

1450 – 1750 Big Ideas and Discussion Questions

1. How was this era different than the era that preceded it? What changed? What stayed the same?
2. What were the major changes in trade? Who was involved?
3. What technological and scientific advances were made during this time period?
4. How did the world become “smaller”?
5. What were the basic political structures found in the world’s empires? Who ruled? How did he/she gain power? Were certain areas different than others?
6. What were the common characteristics found in African Empires?
7. What role did women have during this time period?
8. What slave systems emerged? How were they different from previous systems?
9. What other labor systems were practiced?
10. Which diseases and foods were spread through interactions? How did this affect the population patterns of the world?
11. What were the major discoveries of the Scientific Revolution? How were they controversial? Compared to other areas of the world, were the Europeans slower in discovering some major scientific ideas?
12. What were the major cultural centers during this time period? Find examples and comparisons from all areas of the globe.
13. Why was the Enlightenment so significant to western politics?
14. Explain absolutism? List monarchs from different areas of the world who believed in Divine Right of Kings and absolutism.
15. Compare two European monarchies to China and Japan’s empires. What are the similarities and differences?
16. How did the following interact with the West: Russia, Ottoman Empire, China, Japan, and India. Be very specific.
17. What was the Reformation? What were the basic ideas?