

# EXPANSION UNDER THE HAN DYNASTY

**Ch 9 Section 2, pg 278 - 281**

# KEY TERMS

Guess the artifact!

Official- person assigned to a position in the government

Civil service- system of gov't employees mainly selected for their skills and knowledge

Silk Road- a network of trade routes that crossed Asia

Envoy- representative of the emperor

Cuisine- style of cooking



# GOVERNMENT OF THE HAN

- Rebel general, Lui Bang, founded Han dynasty in 206 BC
  - He became emperor, had Confucian advisors
  - He encouraged learning, lowered taxes, and ended many cruel laws from Qin dynasty
- Empire expanded under Wudi, the 5th emperor of Han dynasty
  - Included some of North Korea, all the way into Central Asia, and south to Vietnam
- Structure of gov't:
  - Centralized like Qin dynasty
  - Officials took orders from those above them and gave orders to those below
- Civil service positions were chosen based on knowledge and skills- NOT hereditary
  - People were recommended or given exams about Confucian ideas
- Han officials were paid well and had a high rank in society
  - They collected taxes, enforced laws, organized labor, had special clothing, but couldn't work in their hometown

# THE SILK ROAD

- During Wudi's reign, trade increased along the Silk Road, spreading goods and ideas
- Zhang Qian traveled West to find an ally against nomad bandits, the Xiongnu
  - He was captured by them, escaped after 10 years
  - His account of the adventure intrigued Wudi, who sent envoys to establish better relations
  - Once the Han army protected the region, trade flourished
- China's most important export was silk
  - Silk was strong, soft, and could be dyed
  - How to make silk was a secret. It was illegal to export the silk worms
- Chinese imported goods: central asian horses, onions, grapes, sesame, elephants, ostriches, lions.
- Ideas were also spread: the invention of paper from China, Buddhism into China