WHAP CH 21 Essential Questions

1. What was the significance of the Chinese decision to end the journeys of Zheng He? Why did Yongle send Zheng He out in the first place? Compare Zheng He’s journeys of exploration to their European equivalents. Why were the Chinese journeys stopped? What did this change mean for China?
2. Why would a relatively poor nation like Portugal have played such an important role in exploration? Why were they the first of the European nations to explore? Why did they stop?
3. What factors explain the increasing trade and interaction between various parts of the world in the centuries immediately following 1000 C.E.? Who was making these journeys and why? What were the results? Relate this information to the role that trade played in other societies.
4. Examine the career of Hongwu and the establishment of the Ming dynasty. How did he influence China? What were his goals? How long-lasting were his changes?
5. Examine the Renaissance. What were its foundations? In what ways was it different from earlier European thought?
6. Examine European exploration. What were their motives? Were their motives different from the Chinese reasons? What were the results of these journeys?
7. Summarize the origins and the progress of the bubonic plague of the fourteenth century. Which regions were hit the hardest? Which regions were largely spared?
8. What were the social and economic outcomes of the plague?