

# Shang Achievements

- 1<sup>st</sup> dynasty
- Invented China's first writing system
- Artisans made beautiful bronze containers for cooking and religious ceremonies.
- Soldiers developed war chariots, powerful bows, and bronze armor.
- Invented a calendar based on the cycles of the moon



# Zhou Achievements

The Zhou dynasty lasted longer than any other in Chinese history.



The Zhou claimed that they had been chosen by heaven to rule China. This idea that heaven chose China's ruler and gave him or her power was called the **mandate of heaven**.



A new political order formed in China under the Zhou. The emperor was the head of Chinese society; everything in China belonged to him, and everyone had to be loyal to him.



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# Qin Achievements

Created a system of laws that would apply equally to people in all parts of China

Had the 1<sup>st</sup> emperor

Set up a new system of money that eliminated local currencies

Created a uniform system of writing that got rid of minor differences between regions



The Qin were great builders, and China built a huge network of roads and canals.



To protect China from invasion, Shi Huangdi built the **Great Wall**, a barrier that linked earlier walls that stood near China's border.



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# Han Achievements

## Art and Literature

- Experts at figure painting
- Painted realistic scenes from everyday life
- Created new styles of poetry verse, including the *fu* and *shi* styles
- Produced important works of history
  - Sima Qian wrote a complete history of all the dynasties through the early Han.

## Inventions and Advances

- Invented paper and produced books
- Built the **sundial**, a device that uses the position of shadows cast by the sun to tell the time of day
- Designed a **seismograph**, a device that measures the strength of earthquakes
- Practiced **acupuncture**, the practice of inserting fine needles through the skin at specific points to cure disease or relieve pain



# Sui Dynasty

- **Grand Canal**, a canal linking northern and southern China.



# Tang Dynasty

- Porcelain
- Woodblock printing – copy drawings/texts instead of writing
- Gunpowder—mainly used to make fireworks and signals
- Magnetic compass—find direction
- Painted murals, horse figurines, & wrote poetry



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## Song Dynasty

- Gunpowder—mainly used to make fireworks and signals
- Moveable type – printing faster
- Paper money - currency
- Porcelain items covered in a pale green glaze called celadon.
- Greatest female poet – Li Qingzhao
- Exquisite objects made out of clay



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# Yuan Dynasty

- 1<sup>st</sup> time foreigners ruled China (Mongols)
- Created vast public-works projects (new roads, palaces).
- Added to the Grand Canal
- New capital Dadu
- Foreign traders were welcome at Chinese ports.
- Part of what we know about life in the Yuan dynasty comes from Marco Polo, an Italian trader who traveled in and around China.



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# Ming Achievements

## Great Sea Voyages

- Improved their ships and sailing skills.
- The greatest sailor of the period was Zheng He.
- Prosperous time and fame overseas expanded



## Great Building Projects

- Ming emperors built the **Forbidden City**, a huge palace complex that included hundreds of imperial residences, temples, and other government buildings.
- Ming rulers restored the Great Wall of China.

