

### Unit 3 Vocabulary

Define the following words in your journals. Include this sheet in the vocab section of your notebooks.

1. **Commodity:** a raw material or primary agricultural product that can be bought and sold
2. **Middlemen:** a person who plays an economic role intermediate between producer and retailer or consumer.
3. **Silk Road:** an ancient network of trade routes that for centuries were central to cultural interaction through regions of the Asian continent connecting the East and West from China to the Mediterranean Sea.
4. **Caravan:** a group of people, especially traders or pilgrims, traveling together across a desert in Asia or North Africa.
5. **Innovation:** a new idea, device, or method
6. **Moluccas:** also known as the Spice Islands, a group of islands in Indonesia famous for their spices. The largest producers of mace, nutmeg, cloves and pepper in the world
7. **Barbarian:** a person without culture, refinement, or education; an uncivilized person
8. **Steppe:** an extensive plain, especially one without trees; vast grasslands
9. **Horde:** a large group; a tribe or troop of Asian nomads
10. **Pax Mongolica:** Latin for "Mongol Peace"; a historiographical term, modeled after the original phrase Pax Romana, which describes the stabilizing effects of the conquests of the Mongol Empire on the social, cultural, and economic life of the inhabitants of the vast Eurasian territory that the Mongols conquered in the 13th and 14th centuries. The term is used to describe the eased communication and commerce the unified administration helped to create, and the period of relative peace that followed the Mongols' vast conquests.
11. **Dark Ages:** a term of historical periodization traditionally meaning the Middle Ages. It emphasizes the demographic, cultural and economic deterioration that supposedly occurred in Western Europe following the decline of the Roman Empire.
12. **Stagnation:** a prolonged period of little or no growth
13. **Pandemic:** an epidemic of infectious disease that has spread through human populations across a large region; for instance multiple continents, or even worldwide.
14. ***Yersinia Pestis*:** A bacterium that causes plague and is transmitted from rats to humans by the rat flea; Considered responsible for the Black Death that struck Europe during the 1300s.
15. **Buboes:** a swollen, inflamed lymph node in the armpit or groin.