

Q'in Dynasty

秦朝

Years: 221-207 BC (14 years)

Founder: Q'in Shi Huang

Religions: Ancestor Worship, Legalism

Capital City: Xianyang



Inventions

- A large, mostly dirt wall that later would become The Great Wall
- A massive road system

Achievements

- Created a single written language to be used throughout the country
- Created a single set of laws to be used throughout the country
- Brought the people of China together as one people
- Greatly improved trade by creating a money system
- Greatly improved the military with new tactics and equipment

Other Information

- The modern name of the country, "China" comes from this original dynasty.
- They built a huge tomb for their first emperor that is guarded by hundreds of life-sized clay statues that still stand today.
- Harshly punished anyone who disagreed with the emperor. 400 people were buried alive for questioning the emperor and even his own son was banished from the empire.

Han Dynasty

漢朝

Years: 206 BC – 221 AD (427 years)

Founder: Liu Bang

Religions: Ancestor Worship, Confucianism, Taoism

Capital City: Chang'an



Inventions

- Wheelbarrow
- paper
- Seismograph (Earthquake Detector)
- Water Wheels which powered many mechanical tools such as a clock
- Ship rudder

Achievements

- Opened the Silk Road connecting Europe and Asia for the first time.
- Used negatives numbers in math for the first time in history.
- Grew to 50 million people

Other Information

- Women had legal rights, though not as many as men
- Forced everyone to follow Confucianism so they'd support the government

Tang Dynasty

唐

Years: 618-906 AD (288 years)

Founder: Li family

Religions: Ancestor Worship, Confucianism, Taoism, Buddhism

Capital City: Chang'an



Inventions

- Woodblock printing
- Playing cards
- Toilet paper

Achievements

- Implemented civil service exams to test people who wanted to work for the government.
- Greatly improved farming with new techniques like irrigation ditches
- Managed a 20,000 mile long postal network
- Focused on literature with nearly 50,000 poems being written that still exist today.

Other Information

- Saw huge growth in Buddhism
- Welcomed foreign cultures via the Silk Road leading to growth in art, music and fashion.
- Considered the “golden age” of Chinese civilization

Song Dynasty

宋

Years: 960 – 1279 AD (319 years)

Founder: Taizu

Religion: Buddhism, Confucianism, Taoism

Capital City: Bianjing



Inventions

- gun powder
- paper money
- movable type printing

Achievements

- Oversaw a great growth in literature and knowledge due to the use of movable type
- First Chinese government to create a permanent navy
- Greatly increased the use of civil service exams to improve the quality of government officials
- Created incredibly lifelike sculptures out of wood
- Increased quality and variety of ceramics

Other Information

- population doubled in size due to advances in farming techniques
- created public schools to improve education
- created retirement homes for elderly lower classes who could no longer work

Yuan Dynasty

大元

Years: 1279-1368 (89 years)

Founder: Kublai Kahn

Religions: Ancestor Worship, Confucianism, Taoism, Buddhism

Capital City: Dadu



Inventions

-hand cannon

-teapot

-land mine

-Though they invented few new things they greatly improved many existing inventions such as guns and movable-type printing.

Achievements

-Re-opened the Silk Road increasing trade with the west.

-Greatly improved farming by extending the Grand Canal.

Other Information

-Only dynasty ruled by non-Chinese

-Built many hospitals and orphanages to help the poor.

-Visited by Marco Polo from Italy

-Invited Christian missionaries to come and teach the people about Jesus.

-Encouraged contact with Europe bringing in many new foods and ideas.

Ming Dynasty

大明

Years: 1368-1644 AD (276 years)

Founder: Zhu Yuanzhang

Religions: Taoism, Confucianism, Buddhism, Islam

Capital City: Nanjing



Inventions:

- Toothbrush
- “Nest of Bees” arrow launcher
- “Fire Dragon Issuing from the Water” rocket launcher

Achievements:

- Population grew from 65 million to 160 million.
- Built the Forbidden City, a massive palace for the emperor.
- Completed the Great Wall adding hundreds of guard towers and filling in the remaining gaps.
- Sent explorers around the world sailing around Africa and possibly even reaching North America.
- created amazing porcelain art like vases and statues

Other Information:

- Some historians say it was the most advanced nation on Earth at the time
- Returned to the old Tang and Song styles of sculpture and painting without adding much new technique.
- Cut off most contact with foreign nations, returned to isolationism