**The Silk Road’s Second Effect: Sharing Cultures**

**Vocabulary**

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| Define the idea of “cultural diffusion” (also called “cultural exchange”)  **Answer:**  **Source:** |

**Instructions**

**Instructions**: Choose TWO of the following 5 examples of Silk Road cultural diffusion/exchange and explain them *fully and completely* in 6-8 sentences. Cite your sources at the end of each.

**Topic 1: Music**

Ancient European string instruments like the lyre had very limited musical capabilities. The **violin** and its related string-and-bow instruments revolutionized European music. Explain **where** these types of instruments originated, **what** impact they had on European music, and **how** their origin & transmission relate to the Silk Road.

**Topic 2: Warfare**

Constantinople- home to the last descendent of the Roman Empire- was overrun in May of 1453 when its “unbreakable” walls were destroyed by the largest gunpowder cannon then ever built. Explain **how** gunpowder weapons changed warfare in the Europe as they replaced swords & spears in the 1300s-1600s, and **why** its origin & transmission relate to the silk road.

**Topic 3: Disease**

The Black Death plague entered Europe at the Italian port of Messina in October 1347. It proceeded to kill up to half of all the people in Europe. Explain **what** it was, **why** it was significant, and **how** its origin & transmission relate to the Silk Road.

**Topic 4:** **Religion**

Buddhism is one of the world’s major religions. It developed as a version of Hinduism but evolved into its own system of belief as it migrated thousands of miles over thousands of years. Explain **what** it believes and **how** its origin & transmission relate to the Silk Road.

**Topic 5: Food**

By the 1100s, the German city of Nuremberg was well-known for its *gingerbread* bakers. In the Middle Ages, expensive spices from India & the Middle East replaced silk as the most important cargo being imported to the West along the Silk Road. Explain **how** these spices were used in European cooking, **why** they were so important to high-class European society, and **how** its origin & transmission relate to the Silk Road.

**Topic 1**

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| **Answer:**  **Source:** |

**Topic 2**

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| **Answer:**  **Source:** |