

**KIDS  
DISCOVER**

What is China's Curse?

# Ancient China

**8,000  
SILENT  
SOLDIERS  
STANDING  
STILL**

**A Home  
with  
9,999  
Buildings**

951  
KID

**The First  
Fireworks**



# A Long-lasting Empire

China is very old. Its written history goes back 3,500 years.

In 221 B.C., when European kingdoms and states were still fighting among themselves, one of China's first great rulers

united warring states to form a great empire. For over two thousand years—from 221 B.C. until A.D. 1912—the empire developed under the watchful eyes of more than a dozen ruling families, called dynasties. In 1912, the long-lasting empire collapsed as the last emperor stepped down.



**A CHINA TAKES ITS** name from the dynasty started by the powerful first emperor, Shi Huangdi, of the Qin dynasty. (In earlier dynasties, kings and their nobles ruled.) In Chinese, the word *Qin* sounds like "chin." Hence our word "China." The first

emperor ruled for only 14 years, from 221 B.C. to 207 B.C., but he united the country by defeating the local rulers of states. Emperor Shi Huangdi built a strong central government. He made sure his strict laws were obeyed and required everyone to pay taxes.

**THIS EARTH-AND-**stone wall is China's most famous landmark. Known as the Great Wall, it's the longest human-made construction in the world. Stretching over

1,500 miles along China's northern border, it was built to protect the country from enemies. Although parts of the wall offered protection from minor attacks, the Great

Wall could not have stopped a major invasion. Several hundred miles of the wall still stand today, a symbol of China's power and unity.

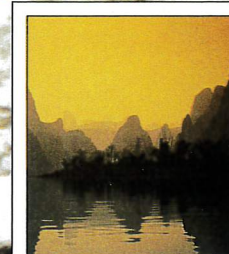


For more on ancient China, go to [history.com/topics/great-wall-of-china](http://history.com/topics/great-wall-of-china)

During the time of the empire, the people of China accomplished a great deal. They invented printing, gunpowder, fireworks, the compass, and kites. Chinese workers built the world's longest wall and its longest canal. From studying the eating habits of tiny caterpillars, the

Chinese discovered the secrets of silk-making. From a soggy mixture of old rags, bark, and bamboo, they created paper. The list of Chinese achievements is long.

Let's find out more about these people and their empire.



**THROUGHOUT MUCH** of its early history, China's contacts with the rest of the world were somewhat limited. China's many mountain ranges and its deserts discouraged trade and travel and protected it from invasion by the "barbarian" tribes that lived near China's border. The Chinese traditionally saw themselves as the center of the universe, calling their country *Zhongguo*, meaning Middle Kingdom.

## The Chinese Dynasties

A dynasty is a series of rulers who all belong to the same family. Ancient China's first dynasty was the Shang. By 1788 B.C. the Shang family had

grown so powerful that it was able to take control of much of China. Here are China's major dynasties. A representative piece of art is shown for each.



SHANG 1788-1027 B.C.



ZHOU 1027-256 B.C.



QIN 221-207 B.C.



HAN 207 B.C.-A.D. 220



SUI 589-618



TANG 618-906



SONG 960-1279



YUAN 1279-1368



MING 1368-1644



QING 1644-1912

# From Top to Bottom

Ancient Chinese society was like a ladder. On the very top step—the highest rank in society—stood the emperor and the royal family. They possessed the most power and wealth. Just below them stood civil servants. These government workers were highly respected because they served the royal family and because they could read and write. Below civil servants stood the peasants and the craftspeople. Although peasants were farmers and had little money, China depended on them to

produce food for everyone. Craftspeople made tools, weapons, furniture, and household goods for the upper classes. Near the bottom of the ladder stood the merchant class. Although many of this class were rich, such as traders and shopkeepers, they were looked down upon because they made their wealth from trading goods produced by others—not by their own hand. On the very bottom step of the ladder stood entertainers, soldiers, and servants. People on the bottom of the social ladder had little hope of climbing up, though a lucky few did.

◀ **CIVIL SERVANTS** played a key role in bringing order and stability to society. They collected taxes, enforced laws, organized workers for building projects, and judged court cases.

They also kept the official written records of the empire. In cities and towns, their jobs included registering births, deaths, marriages, and changes in land ownership.



▲ **STUDENTS WHO** hoped to join the civil service spent many hours studying the teachings of the philosopher Confucius. Most candidates came from rich, land-owning families. However, any male—rich or

poor—could take the civil-service exam, which was first given in the Song dynasty. Only about one percent of takers passed the exam. They were guaranteed jobs as court ministers and might marry into the royal family.

◀ **ARTISANS (PEOPLE** who worked with their hands), or craftspeople, held a respected place in society. They used their skills to make weapons, tools,

and cooking utensils. Craftspeople wove silk cloth or made bronze, jade, or clay into works of art and religious objects. Some worked in factories

owned by the government. Customers for their goods included the families of the emperor, civil servants, and wealthy merchants.



► **MANY MEMBERS** of the royal family owned large amounts of land, often in the countryside. They had few business worries, and they didn't have to work. Their wealth came from their landholdings.

▲ **THE HIGHEST-RANKING** civil servants served the emperor in the royal court. These officials had special

privileges. By law, the very top officials could own a house with five columns and a gate three

columns wide. A third-level official was allowed a house with five columns, but not the wide gate.

▼ **MERCHANTS WERE** important for their role in trade. Until the Song dynasty, they were not allowed to become civil servants. However, some grew rich through their work. Those

who did often sent their sons to schools where they trained to become civil servants. Their daughters found husbands in the upper classes and moved up the social ladder.

► **A PEASANT'S LIFE** was hard. In addition to raising food for others, peasants served in the army and worked on government building projects. They built canals, roads, and the walls that protected many cities.

# Celebrating the Chinese Year

The Chinese calendar is rich in festivals that date back to ancient times. Festivals are times for families to come together to share food and fun. Here are a few of the special days in the Chinese year that have their roots in ancient China.

## Chinese New Year

The most important festival is the New Year, or Spring, Festival. Held on the first day of the first lunar month, it takes place at the end of January or the beginning of February and lasts for fifteen days. (The earliest Chinese calendar was based on the cycles of the moon. This moon, or lunar, calendar divided the year into thirteen months.) The celebration began as a spring festival before the spring planting. China's farmers gave thanks for the renewed fertility of the soil. Today, Spring Festival is a time to pay debts, settle quarrels, and make a fresh start to the new year.



**▲ SETTING OFF FIRE-**crackers to start the New Year is linked to a legend about a beast who

lived inside a mountain. At the end of each year, it came out to kill people. Knowing that it feared light and noise, people lit firecrackers to keep it away. Today firecrackers stand for good luck and success in business.

Spring of Good Luck,  
This Year, Every Year



**▲ RED IS A LUCKY** color that stands for joy and good fortune. During Spring Festival, friends exchange gifts wrapped in red paper and children get money in red packets from relatives.

**▲ TODAY, FOR THE** New Year, families hang banners on the front of their homes wishing the reader happiness and good fortune. This practice dates back over a thousand years. The rich would post wooden plates on their doors with verses such as: "Days of Peace, Year in, Year Out."



**► THE CLEAR AND** Bright Festival is a time for taking trips to the countryside to enjoy the scenery and for flying kites in the shape of butterflies, goldfish, eagles, frogs, and heroes from Chinese operas. The festival takes place in early April. Today, families celebrate by visiting the cemetery to honor ancestors. They sweep graves, pull up weeds, and

plant flowers. Originally, the festival honored the memory of Jie Zie Dui for his loyalty to his ruler, Chong Er, over 2,000 years ago.

**► THE DRAGON BOAT** Festival, which is in late May or early June, honors the poet Qu Yuan, who drowned himself after failing to overthrow a corrupt government nearly



2,300 years ago. As they looked for his body, people threw rice to distract the fish, fearing the fish might eat the body. Today the festival is a time for rowboat

races in dragon-shaped boats and for eating a sticky rice dumpling. The sweet is a reminder of the rice the people threw to the fish as they searched for Qu Yuan.



**◀ ON THE FIFTEENTH** day of the first month, the Chinese mark the end of the Spring Festival with the Lantern Festival. In ancient times, the festival celebrated the increasing daylight and warmth after the winter's cold. During the Han dynasty, the Lantern Festival celebrated the ouster of an unjust political leader and the coming to power of a new ruler.



**► EACH YEAR, ONE** night in September is moon-watching time, during the Mid-Autumn Festival. On that night, the Chinese say, the moon shines most brightly. The full moon is a symbol for family reunion. Relatives gather for dinner. They eat round, sweet moon cakes. Moon cakes are served piled 13 high, one for every month of the lunar year.



## Chinese Zodiac

**► IN ANCIENT CHINA,** astrologers taught that every twelve years, events on earth repeat themselves, and that a person's birth year influences one's success. Each year in the cycle is

named for an animal. People are assumed to have some qualities of the animal in the sign under which they were born. What is the animal sign for the year of your birth?

**◀ EVERY DAY OF THE** New Year's celebration has special activities. The first two days are times to put on new clothes and visit family and friends, exchanging gifts of cake, oranges, and candy. On the third day, people sweep their houses, clearing away the old to let in health and happiness. On the fourth day, daughters visit their parents. It is also the day for dragon and lion dancers to parade through the streets.



**RAT—1996, 2008**  
Honest, ambitious, and a big spender. Beware of horses.



**OX—1997, 2009**  
Bright and patient. Inspiring to others. Marry a snake.



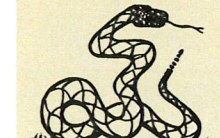
**TIGER—1998, 2010**  
Brave and sensitive. Look to the horse for happiness, but stay away from the monkey.



**RABBIT—1999, 2011**  
Luckiest of all. Talented and loving, yet shy. Marry a ram or boar.



**DRAGON—2000, 2012**  
Proud, energetic, and blessed with good health. Marry a monkey or rat, but avoid the dog.



**SNAKE—2001, 2013**  
Wise and good-looking, but hot-tempered. Beware of boars.



**HORSE—1990, 2002**  
Popular and good-looking, but impatient. Never marry a rat.



**RAM—1991, 2003**  
Elegant and creative, but shy. Marry a boar or rabbit, but not an ox.



**MONKEY—1992, 2004**  
Smart and funny, but easily confused. Avoid tigers.



**ROOSTER—1993, 2005**  
Honest and adventurous, but selfish. Seek snakes and oxen.



**DOG—1994, 2006**  
Loyal and honest, but stubborn and often selfish. Watch out for dragons.



**BOAR—1995, 2007**  
Honorable and brave. Seek out a rabbit or ram but avoid other boars.



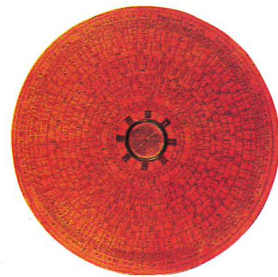
**▲ TANG DYNASTY** emperors closed all government offices during the Lantern Festival. Tang emperor Xuan Zong put up a lantern wheel 200 feet high outside the gates of his palace. The wheel had 50,000 lanterns on it.



**In March 1974, workers digging a well near Xian, China, discovered this silent, life-size army guarding the tomb of the first emperor, Shi Huangdi of the Qin dynasty. Since that time, archaeologists have uncovered about eight thousand clay soldiers and horses. No two faces are alike! Archaeological finds like this have helped unlock the secrets of ancient China.**

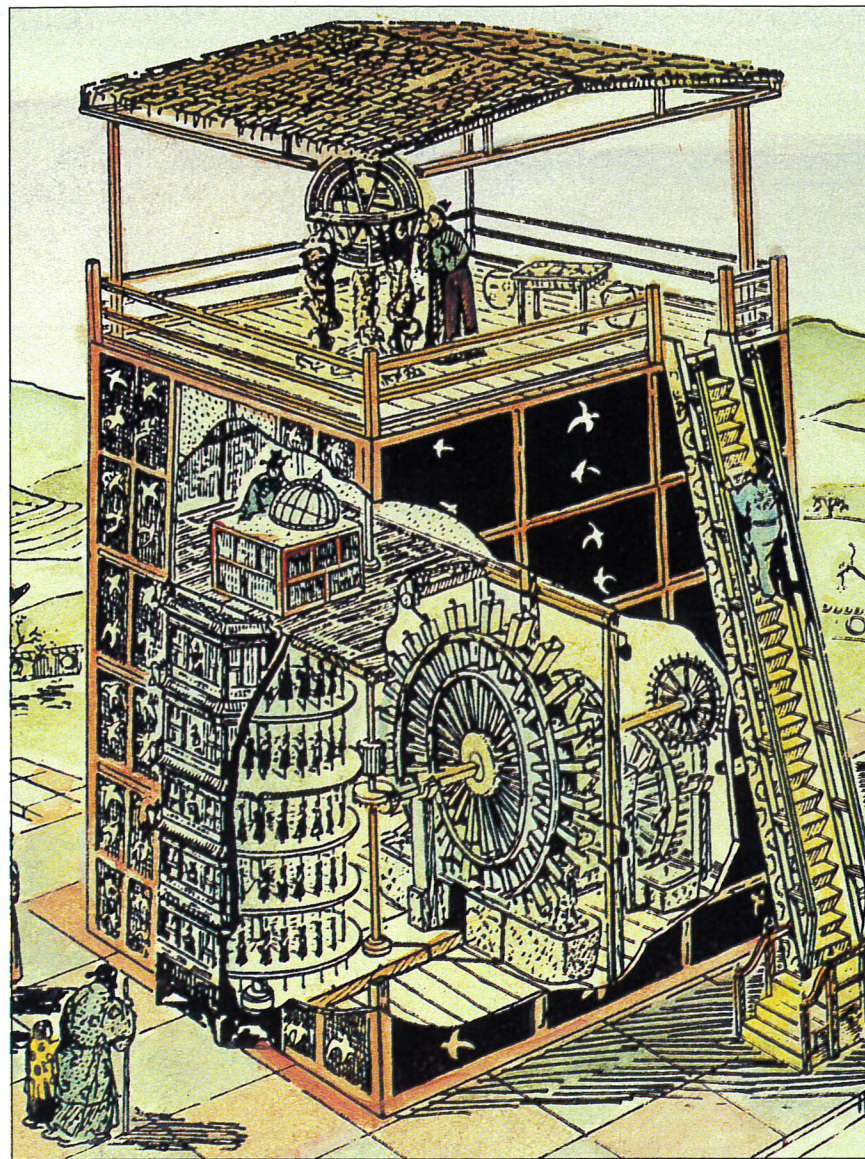
# Wheelbarrows, Fireworks, and Water Clocks

The next time you write on paper, use a compass on a hike, watch a fireworks display, carry a heavy load in a wheelbarrow, or play cards, thank the Chinese. The Chinese were the first to invent all of these items, and many more.



**▲ TODAY WE CALL IT** a compass, but the ancient Chinese knew this invention as a “south-pointing fish.” The Chinese were the first to discover that a magnetic object could indicate direction. The “south-pointing fish” consisted of a wooden fish with a piece of metal floating in a bowl of water. It was used for overland and ocean voyages.

**▶ IN 1090 A CIVIL** servant named Su Song presented the first water clock to an emperor of the Song dynasty. It took Su Song four years to construct the 30-foot-high clock. Built in the shape of a tower, the clock’s movements were driven by water flowing into buckets on a waterwheel inside the clock tower. As each bucket filled, a lever tilted, the wheel turned, and a new bucket was filled. The clock had bells and gongs that rang every 15 minutes. Revolving figures appeared at the



clock windows to chime the hours. Although Su Song’s clock did not survive, he left such detailed plans of it that exact copies have been made from his original drawings.

**◀ CHINESE DOCTORS** may have accidentally discovered how to make gunpowder while searching for ways to cure illnesses. Made from potassium nitrate, sulfur, and charcoal, gunpowder explodes when lit.



In the 1100s, the Chinese began making fireworks from gunpowder by stuffing the powder into hollow sticks of bamboo and lighting them. Fireworks were believed to scare away evil spirits and ghosts.

**▲ THE CHINESE** have flown kites for at least 2,500 years. They were probably the first people to make kites, constructing them of silk and bamboo. After the invention of paper,

it became the favored material. Soldiers of the Han dynasty sailed kites to frighten their enemies. In ancient times, kites were a popular way to celebrate festivals.

## A SILKY SECRET

For hundreds of years, the Chinese kept the secrets of silk-making to themselves. Eventually, Europeans discovered how it was done and smuggled this knowledge out of the country.

**1** Silk thread comes from the cocoon of a caterpillar which feeds on mulberry leaves.



**2** Baby silkworms feed on mulberry leaves until they’ve stored enough fat to build cocoons. They make their silky cocoons from a jellylike substance in their silk glands.



**3** After about a week, workers steam or bake the cocoons to kill the worms inside. The cocoons are then rinsed in hot water to loosen the tightly woven strands of silk thread that make up the cocoon. The strands are unwound onto a spool. Each cocoon is made

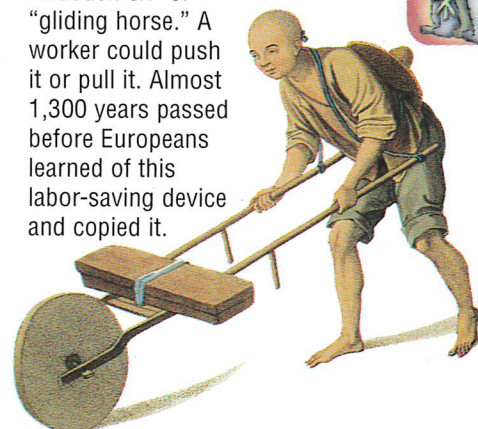


up of a thread about half a mile long. About six of these twisted together make one thread strong enough for spinning.

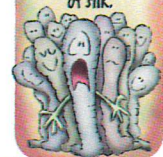


**▲ PRINTING WAS** invented during the Tang dynasty. An artisan carved away the surface of a wooden block to create a character (a symbol for a word) of the Chinese language and then applied ink to this surface. The printer stamped the inked surface on paper. Later, the Chinese went a step further, learning how to make movable type in a wooden frame.

**▼ THE CHINESE** invented the wheelbarrow almost two thousand years ago. They called their invention the “wooden ox” or “gliding horse.” A worker could push it or pull it. Almost 1,300 years passed before Europeans learned of this labor-saving device and copied it.



It takes 40,000 silkworms to produce just twelve pounds of silk.

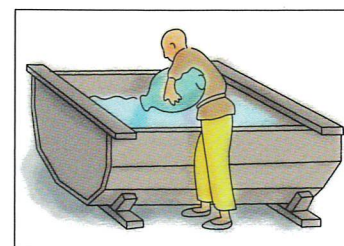


## Papermaking

In 105 A.D. a Chinese civil servant named Cai Lun discovered how to make paper, although archaeological discoveries show that craftspeople may have

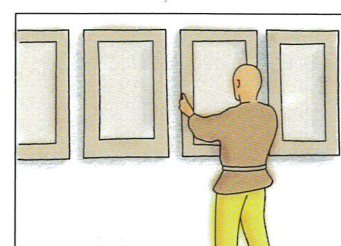
discovered it two centuries earlier. Along with the printing press, this invention made possible rapid changes in communications. Here’s how paper was first made.

**1** Silk rags, mulberry bark, bamboo, and hemp were mixed together in a large vat and soaked in water to soften them.



**2** The mixture was boiled, mashed, and pounded to form pulp, a soft, wet mass of material.

**3** A fine screen was dipped into the pulp to gather up a thin film of fibers. The screen was pressed to remove the water.



**4** The screen with the sheet of paper on it was left to dry on a heated wall. When dry, the paper was peeled off the screen.



# By Land and Sea

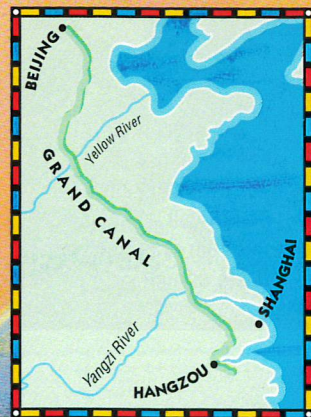
When the Chinese turned their skills to building, trade, and travel, they showed the same creative spirit that made them such remarkable inventors.

The most amazing feat of Chinese engineering is the Great Wall, but a close second is the Grand Canal. The canal, a massive building project, helped make trade and travel between parts of China easier.

One of the ancient world's most famous trade routes, the four-thousand-mile-long Silk Road served as a thoroughfare for merchants traveling between China and other parts of Asia and Europe carrying silk, spices, and other goods.

In the 1400s, the Chinese set out to show the world their skills as sailors. The Ming emperor Yong Lo sent a huge fleet of ships on seven sea voyages to show foreign rulers that China was a great naval power.

The major constructions helped unify the country, while the trade links let others find out all about it.

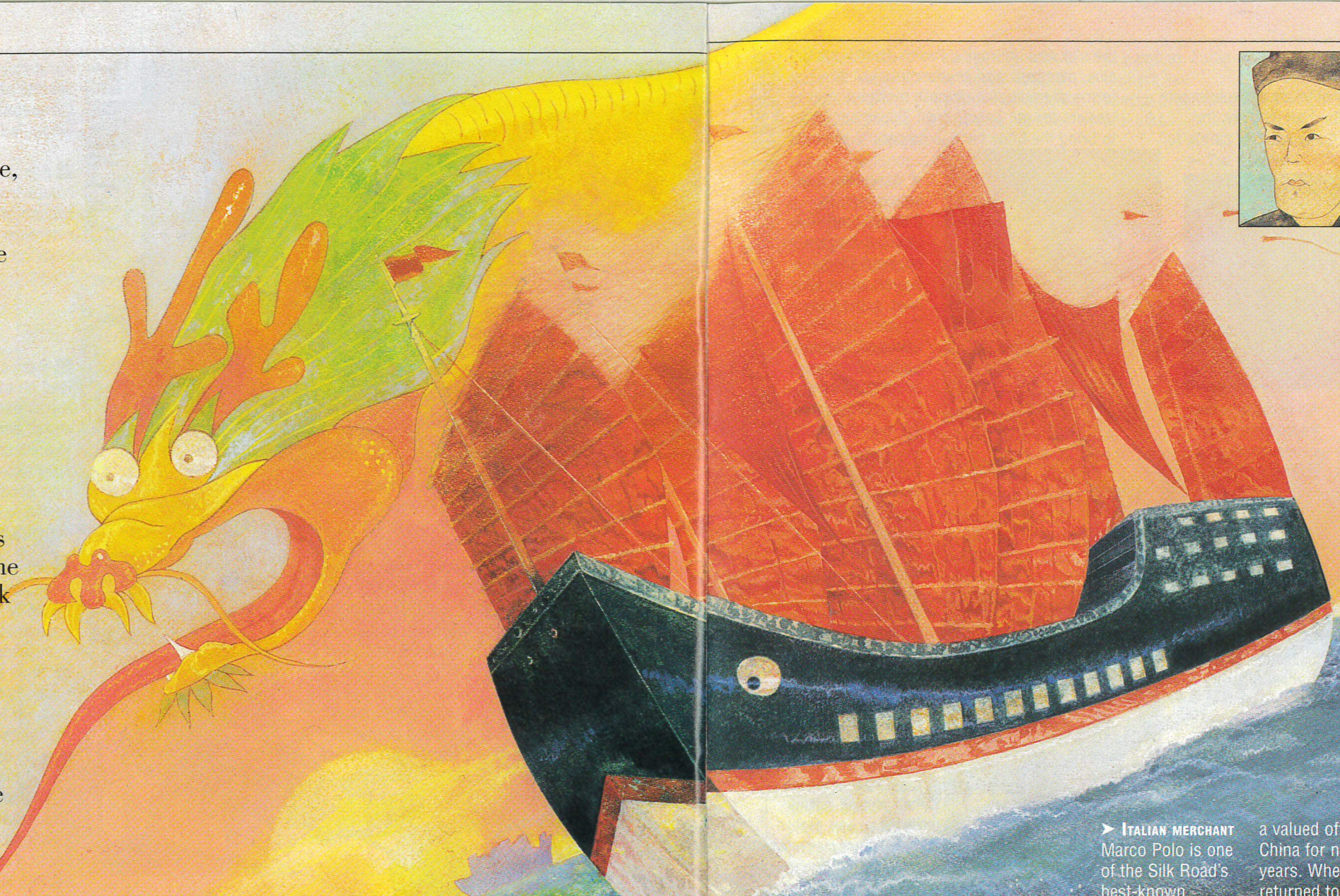


◀ **AT ONE THOUSAND** miles long, the Grand Canal is the world's longest canal. Built by Emperor Yang Di (569–618) during the Sui dynasty to help transport sol-

diers and grain around the empire, it linked the Yangzi and Yellow rivers and stretched from Hangzhou in the south to Beijing in the north. It was built by connecting

new and existing canals. Great engineering improvements were made on the waterway during the Ming dynasty. The canal worked as the emperors

had hoped. It made it easier to collect taxes, distribute grain, and transport soldiers. During famines, it became a lifeline, bringing food to starving people.



◀ **DURING THE MING** dynasty, Admiral Zheng He led seven voyages into what the Chinese called the "Western Ocean." Between 1405 and 1431, Zheng He's fleet visited Southeast Asia, India, Arabia, and Africa. Their goal was not conquest or trade. They wanted to show the world that China was a great

naval power. On his first voyage, the admiral's fleet consisted of 63 ships and 28,000 men. After Emperor Yong Lo's death, the voyages abruptly stopped. New Ming rulers forbade Chinese ships to sail outside of coastal waters and greatly reduced Chinese contacts with foreigners.



▲ **IN SOME PLACES** the Great Wall is as high as a three-story building and wide enough for several horses to travel side by side. Soldiers

stood guard at watchtowers all along the wall, sending messages to each other by runners, mirrors, and smoke signals.

▶ **ITALIAN MERCHANT** Marco Polo is one of the Silk Road's best-known travelers. In 1271, he made the trip from Venice to China, where he won the favor of the rulers of the day. He served as

a valued official in China for nearly 20 years. When he returned to Italy, he wrote *Description of the World*, which gave most Europeans their first glimpse of China's advanced society.



▶ **THE SILK ROAD** was not one but a series of trade routes that connected China with India, the Middle East, Persia, and the Roman Empire. Because of this trade, the Romans knew China as Serica, "Land of Silk." Chinese merchants made great fortunes selling

silks, spices, tea, and Chinese crafts. In exchange, the Chinese received from other traders gold, silver, glass, wool, pearls, and furs. To travel safely on the Silk Road, merchants formed caravans. Traveling together lowered their risk of being attacked by robbers. Few



merchants went the entire route themselves. Instead, goods were sold from

one trader to another until at last the precious cargo reached its destination.



▲ **THE DEATH OF** hundreds of thousands of workers while building the Great Wall earned it the nickname "Longest Cemetery on Earth." Workers ate little and worked long hours carving granite blocks, digging trenches, and pushing backbreaking loads up steep hillsides. Most died of overwork and exhaustion.

# Finding the Past in the Present

Although Chinese society has faced great changes since the last emperor lost his throne in 1912, evidence of ancient China is everywhere in the modern world. Chinese cooking, medicine, and exercise contain elements thousands of years old. The paintings and pottery of the artists of the past inspire the young artists of today. Two of the world's great belief systems—Confucianism and Daoism—began in China. The ideas of their founders have had an impact on everything—from politics to cooking to martial arts.



## Chinese Medicine

Through thousands of years of experimenting dating back to the Han dynasty, the Chinese developed many ways of caring for

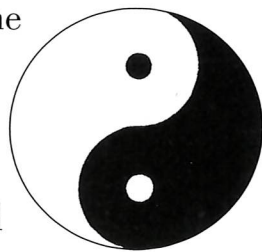


**▲ DO YOU WANT** clearer skin? Perhaps an herbalist can help. One treatment recommends swallowing a mixture that contains ground-up pearl. An herbalist offers treatments combining herbs, leaves, roots, and bark plus dried and powdered snake, lizard, or animal horn.



**◀ ACUPUNCTURE IS** an old form of Chinese medicine. Chinese doctors believed energy flowed along 12 lines in the body. Doctors eased pain and treated certain illnesses by sticking very fine needles into the skin at special points along these lines. This 600-year-old acupuncture chart shows the arm's main needle points.

## Chinese Teachings



**▲ HAVE YOU EVER** seen someone wearing one of these? This yin-yang symbol is often linked with Daoism. The ancient Chinese

believed that the forces in nature balance each other. The darker half of this symbol is yin, which is earthly, female, dark, and wet. The lighter half is yang, thought to be heavenly, male, light, and dry. Happiness requires an equal balance between yin and yang.



**◀ DAOISM IS THE** other major belief system that began in China. *Dao* means "the way" in Chinese. The founder of Daoism was Lao Zi, born in 604 B.C. Lao Zi believed there was a balance in nature that should not be disturbed. He wanted people to live simple lives in harmony with nature.

## Chinese Art

**► ALTHOUGH THE ART** of cloisonné was probably invented in the Middle East, Chinese artists perfected the process of decorating the surfaces of metal containers with enamel paint. The artist makes designs on the metal with tiny wires called cloisons. Brightly colored enamel paints cover the space between the wires. The metal object is heated to bind the enamel to it.



the sick and improving health. Herbal medicine, massage, and acupuncture are all forms of traditional Chinese medicine. Healers try not only to treat illness but also to bring the body back to its natural balance.

## The Changing Chinese Language

**THE CHINESE LANGUAGE** is made up of more than 40,000 signs, or characters. Some stand for sounds. Others are pictures or symbols of words. The strokes that make up each character have to be written in the proper order. The Chinese made writing into a fine art form called calligraphy. In

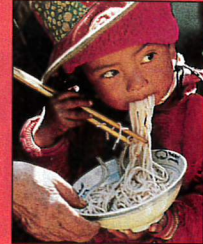
China, the work of a master calligrapher is considered equal or superior



**► THE CHINESE** written language began about 6,000 years ago. At first, many Chinese characters were picture symbols for whole words. Notice how the earliest character for mountain (top

right) looked like a mountain. Like many others, this character changed until it reached its present shape. Can you find any reminders of the original character in the one used today (see bottom right)?

**► CHANGES IN THE CHINESE CHARACTER "MOUNTAIN"**



## Chopsticks

The Chinese may have eaten with chopsticks 3,000 years ago. Chopstick use spread to other parts of East Asia. Today chopsticks come in wood, bamboo, plastic, and even silver and ivory.



Rest the bottom chopstick between thumb and the third finger. This chopstick never moves.



Hold the top chopstick like a pencil. This chopstick moves up and down. Keep the tips of the chopsticks even with each other.



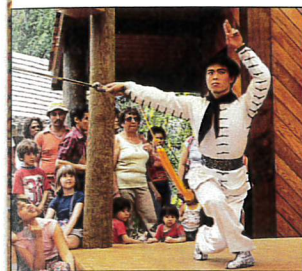
Now move the top chopstick up and down while holding the bottom one still.

## Chopstick Manners

Never point with your chopsticks. Never leave your chopsticks standing up in your rice bowl. In this position, the chopsticks look like the incense sticks set before a grave.

## Martial Arts

**◀ MARTIAL ARTS ARE** fighting skills that developed in Asia hundreds of years ago. Today people all over the world practice these skills for exercise, self-defense, and fun. The martial arts that began in China are called wushu. Americans know them as kung fu, words meaning "good effort." Kung fu is at least 2,000 years old and may have started in northern China. Today the Chinese practice hundreds of styles of kung fu.



**▼ MANY STYLES OF** kung fu have movements recalling such animals as the dragon, leopard, and tiger. The kung fu style known as wing chun was invented by a nun called Yim Wing Chun. Its movements are based on those of the crane and snake.



## The Art of Chinese Cooking

**▲ THE WOK IS THE** Chinese cook's main cooking pot, used especially for stir-frying. Its rounded bottom allows heat to spread evenly so food cooks quickly. Steaming, boiling, deep frying, or stir-frying are all ways to cook Chinese food. The Chinese developed stir-frying to save time and costly fuel. Food is cut into small, bite-size pieces so that it cooks faster.

**▼ EMPERORS PICKED** their chefs carefully. To be certain the food was not poisoned, trusted servants put a silver rod into each dish before the emperor ate it. If the rod turned black, it had touched arsenic, a deadly poison.

### CHECK IT OUT!

In the centuries before refrigeration, the Chinese found creative ways to preserve foods. The Chinese make so-called 1,000-year-old eggs. Do you know how they are made? (answer on back cover)



**◀ A CHINESE ARTIST** made this piece by painting a wooden box with up to 35 thin coats of lacquer, a sticky liquid that comes from the

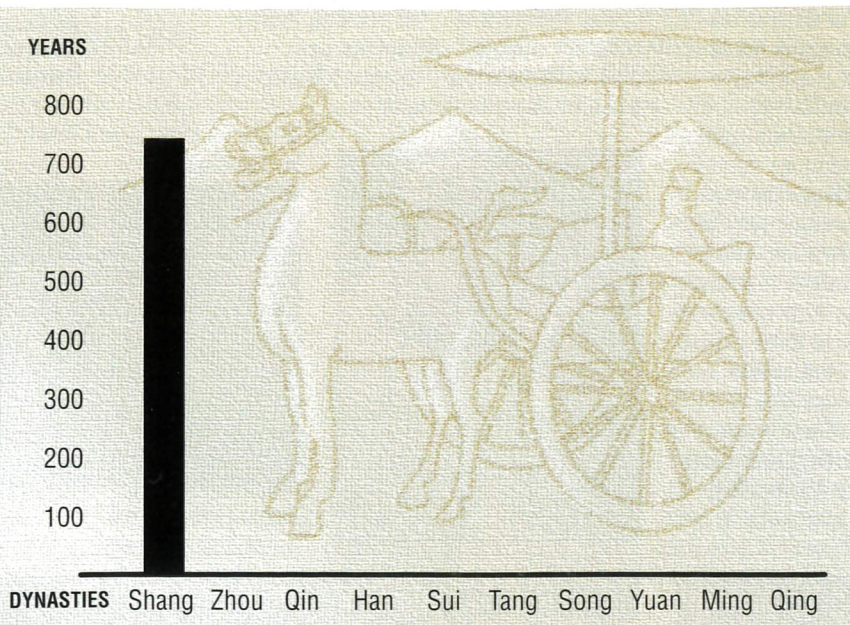
sap of a tree. Artists covered wood or bamboo kitchen tools with lacquer layers so they could withstand high heat. Lacquerware was

often colored with black, red, brown, or gold lacquer. The babies of the rich ate from lacquer spoons and bowls.



# DYNASTY GRAPH

How long did China's major dynasties last? Here's how to make a bar graph to compare the length of dynasties. The dates of major dynasties are given on pages 2-3. Subtract the lower number from the higher to find the length of the dynasty (except for the Han dynasty, which spans B.C. and A.D., add the two numbers). Then record the information on the bar graph. Above each dynasty's name, draw a thick line from the bottom of the graph to the nearest number of years of the dynasty's rule. The first one is done for you.



# Chinese Feast

Some Chinese cooking is very elaborate, and some is quite simple. Here are two easy recipes you can prepare with the help of an adult. Each recipe serves about four people.

## FRIED RICE

- 3 cups cooked rice  
(This is good for using up leftovers.)
- 2 tablespoons vegetable oil
- 2 tablespoons chopped onion
- 2 eggs, well beaten
- 1/2 cup cooked ham cut into small cubes (or small shrimp or cubed cooked chicken)
- 1 tablespoon soy sauce

- Heat a frying pan over high heat and add the oil.
- Cook the onions for a few seconds.
- Add eggs and cook another few seconds.
- Add rice, ham, and soy sauce and stir for about 3 minutes.

## EGG DROP SOUP

- 2 cans chicken broth with the fat taken off the top
- 1 can water
- 2 tablespoons cornstarch mixed with 4 tablespoons water
- 2 eggs slightly beaten
- 1 tablespoon chopped scallions

- Put broth and water in a covered pot and bring to a boil.
- Add the cornstarch mixture and turn off the heat.
- Pour in the beaten eggs while you stir gently.
- Add the scallions and serve.

# THE POETRY OF NAMES

The Chinese have some poetic names for some common terms. Match the items in column two with their poetic nicknames in column one.

- |                              |                 |
|------------------------------|-----------------|
| 1. China's curse             | A. compass      |
| 2. gliding horse             | B. Great Wall   |
| 3. south-pointing fish       | C. Yellow River |
| 4. longest cemetery on earth | D. wheelbarrow  |



# WORDS OF WISDOM

Fill in the blank spaces with the correct words.

- Home of Ming and Qing rulers  
6                      17 36                      4 5
- Source of silk threads  
9                      18 37 33
- Italian visitor to ancient China  
26                      11                      22                      32
- Su Song's timely invention  
1                      21 20                      24
- Ruling family  
8                      10                      45 41 23
- Four-thousand-mile-long trade route  
27                      44 34                      31
- First emperor of China  
2                      7                      15
- Longest human-made construction in the world  
35                      13                      29
- Chinese eating utensils  
42 39                      12
- Healing art using needles  
14                      19                      16                      28
- Chinese thinker  
40                      30 25
- Chinese "letter"  
3                      38 43

Numbers are underneath some of the letters. Put each numbered letter in the blank with the same number. You will have a quote by the Chinese thinker Confucius.

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16  
17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31 32  
33 34 35 36 37 38 39 40 41 42 43 44 45



Kite-making is a fine art in China. Many kites are made to look like animals. What would you want your kite to look like? A dragon? A lion? A pussycat? Design your own kite. Don't forget to add a tail.

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  - Adeline Yen Mah, *China: Land of Dragons and Emperors*, Delacorte Books, 2009.
  - Jane O'Connor, *Hidden Army: Clay Soldiers of Ancient China*, Grosset & Dunlap, 2011.

- BOOKS FOR ADULTS**
- Michael Freeman, Selena Ahmed, *The Tea-Horse Road: China's Ancient Trade Road to Tibet*, River Books Press, 2011.
  - Mark Edward Lewis, *The Early Chinese Empires: Qin and Han*, Belknap Press, 2010.

- WEBSITES**
- ancientchina.co.uk
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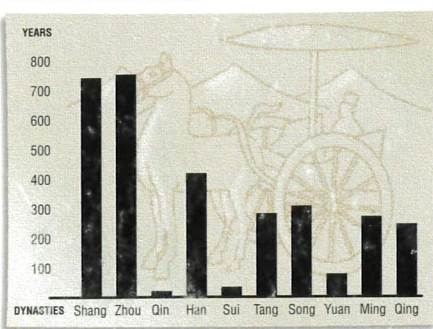
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**ANSWERS:**  
**PAGE 17:** Do you know how thousand-year-old eggs are made? *The Chinese make these so-called 1,000-year-old eggs by covering a duck or chicken egg with a mixture of powdered lime, ashes, and salt. It is then buried in the ground for about 100 days. When the egg is dug up, the shell has turned black and looks like it has been buried for centuries. The yolk is green and cheeselike. The uncooked egg is popular as banquet food or a breakfast treat.*  
**PAGE 18: DYNASTY GRAPH:**



**THE POETRY OF NAMES:** 1. C; 2. D; 3. A; 4. B.  
**PAGE 19: WORDS OF WISDOM:** 1. Forbidden City; 2. cocoon; 3. Marco Polo; 4. water clock; 5. dynasty; 6. Silk Road; 7. Shi Huangdi; 8. Great Wall; 9. chopsticks; 10. acupuncture; 11. Confucius; 12. character. Quotation by Confucius: What you do not want done to yourself, do not do to others.

**COVER:** *The Emperor Yang Di with Sailing Craft*, seventeenth century Library: Bibliothèque Nationale, F

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