



Unit 5, Lesson 1

The Han Dynasty: Development of a Chinese Empire

206 BCE to 220 CE

What goes up must come down!

- Empires rise, but they also fall.
- This unit will look at empires at their strongest, and then explore why they fell apart.
- Turn and Talk:
 - Thinking back to Unit 4, what factors helped empires develop?
 - Make a prediction: Why did these empires fall apart?

Era 3 Overview...

1000 B.C.E. to 500 C.E.

Cities

- Between 1000 BCE and 500 CE in Afroeurasia, cities grew and multiplied.
- Many cities traded with each other, sometimes across long distances.
- About 100 CE, the world's two biggest cities were almost certainly Rome, with a population nearing one million, and Luoyang in China's Han empire.
- Most cities at this time served many purposes. They were centers of government, religion, trade, manufacturing, education, and art.

Technology and Expansion

- New technologies allowed rulers to extend their systems of central command farther and farther away from their capitols.
- All across Afroeurasia, cavalry (soldiers on horses) replaced chariots as a tool for military conquest and control.
- Soldiers, as well as state messengers, could carry political orders and news by horseback, which was faster than any other way.
- Other innovations helped empires grow as well, such as advanced road construction (the Persians and Romans), canal building (the Chinese), and the use of the camel as the main transport animal in arid (dry) lands.

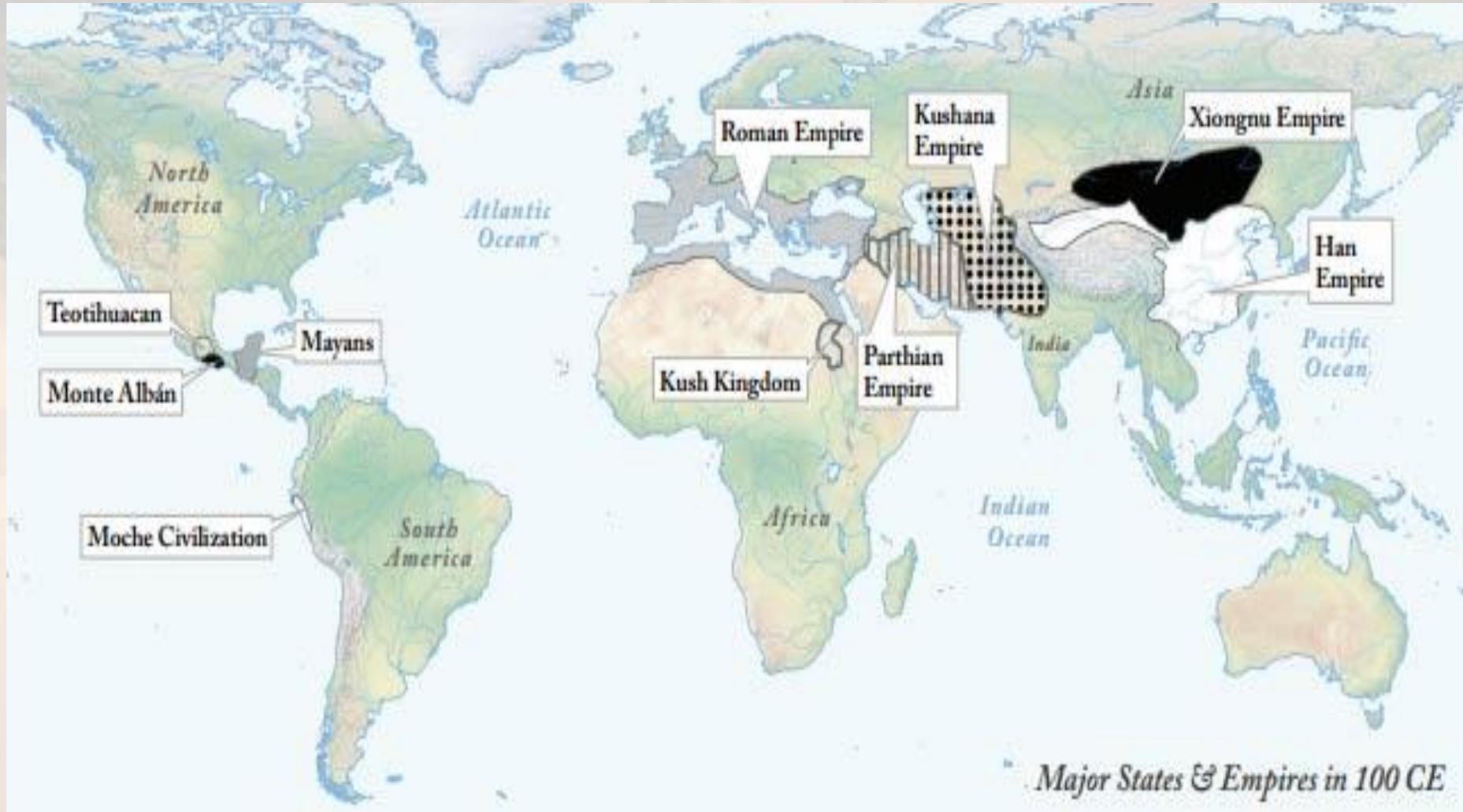
Trade

- Long-distance exchanges of products and ideas increased, not just within states but between them as well.
- Between about 300 BCE and 300 CE, merchants extended trade routes across Inner Eurasia on the silk roads. They also used ships to carry goods on the Mediterranean and Black seas and the Indian Ocean.

Social Hierarchy

- The majority of the world's population were farmers, herders, or foragers. They subsisted on their own production, and they lived short lives compared to today.
- However, in big cities, and in empires with lots of wealth, the gap between the rich and the poor increased.
- Cities also had groups of merchants, artisans, scholars, and other people with special skills who accumulated wealth, though not necessarily much political power.
- At the bottom of the social scale were slaves. This era witnessed a huge expansion of slavery and an organized slave trade in many parts of the world.
- In all the urbanized societies of this era, adult males dominated political and social life.

Geography... The Big Picture of the World



At about 100 CE , there was a nearly continuous chain of large states extending from the Atlantic to the Pacific, in Afroeurasia.

*(overview materials and map from World History for Us All;
<http://worldhistoryforusall.sdsu.edu/eras/era4.php>)*



Zooming in on the Han Empire

A timeline of Chinese history

(dates are approximate)

1700-1046 BCE - Shang Dynasty - the **first** Chinese state for which clear written records remain - unites much of north central China.

1045- 770 BCE - Zhou dynasty replaces Shang as dominant force across northern China

770 BCE - Zhou state collapses into loose association of warring states, known as the Eastern Zhou.

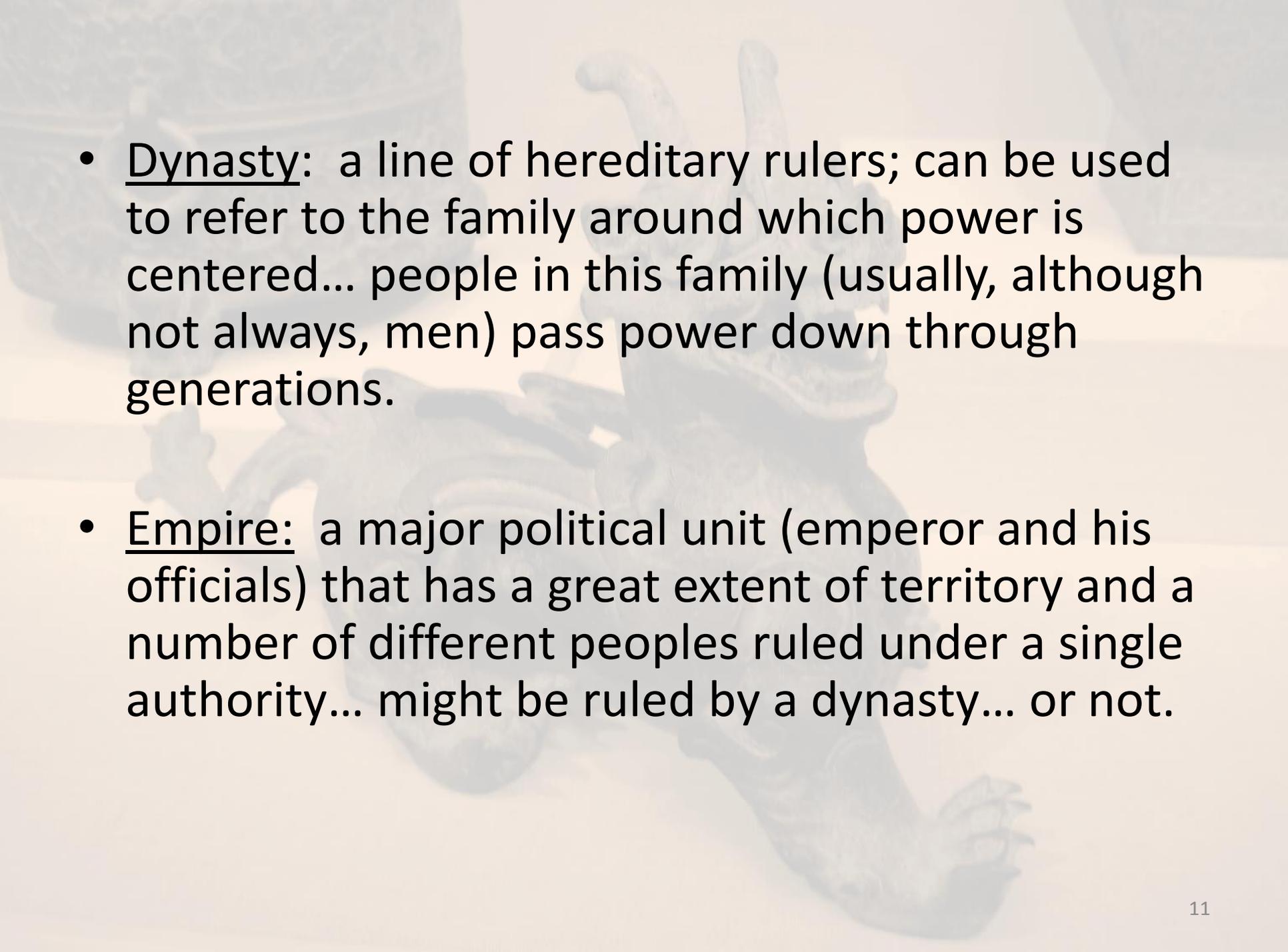
Imperial China

221-206 BCE - King Ying Zheng of Qin unites much of the Chinese heartland. He is the first ruler to use the title "emperor" as Qin Shihuangdi ("First Qin Emperor") and builds first Great Wall of China, but his empire collapses after his death. After a brief period of instability, Liu Bang founds the Han dynasty.

206 BCE - 220 CE - Han Dynasty: first durable state governing the entire Chinese heartland; first Chinese cultural "golden age", growth in economy, and the promotion of Confucianism as the state philosophy. Buddhism makes its first inroads into China.

Turn and Talk:

- So what's new and important about the Han?
- What do you think the difference is between an “empire” and a “dynasty”?
- Why do we sometimes talk about the Han Dynasty, and sometimes about the Han Empire?

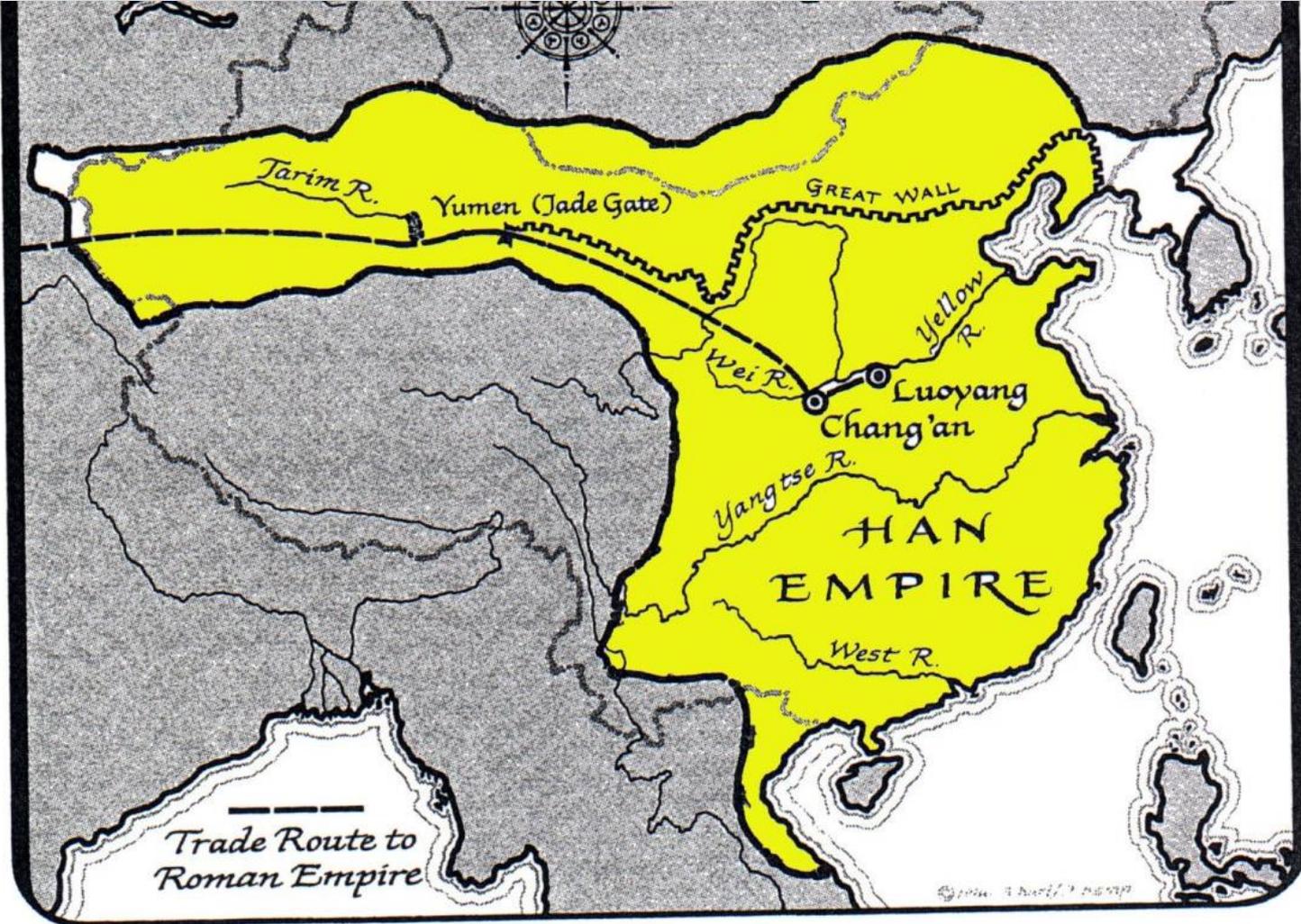
- 
- Dynasty: a line of hereditary rulers; can be used to refer to the family around which power is centered... people in this family (usually, although not always, men) pass power down through generations.
 - Empire: a major political unit (emperor and his officials) that has a great extent of territory and a number of different peoples ruled under a single authority... might be ruled by a dynasty... or not.

Circa 100 BCE



[http://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Han_Dynasty_100_BCE_\(Chinese\).png](http://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Han_Dynasty_100_BCE_(Chinese).png)

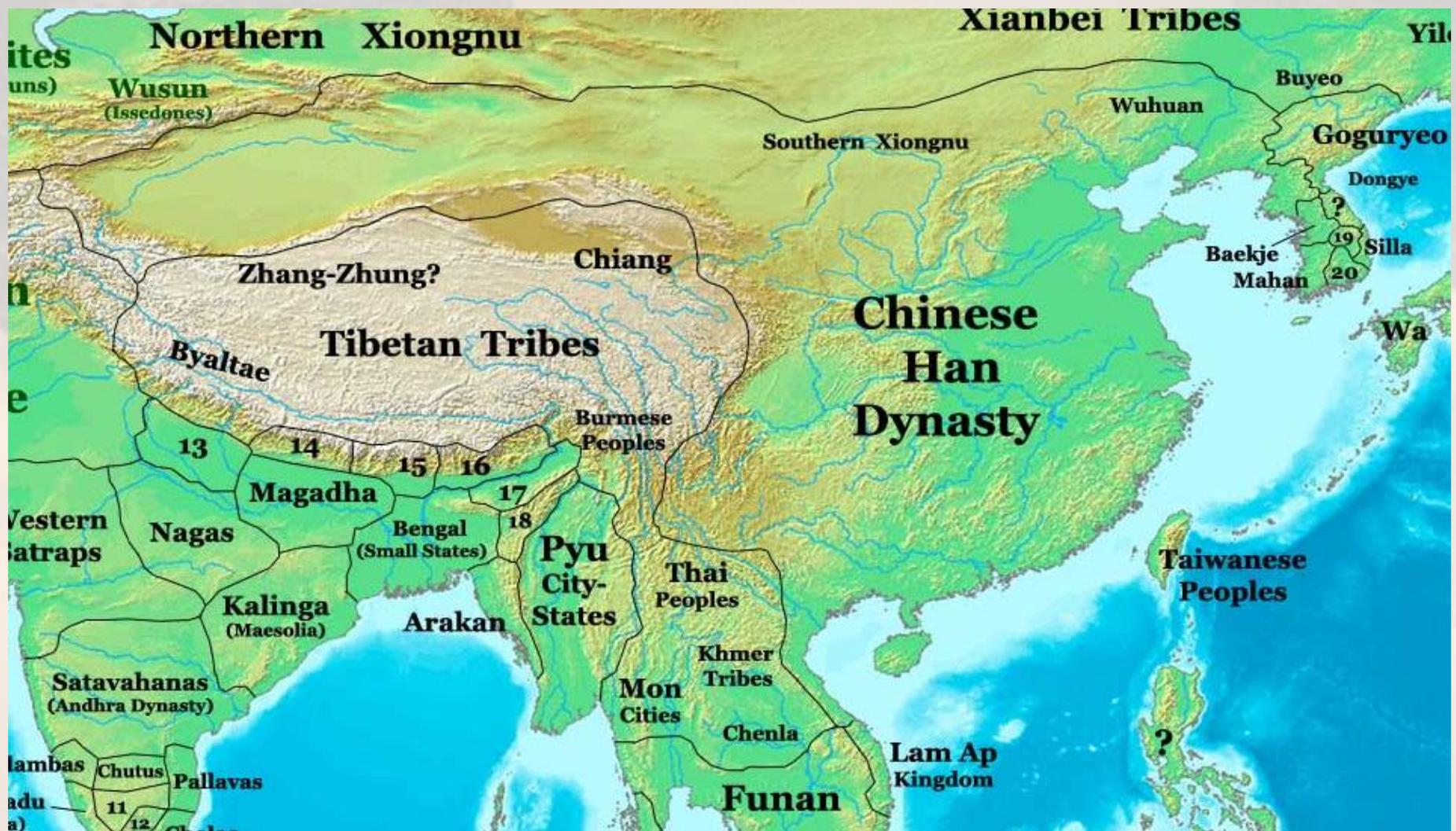
Stop and Jot: Study the map. What geographic features seem important in this empire? Why? Be ready to explain your thinking.



Han Dynasty Empire (206 B.C.—A.D. 220)

<http://apworldhistorywiki.wikispaces.com/Han+China+2>

Turn and Talk: What do you notice about the location of the main city, Louyang?



https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Asia_200ad.jpg

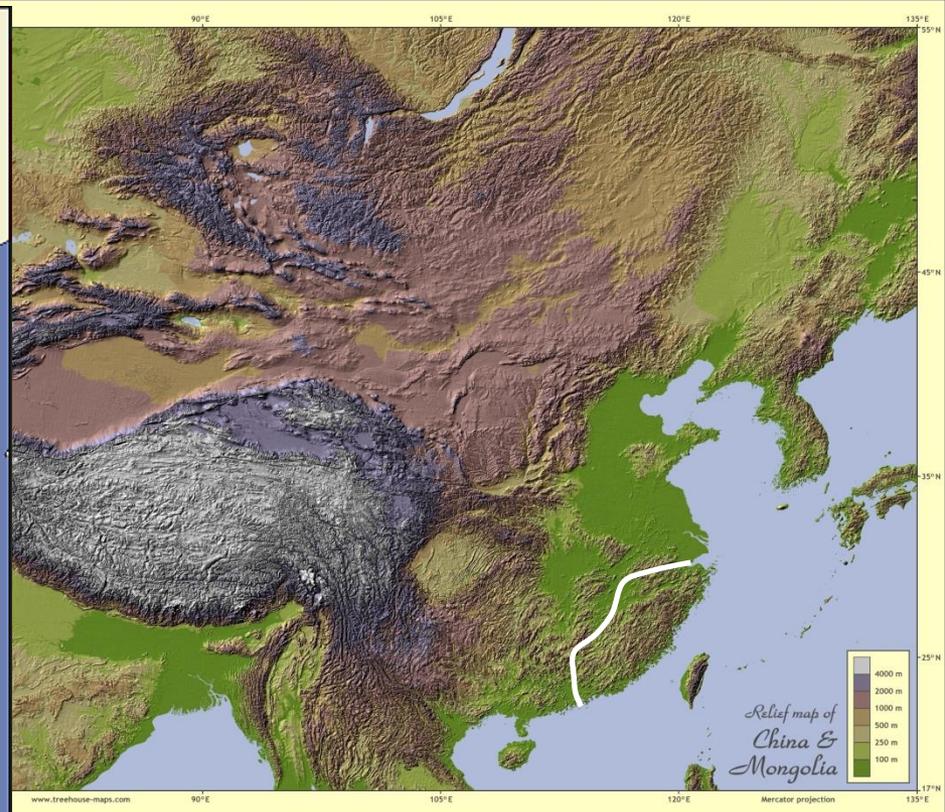
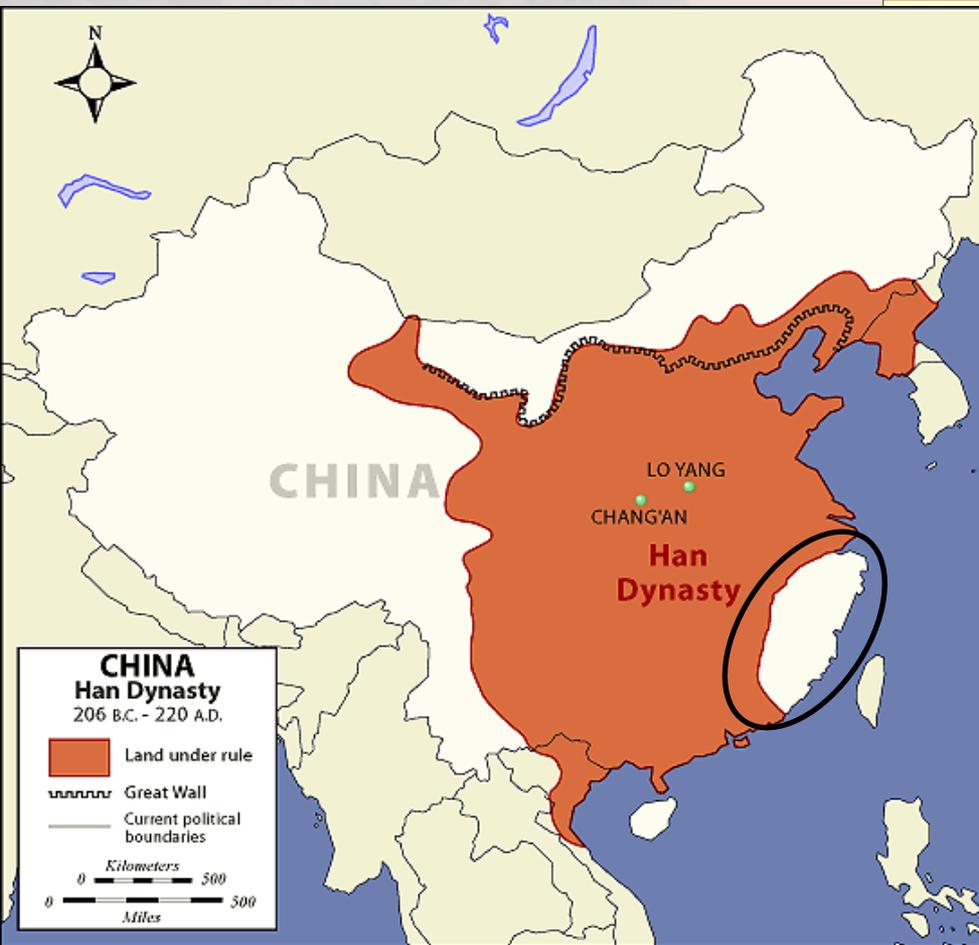
Turn and Talk: How is this map different from the last two maps of Han China?
 What does it tell you about the Han empire?



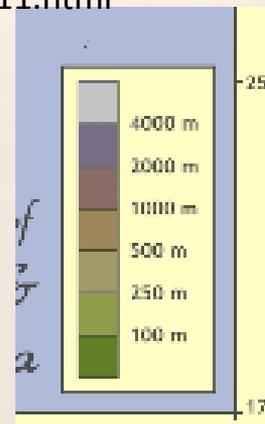
<http://www.artsmia.org/art-of-asia/history/chin-dynasty-map.cfm>

<http://www.artsmia.org/art-of-asia/history/han-dynasty-map.cfm>

Turn and Talk: What is different across these two maps? What changed between the Ch'in and Han dynasties? How do you think this change took place? What might have happened?



<http://www.treehouse-maps.com/mfmp11.html>



Stop and Jot: What role did physical geography (think about physical features on the map) seem to play in Han expansion?

Han Technology

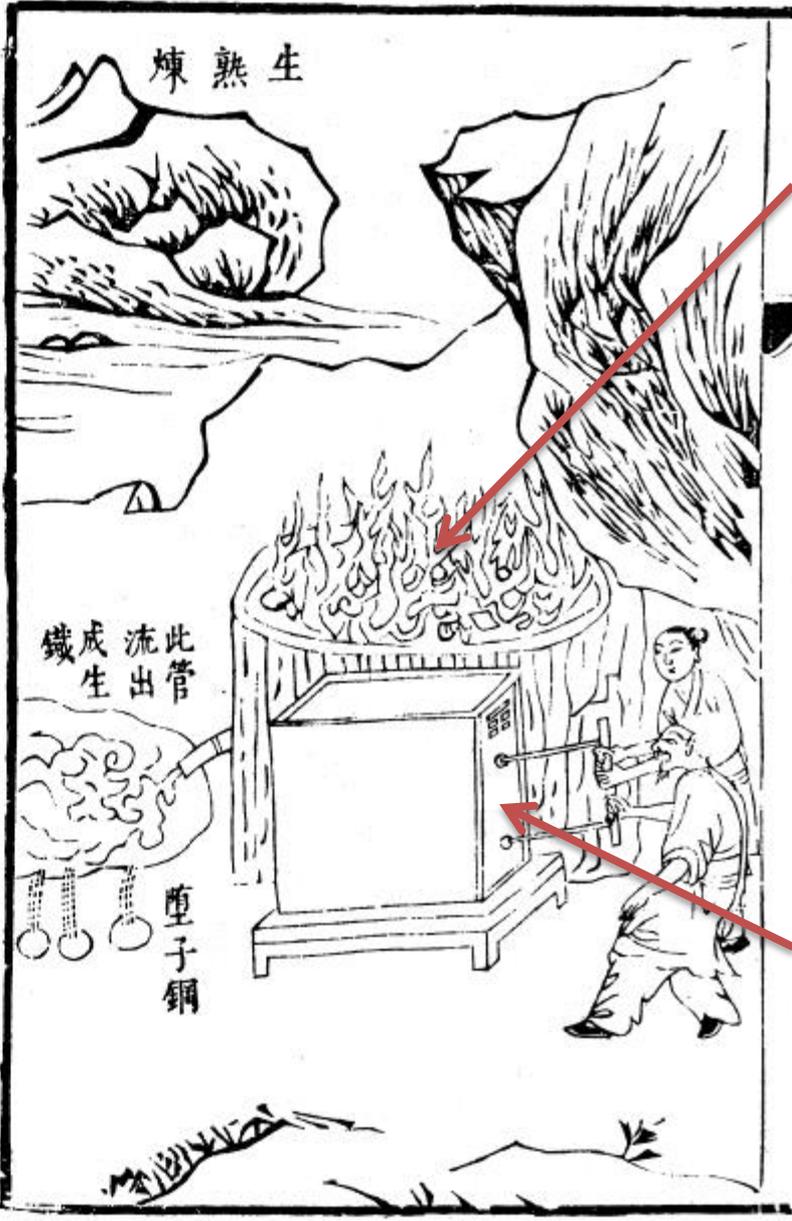


Turn and Talk: What do you think is happening in this picture?

Iron Blast Furnance

鐵 爐

生 熟 煉

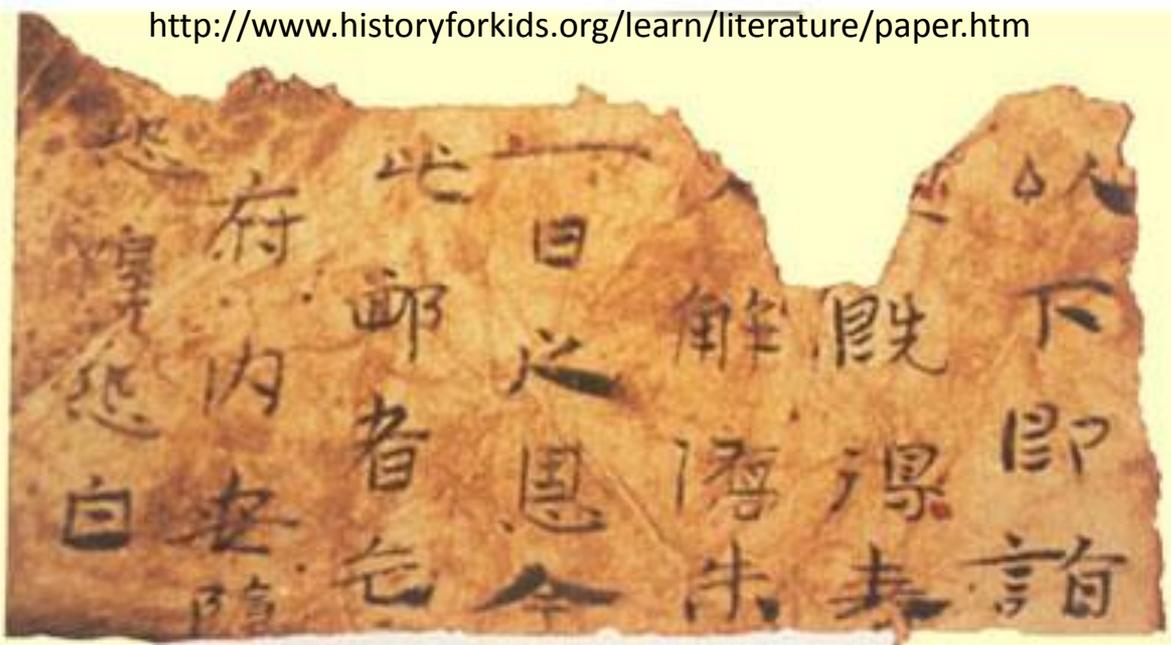


Iron ore and other minerals go into the furnace.

Hot air is pumped into the furnace to further heat the fire in order to get a more pure metal.

Liquid, molten metal is poured out into sheets.

A Chinese blast furnace, pouring out iron



Paper

- Paper seems to have been invented around 100 BC in China.
- In 105 [AD](#), under the [Han Dynasty](#) emperor Ho-Ti, a government official in China named Ts'ai Lun was the first to start a paper-making industry.
- Ts'ai Lun made his paper by mixing finely chopped mulberry bark and hemp rags with water, mashing it flat, and then pressing out the water and letting it dry in the sun.
- Ts'ai Lun's paper was a big success, and began to be used all over China.

Turn and Talk: Paper helped changed the world. Why? Why would it have been important?



Han Dynasty Ceramics

206 B.C. - A.D. 220

- The Han dynasty is notable for its concentration on organized ceramic production.
- Mass-produced functional vessels, some stamped with place names and government offices, suggest that a true nationwide industry had come into existence and that some ceramic workshops were already state controlled.
- Molds aided tremendously in the manufacture of identical vessels.

<http://www.artsmia.org/art-of-asia/ceramics/early-chinese-ceramics-han.cfm>

Turn and Talk:

- ***What do you think “mass-produced” means?***
- ***How about “nationwide industry?”***
- ***What do these terms tell us about Han Dynasty ceramics and why is this important?***



The Compass



Compass (circa 4th Century BC)

According to ancient records, natural magnets were employed in China as direction-finding devices. This led to the first compass, called a sinan (south-pointing ladle) during the Warring States Period. In the Han Dynasty, compasses consisted of a bronze board on which 24 directions were carved and a rod made from a natural magnet. Such devices were in use until the eighth century.

http://www.chinatourguide.net/12_18.htm

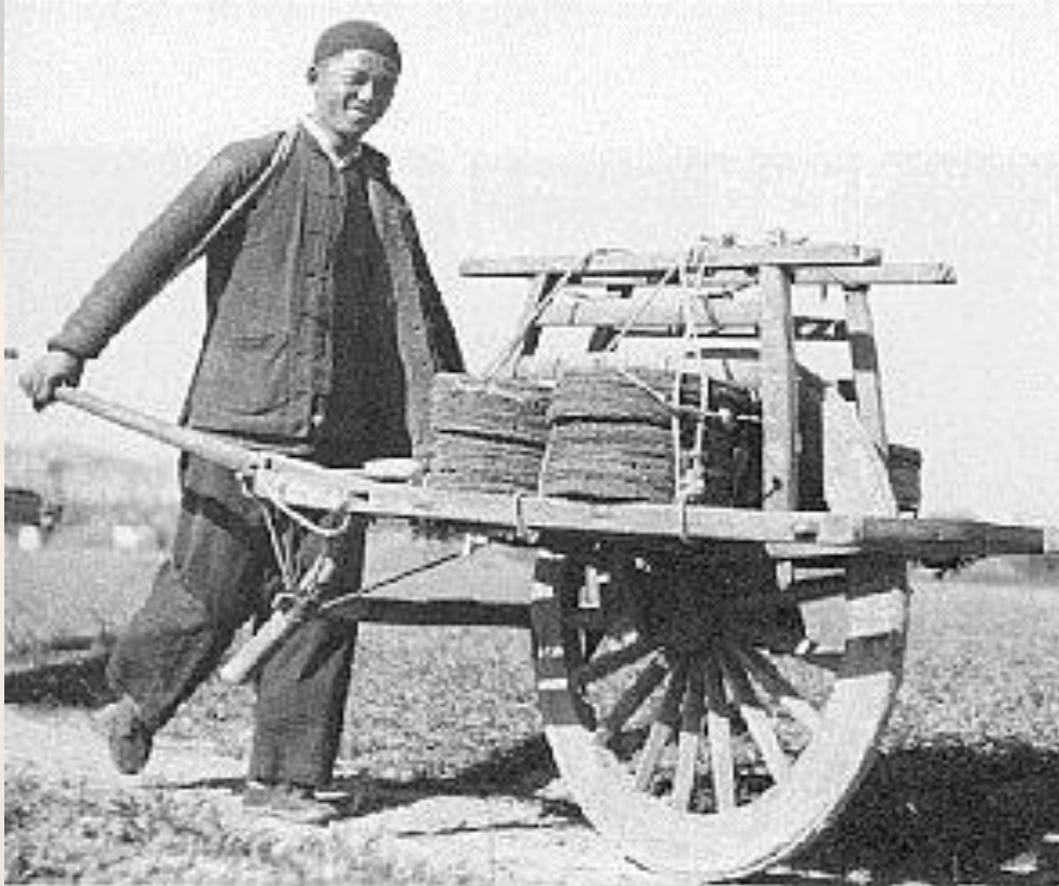
<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=v0TBR4xe53I>

Stop and Jot: Why were compasses important?

Demonstration of a Chinese Compass

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=v0TBR4xe53>
!

Wheelbarrow



History of Engineering: Wheelbarrow

- Chuko Liang (181-234 A.D.) of China is considered to be the inventor of the wheelbarrow.
- Liang was a general who used the wheelbarrows to transport supplies and injured soldiers.
- The Chinese wheelbarrows had two wheels and required two men to propel and steer.

<http://inventors.about.com/library/inventors/blwheelbarrow.htm>

A more modern version of the original wheelbarrow.

Stop and Jot then Turn and Talk: How have you seen wheelbarrows used? Why would they have been an important invention?

Crossbow and other weapons

- The military forces of the Han dynasty was said to have used the most advanced forms of weaponry during that time.
- Swords were a favored weapon and the improvement in iron casting and working during the Han period made it possible for them to produce stronger swords.
- Improvements were also made to the traditional crossbow making it more accurate and powerful.
- The army began to adapt stirrups to gain greater balance riding horses.
- “Many contemporary historians cited the repeating crossbow as a key element in [Han China's](#) Pyrrhic victory over the Xiongnu. The [Xiongnu](#) and many other nomadic peoples of the Central Asian steppes used ordinary compound bows with great skill, but could be defeated by legions of crossbow-wielding infantry, particularly in sieges and set-piece battles.”



Western Han Crossbow

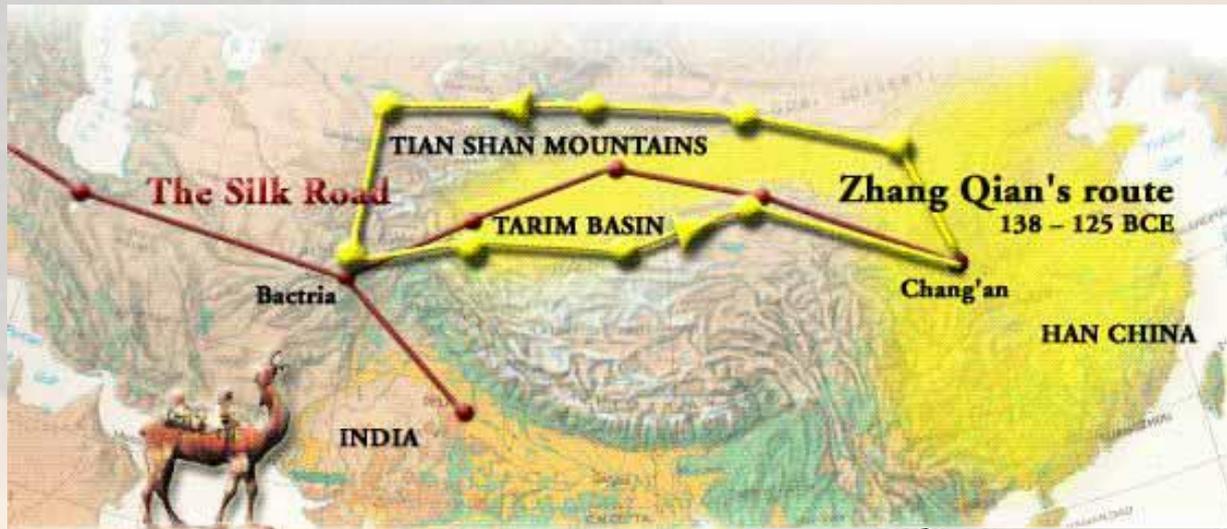


Han Dynasty iron ji and knife

<http://totallyhistory.com/han-dynasty-military/>

Turn and Talk:

Why would advanced weapons be important for the development of an empire?



During the Han Dynasty, the Xiongnu people were in conflict with the Han.

The Han emperor Wu sent out a mission to find allies to fight the Xiongnu.



A man named Zhang Qian led this mission. After years of travel, he returned to China with information about new lands and routes. This journey helped to open up the Silk Roads.