**ER 12.5 *Historical Global Languages***

Here are some more of the world’s widespread lingua francas through history:

* Ancient Greek, used throughout the southern European and near-eastern Greek Empire;
* Latin. It was used throughout the Roman Empire. Thereafter, it fragmented into the various ‘Romance’ languages of Europe: Spanish, Portuguese, Italian, Romanian, Catalan. At the same time, Latin itself continued to be used in religious and academic contexts into the Middle Ages and beyond.
* Classical Arabic: in the Middle East, North Africa and Horn of Africa.
* Persian: spreading from Persia (modern Iran) eastwards with the Moghuls into India, and westwards as far as Constantinople (Istanbul).