**Chapter 6, Section 4: The Legacy of Ancient China**

**The Silk Road:**

* **During the Han Dynasty, only the Chinese knew how to make silk. Silk was in high demand. As they traded, ideas and customs also traveled along the silk roads. This process was called “cultural diffusion”.**
* **Buddhist missionaries traveled the silk roads and Buddhists beliefs spread to Japan and Korea.**

**Influential Ideas and Beliefs:**

* **Confucianism remained significant in Chinese government and education and very influential in Japan, Korea, and Vietnam**
* **Daoism became a religion and remains primarily a Chinese belief system.**
* **Buddhism is the most widespread of the 3 beliefs**

**Chinese Inventions and Discoveries:**

* **Improved the plow and made better iron farm tools which helped improve crop production and feed a growing population**
* **Invented the wheelbarrow and used watermills to grind grain**
* **Invented paper during the Han Dynasty, which was important for a government that kept many records**
* **Silk was also important because it was good for trade**
* **Invented fireworks and later used as gun powder**
* **Invented the crossbow**