

## THE HUMANITIES: Culture, Continuity, and Change

### Chapter 4 – CENTERS OF CULTURE: Court and City in the Larger World

Which religion lies at the heart of Asian culture during the European Middle Ages?

Why was it believed that portraying the Buddha in art was impossible? What symbols were used instead?

Why did Buddhism replace Confucianism in China after the fall of the Han Dynasty?

How was the city of Chang'an laid out? Why? Why did Chinese emperors turn their backs to the north?

What were two key architectural advances of the Tang Dynasty? What inspired the design of the pagoda?

What did the Tang value above all?

Who described Hangzhou as “The most splendid city in the world”? What development was crucial to the rise of the wealthy merchant class during the Song Dynasty?

How was the essential rightness of the Song world manifested? Why?

What happened to court scholar-painters during the Yuan Dynasty? Why? What did bamboo symbolize?

What is the goal of every bodhisattva? What are *thangkas*, who created them, and why?

What art did Hindu artists master? How is Shiva often portrayed? Why?

Which clan would become the greatest noble clan of classical Japan?

How were women at the Heian court treated? On what qualities were they judge? Why were women expected to write in the *hiragana* style? What new literary form did they create? What was *The Tale of the Genji*?

Why was the head considered to be of supreme importance in African art? Who do the Yoruba people believe links the worlds of the living and of the gods? Why must the Yoruba king cover his face with beads?

Why did West African poets create praise poems?

What is the origin of the Swahili culture?

What three great cultures thrived in Mesoamerica during the Classical Era? What fundamental tool of civilization did they lack? What city was viewed as a holy site? Why?

What is the *Popol Vuh*? Where was Machu Picchu built and why?

Who built churches on Inca temple foundations and why?

#### Vocabulary:

anaphora

mudra

samurai

bushido

negative space

scarification

call-and-response

pagoda

shogun

hiragana

praise poem

waka