade routes to promote international relations and cultural exchanges among Asia, Europe and Africa. The scale of the initiative is large, covering 70% of the world's population. On land, "one belt" relies on existing international transportation channels and key economic industrial parks as cooperation platforms; on the sea, "one road" intends to use key ports along the "One Belt and One Road" as nodes to create a smooth transportation channel. The new Silk Road initiative led to China's political and economic rise, and China's international influence extended to the world.

What [Essential Questions](#) will be considered?

- What is the Silk Road?
- When, where and how did the Silk Road start?
- What did China get from opening the Silk Road?
- How did China influence Western Europe, and vice versa?
- What and how goods were traded on the ancient Silk Road?
- How did the Silk Road create an interdependent world?
- What role did the new Silk Road initiative play in the concept of globalization?
- How far would you go to get what you want?

Students will know/be able to:

- Use Chinese to describe the Silk Road
- Analyze the differences between the East and the West in the Han dynasty
- Recognize the importance of the Silk Road for connecting Europe and East Asia in ancient times
- Understand the new silk road along one belt one road
- Comprehend the rise of China's political and economic power
- Express the concept of globalization in modern world

Description	For ma tive	Su m ma tive	Intro duct ory Activ ity	Lear ning Activ ity	Stud ent Tech nolo gy Use d	Teach er Tech nolog y Used	ISTE Stand ards
The rise and fall of the Han Dynasty • Participate in small and whole group discussions on the subject • Demonstrate the ability to analyze different perspectives of the historical events along the Silk Road	V		V	V	V	V	I:A II:D III:B

Silk Road journey and global exchange • Create nobles in specific areas of the Silk Road • Participate in simulations to showcase the Silk Road trade	v		v		v	v	I:C V:B IV:C
Impact of the Silk Road: past and present • Analyze maps related to various routes of the Silk Road • Use Google maps to highlight the current activities among a few important cities along the Silk Road now		v		v	v	v	I:B III:D VI:A
The immigration of Asian to USA • Determine the impact of the Silk Road on the history of East Asia, Europe and USA • Use Google earth to create an immigration map to explain how Asians enter the United States and other countries	v		v	v	v	v	II:A III:D VI:A
Political and economic rise of China • Analyze the past and today's Silk Road by creating google map works • Determine the influence of new Silk Road initiative on China's political and economic rise	v		v		v	v	III:B IV:C VI:D
Function of "one Belt one Road" in Globalization • Understand the relationship between the Silk Road and the beginning of the era of exploration • Use Google earth to create a map of the new Silk Road (one Belt one Road) and compare the Silk Road of the past and today		v		v	v	v	II:C IV:B VI:A

Materials, tools and resources:

- Along the Silk Road Curriculum Unit by SPICE:
(<https://spicestore.stanford.edu/products/along-the-silk-road>)
- Silk Road Seattle – Teaching and Learning Guides
(<https://depts.washington.edu/silkroad/guides/srcurunit.html>)
- Google Earth: Physical Pictures and Maps Containing the Continents of Europe and Asia
- Google Map: Physical Views of Streets in Cities Along the Silk Road
- A Visual Sourcebook of Chinese Civilization (<http://depts.washington.edu/chinaciv/>)
- Blank physical map containing the European and Asian continent as well as map outlining the actual route of the Silk Road
- Along the Silk Road: A Journey of Global Exchange
(<https://carolinaasiacenter.unc.edu/files/2017/04/Silk-Road-Lesson-Middle-High-School-Complete-Set.pdf>)
- A Photo Trip Along the Ancient Silk Road
(<https://www.theatlantic.com/photo/2017/11/a-photo-trip-along-the-ancient-silk-road/546767/>)
- 10 Key Cities Along the Silk Road (<https://www.historyhit.com/key-cities-along-the-silk-road/>)

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Additional credit given to: