> The Ming and Qing Empires in China:

1. Zheng He: “… admiral and diplomat who helped extend the maritime and commercial influence of China throughout the regions bordering the Indian Ocean. He commanded seven naval expeditions almost a century before the Portuguese reached India by sailing around the southern tip of Africa.” (Britannica.com)
2. foot binding: custom of binding a woman’s feet so that her forefoot folds underneath. Having small feet was considered beautiful for women, although they caused obvious health and mobility problems, but they were “trophy wives” in a sense for men who could display the ability to support such a wife (who obviously could not do labor). This practice largely died in the early 20th century.

> The Tokugawa Shogunate in Japan:

1. Daimyo/hostage system: “In essence, the system demanded simply that daimyo reside in the Tokugawa castle at Edo for periods of time, alternating with residence at the daimyo’s own castle. When a daimyo was not residing in the Tokugawa castle, he was required to leave his family at his overlord’s castle town. It was, at its simplest, a hostage system which required that either the daimyo or his family (including the very important heir) always be physically subject to the whim of the overlord.” (www.nakasendoway.com)
2. Kabuki theater: a style of performance characterized by poetry, song, dance, elaborate costumes, and extravagant makeup. Originally performed by both women and men, women were barred from performing in Kabuki because of its connotations of immorality.

> The Mogul Empire in India, 1500-1763:

1. Taj Mahal: An elaborate, symmetrical, marble Mausoleum built by Shah Jahan for his third wife, Mumtaz Mahal.
2. British East India Company: A trading company based in Britain that exerted enormous influence over Asian nations, particularly India and China; economic imperialization—taking advantage of Asian nations’ raw materials and valuable trade goods, and treating them as markets for European manufactured goods and other goods, at the expense of the interests of the Asian nations themselves

> The Aztec, Mayan, and Incan Empires in the Americas

1. Hieroglyphics: a form of written communication in Mesoamerica (associated with the Mayans more than others)
2. Machu Picchu: 15th-century Incan stone city in Peru; currently a major world heritage and cultural site

> The Ottoman Empire, 1450-1600:

1. “gunpowder empires”: Empires that grew rich and exerted influence on surrounding peoples based on their mastery of gunpowder-fueled weapons
2. Suleyman the Magnificent: sultan of the Ottoman Empire during the 1500s who not only undertook bold military campaigns that enlarged his realm but also oversaw the development of what came to be regarded as the most characteristic achievements of Ottoman civilization in the fields of law, literature, art, and architecture. (Britannica.com)

> The Safavid (Persian) Empire, 1500-1722:

1. Shiite vs Sunni Muslim:

*What was the origin of the Sunni-Shiite (Shia) split?*

Both sides agree that Allah is the one true God and that Muhammad was his messenger, but one group (which eventually became the Shiites) felt Muhammad's successor should be someone in his bloodline, while the other (which became the Sunnis) felt a pious individual who would follow the Prophet's customs was acceptable.

*What do Sunnis and Shiites have in common?*

Both Sunnis and Shiites read the Quran, the sayings of the Prophet. Both believe Prophet Muhammad was the messenger of Allah. And both follow the five tenets of Islam: They fast during Ramadan, pledge to make a pilgrimage to Mecca, practice ritual prayer (which includes five prayers each day), give charity to the poor, and pledge themselves to their faith.

*How many of each sect are there?*

The great majority -- upwards of 85 to 90 percent -- of the world's more than 1.6 billion Muslims are Sunnis. Shia constitute about 10 to 15 percent of all Muslims, and globally their population is estimated at less than 200 million.

(nbcnews.com)

1. Shah: King, Sovereign, Leader (of Iran/Persia)