**Period 3 Regional and Transregional Interactions: 600 CE – 1450 CE**

**Key Concept 3.1. Expansion and Intensification of Communication and Exchange Networks**

1. **Improved transportation technologies and commercial practices led to an increased volume of trade, and expanded the geographical range of existing and newly active trade networks.** 
   1. New Trading Cities: Timbuktu, Swahili City States, Hangzhou, Calicut, Baghdad, Venice, Tenochtitlan
   2. Luxury Goods: Silk and Cotton Textiles, Porcelain, Spices, Precious Metals, Slaves
   3. Credit and Monetization: Bills of Exchange, Credit, Checks, Banks
2. **The movement of peoples caused environmental and linguistic effects.** 
   1. Environmental Knowledge and Technological Adaptations:
      1. The way arabs and Berbers adapted Camels to travel across and around the Sahara.
      2. The way Central Asia pastoral groups used horses to travel in the steppes.
   2. Diffusion of Languages: Bantu, Turkic and Arabic
3. **Cross-cultural exchanges were fostered by the intensification of existing, or the creation of new, networks of trade and communication.** 
   1. Diasporic Communities: Muslim merchants in the Indian Ocean Basin, Chinese merchants in SE Asia
   2. Travelers: Ibn Battuta, Marco Polo
   3. Diffusion of literary, artistic and cultural traditions: Christianity in Europe, Neo-Confucianism and Buddhism in China, Hinduism and Buddhism to SE Asia, Islam to Sub-Saharan Africa
   4. Diffusion of Scientific and Technological Innovations:
      1. Influence of Greek and Indian mathematics on Muslim scholars
      2. Return of Greek science and philosophy to Western Europe
      3. Spread of printing and gunpowder from East Asia
4. **There was continued diffusion of crops and pathogens, including epidemic diseases like the bubonic plague, throughout the Eastern Hemisphere along the trade routes.** 
   1. Diffusion of Crops: Bananas in Africa, Rice in East Asia, Cotton/Sugar in Dar al-Islam

**Key Concept 3.2. Continuity and Innovation of State Forms and Their Interactions**

1. **Empires collapsed and were reconstituted; in some regions new state forms emerged.** 
   1. Traditional Sources of Power and Legitimacy: Patriarchy, Religion, Land-Owning Elites
   2. Innovations: New methods of taxation, Tributary systems, adaption of religious institutions
   3. Islamic States: Abbasid, Delhi Sultanate
   4. City States: East Africa, SE Asia, Americas
   5. Synthesis by states: Persian influence on Islamic states, Chinese influence in E. Asia
2. **Interregional contacts and con icts between states and empires encouraged significant technological and cultural transfers, including transfers between Tang China and the Abbasids, transfers across the Mongol empires, transfers during the Crusades, and transfers during Chinese maritime activity led by Ming Admiral Zheng He.** 
   1. Technological and Cultural Transfers: Paper Making, Gunpowder, Neoconfucianism

**Key Concept 3.3. Increased Economic Productive Capacity and Its Consequences**

1. **Innovations stimulated agricultural and industrial production in many regions.** 
   1. Technological Innovations: Chinampa field systems, Horse Collar
2. **The fate of cities varied greatly, with periods of significant decline and periods of increased urbanization buoyed by rising productivity and expanding trade networks.** 
   1. Cities: Constantinople, Baghdad, Damascus, Timbuktu, Kilwa
3. **Despite significant continuities in social structures and in methods of production, there were also some important changes in labor management and in the effect of religious conversion on gender relations and family life.** 
   1. Peasant Revolts: China, Byzantine Empire
   2. Gender Relations and Family Structure: Divorce in Muslim states, Foot binding in China

**Historical Thinking Skills**

**Analyzing Evidence: Content and Sourcing**

*Historical thinking involves the ability to describe, select, and evaluate relevant evidence about the past from diverse sources (including written documents, works of art, archaeological artifacts, oral traditions, and other primary sources) and draw conclusions about their relevance to different historical issues.*

*A historical analysis of sources focuses on the interplay between the content of a source and the authorship, point of view, purpose, audience, and format or medium of that source, assessing the usefulness, reliability, and limitations of the source as historical evidence.*

**Interpretation**

*Historical thinking involves the ability to describe, analyze, and evaluate the different ways historians interpret the past. This includes understanding the various types of questions historians ask, as well as considering how the particular circumstances and contexts in which individual historians work and write shape their interpretations of past events and historical evidence.*

**Comparison**

*Historical thinking involves the ability to identify, compare, and evaluate multiple perspectives on a given historical event in order to draw conclusions about that event. It also involves the ability to describe, compare, and evaluate multiple historical developments within one society, one or more developments across or between different societies, and in various chronological and geographical contexts.*

**Contextualization**

*Historical thinking involves the ability to connect historical events and processes to special circumstances of time and place as well as broader regional, national, or global processes.*

**Synthesis**

*Historical thinking involves the ability to develop understanding of the past by making meaningful and persuasive historical and/or cross-disciplinary connections between a given historical issue and other historical contexts, periods, themes, or disciplines.*

**Causation**

*Historical thinking involves the ability to identify, analyze, and evaluate the relationships among historical causes and effects, distinguishing between those that are long term and proximate. Historical thinking also involves the ability to distinguish between causation and correlation, and an awareness of contingency, the way that historical events result from a complex variety of factors that come together in unpredictable ways and often have unanticipated consequences.*

**Patterns of Continuity and Change over Time**

Historical thinking involves the ability to recognize, analyze, and evaluate the dynamics of historical continuity and change over periods of time of varying length, as well as the ability to relate these patterns to larger historical processes or themes.

**Periodization**

*Historical thinking involves the ability to describe, analyze, and evaluate different ways that historians divide history into discrete and definable periods. Historians construct and debate different, sometimes competing models of periodization; the choice of specific turning points or starting and ending dates might accord a higher value to one narrative, region, or group than to another.*

**Argumentation**

*Historical thinking involves the ability to create an argument and support it using relevant historical evidence. Creating a historical argument includes defining and framing a question about the past and then formulating a claim or argument about that question, often in the form of a thesis. A persuasive historical argument requires a precise and defensible thesis or claim, supported by rigorous analysis of relevant and diverse historical evidence. The argument and evidence used should be framed around the application of a specific historical thinking skill (e.g., comparison, causation, patterns of continuity and change over time, or periodization).*

*Furthermore, historical thinking involves the ability to examine multiple pieces of evidence in concert with each other, noting contradictions, corroborations, and other relationships among sources to develop and support an argument.*

**Thoughts for Consideration:**

1. Causes of Imperial Decline and Compare
2. Role of Political, Social or Economic incentives in the spread of religious or cultural traditions
3. Spread of Religions and Religious Syncretism
4. Change and Continuity in Trade Networks
5. Causes of Demographic Shifts
6. Role of technology in shaping imperial rule
7. Relationship between Sub-Saharan Africa and global developments in the time period
8. Mongol Empire as a turning point