

### **Big Ideas of Lesson 1, Unit 4**

- In the time period from 1000 B.C.E. – 500 C.E., large civilizations developed in present-day China and India, as well as in the Mediterranean, Middle East, and Northeast Africa. Many of these civilizations became major empires that spanned large portions of Afroeurasia.
- These empires were organized around a core city center but reached well beyond urban areas through trade and imperial expansion over time.
- People in these empires developed governments and militaries as well as networks for transportation and trade that connected diverse peoples across Afroeurasia.
- A somewhat different version of empire was developing independently in the Americas during the same time period.

### **Big Ideas of Lesson 2, Unit 4**

- Era 3 was characterized by the rise of a series of important, large empires throughout Afroeurasia. These empires shared several significant characteristics.
- Empires did not start from scratch; they emerged where large civilizations were already developed and where there were sufficient human and natural resources. Empires often changed hands, were conquered, or were absorbed by new empires.
- Empires depended upon strong leadership and large armies. In addition, bureaucratic systems – systems of rules and government – were needed to control large territories and lots of people.
- The development of trade and trade networks – especially roads – was important and ongoing and led to the exchange of goods as well as ideas and cultures.

