**SECTION 8**

**ENCOUNTERS IN EAST ASIA**

**TEXT SUMMARY**

European traders reached China in 1514. The Ming rulers of China were not interested in European goods because they thought the goods were not well made. They allowed the Europeans to trade only at Canton and forced them to leave after each trading season ended. When the Ming dynasty declined, Manchu conquerors from the west set up the Qing dynasty. The Qing continued to limit European traders, reject foreign goods, and refuse treaties. Later, this policy would prove disastrous.

Before 1500, Korean traders traveled all over East Asia. Then, in the 1590s, Japan conquered Korea. Less than fifty years later, the Manchus forced Korea to become a tributary state of China. In response, the Koreans decided to isolate themselves. They did not allow foreigners to come to Korea. When European sailors landed on Korean shores, the Koreans put them in prison. Korea became known as the “Hermit Kingdom.”

At first, the Japanese welcomed European traders and ideas. The Japanese bought European weapons and learned how to build castles in the European style. Many Japanese converted to Christianity. However, Japanese rulers did not trust the Europeans. In time, they forced all Europeans to leave Japan and persecuted Japanese Christians. By 1638, they ended western trade and banned travel outside the country. Japan remained isolated for the next 200 years.

**THE BIG IDEA**

China, Korea, and Japan limited contact with western nations.

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**GRAPHIC SUMMARY: Asia and the European Powers**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>1400s</th>
<th>1500s</th>
<th>1600s</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>China</td>
<td>Ming dynasty ends overseas exploration by the Chinese</td>
<td>China</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Korea</td>
<td>Korean traders travel all over East Asia</td>
<td>Korea</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Japan</td>
<td>No contact with Europeans</td>
<td>Japan</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

China, Korea, and then Japan restricted contact with the outside world during the 1500s and 1600s.

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**REVIEW QUESTIONS**

1. **How did the Ming limit European traders in China?**

2. **Chart Skills** What was the Korean policy toward foreigners during the 1600s?