During the medieval period, several major trading routes developed in the Eastern Hemisphere. These trading routes developed among Europe, Africa, and Asia.

**Silk Routes across Asia to the Mediterranean basin**
- Textiles
- Porcelain
- Paper (printing of paper money
- Compass

**Trans-Saharan routes across North Africa**
- Gold from West Africa
Maritime routes across the Indian Ocean
- Spices
- Textiles
- New Crops (e.g., making sugar)
- Lateen sail

Northern Europe links with the Black Sea
- Amber
Western Europe sea and river trade.

South China Sea and lands of Southeast Asia
• Spices
Regional trade networks and long-distance trade routes in the Eastern Hemisphere aided the diffusion and exchange of technology and culture among Europe, Africa, and Asia.

**Goods**
- Gold from West Africa
- Spices from lands around the Indian Ocean
- Textiles from India, China, the Middle East, and later Europe
- Porcelain from China
- Amber from the Baltic region

**Technology**
- Paper from China through the Muslim world to Byzantium and Western Europe
- New crops from India (e.g., for making sugar
- Waterwheels and windmills from the Middle East
- Navigation: Compass from China, lateen sail from Indian Ocean region

**Ideas**
- Spread of religions across the hemisphere
  - Buddhism from China to Korea and Japan
  - Hinduism and Buddhism from India to Southeast Asia
  - Islam into West Africa, Central and Southeast Asia
- Printing and paper money from China
Japanese cultural development was influenced by the proximity to China.

Location and place
- Mountainous Japanese archipelago (four main islands)
- Sea of Japan (East Sea) between Japan and China
- Proximity to China and Korea

Influences of Chinese culture
- Writing
- Architecture
- Buddhism

Shinto
- Ethnic religion unique to Japan
- Importance of natural features, forces of nature, and ancestors
- State religion; worship of the emperor
- Coexists with Buddhism
African civilizations developed in sub-Saharan west and east Africa
Trade brought important economic, cultural, and religious influences to African civilizations from other parts of the Eastern Hemisphere.

West African kingdoms
- Ghana, Mali, and Songhai empires relative to the Niger River and the Sahara
- Importance of gold and salt to trans-Saharan trade
- City of Timbuktu as center of trade and learning
- Roles of animism and Islam

Axum
- Location relative to Ethiopian Highlands and the Nile River
- Christian kingdom

Zimbabwe
- Location relative to the Zambezi and Limpopo rivers and the Indian Ocean
- City of “Great Zimbabwe” as capital of a prosperous empire.
Earliest known modern homo sapiens remains discovered
Review
1. What were the major trade routes in the Eastern Hemisphere from 1000 to 1500 A.D. (C.E.)?
2. How did trade facilitate the diffusion of goods and ideas among different cultures?
3. How has Japan’s geography influenced its development?
4. How did Chinese culture influence Japan?
5. Why were Shinto and Buddhism important to the development of Japanese culture?
6. What were the characteristics of civilizations in sub-Saharan Africa during the medieval period?

Define:
1. Silk Road
2. Maritime routes
3. Trans-Saharan routes
4. Textiles
5. Navigation
6. Archipelago
7. Proximity
8. Shinto
9. Coexistence
10. Axum
11. Zimbabwe
12. Ghana, Mali, Songhai
13. Timbuktu
14. animism