

Later Chinese Dynasties



Essential Question

Which dynasty in Chinese history would you most like to have lived in and why?



About the Photo: The magnificent Forbidden City, shown in this photo, was built in the 1400s as a royal palace. Today it is a museum.

In this module you will learn about Chinese history from the 500s, with the fall of the Han dynasty, to the 1600s.

Explore ONLINE!



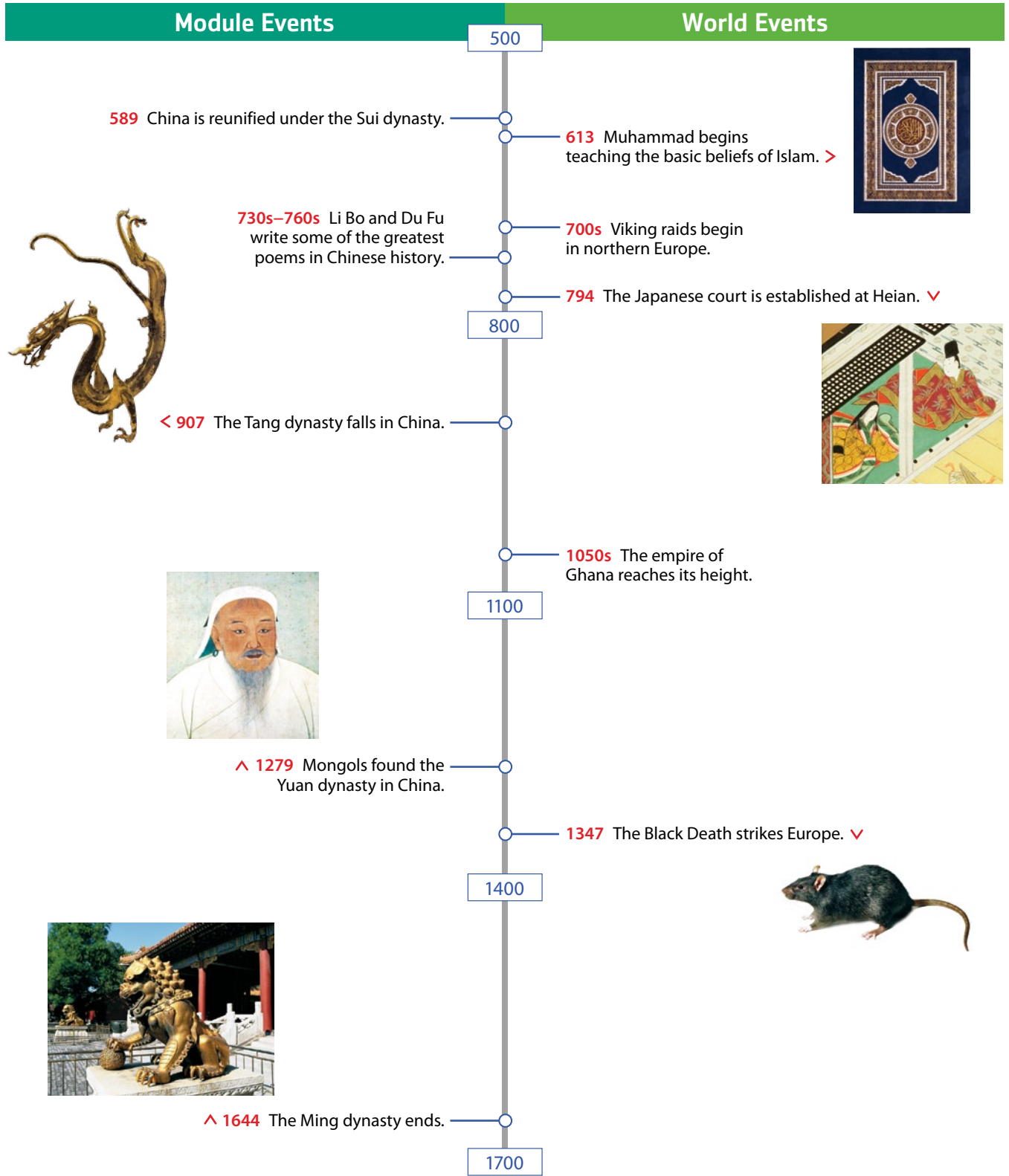
VIDEOS, including...

- Confucius: Words of Wisdom
- Song Inventions

- Document-Based Investigations
- Graphic Organizers
- Interactive Games
- Interactive Map: Chinese Dynasties, 589–1279
- Image with Hotspots: The Forbidden City
- Image Carousel: Early Korean Culture

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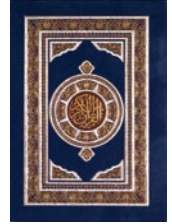
< 907 The Tang dynasty falls in China.



^ 1279 Mongols found the Yuan dynasty in China.



^ 1644 The Ming dynasty ends.



613 Muhammad begins teaching the basic beliefs of Islam. >

700s Viking raids begin in northern Europe.

794 The Japanese court is established at Heian. ▼



1050s The empire of Ghana reaches its height.

1347 The Black Death strikes Europe. ▼



Reading Social Studies

THEME FOCUS:

Economics, Science and Technology

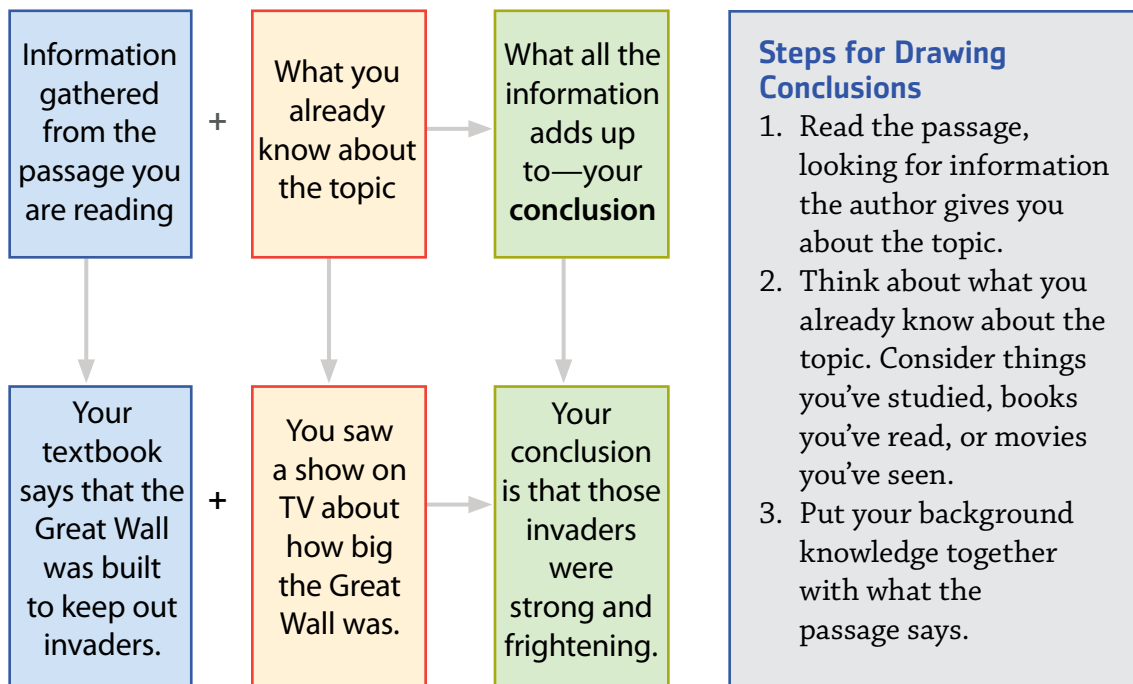
In this module you will explore the history of China from the late 500s until the 1600s. As you read, you will discover that many different dynasties ruled the region during that period, leading to great political change. Some of those dynasties supported trade, which created great economic growth and stability. Others favored isolation, limiting Chinese contact with the rest of the world. You will also learn that this period saw huge leaps forward in science and technology.

READING FOCUS:

Draw Conclusions about the Past

You have no doubt heard the phrase “put two and two together.” When people say that, they don’t mean “two + two = four.” They mean “put the information together.”

Use Background Knowledge to Draw Conclusions A **conclusion** is a judgment you make by combining information. You put information from what you are reading together with what you already know, your background knowledge.



You Try It!

Read the following passage and then answer the questions below.

Advances in Agriculture Early Chinese civilization was based on agriculture. Over thousands of years, the Chinese had become expert farmers. In the north, farmers grew wheat, barley, and other grains. In the warmer and wetter south, they grew rice.

During the Song dynasty, though, Chinese farming reached new heights. The improvement was largely due to new irrigation techniques. For example, some farmers dug underground wells. A new irrigation device, the dragon backbone pump, allowed one person to do the work of several. With this light and portable pump, a farmer could scoop up water and pour it into an irrigation canal. Using these new techniques, farmers created elaborate irrigation systems.

Answer these questions based on the passage you just read.

1. Think back on what you've learned about irrigation systems in other societies. What do you think irrigation was like in China before the Song dynasty?
2. What effect do you think this improved irrigation had on Chinese society? Why do you think this?
3. Based on this passage, what kinds of conditions do you think rice needs to grow? What conditions do you think wheat needs?
4. Which crop was most likely grown near the Great Wall—wheat or rice? Why do you think so?

As you read this module, think about what you already know about China, and draw conclusions to fill gaps in what you are reading.

Key Terms and People

Lesson 1

Period of Disunion
Grand Canal
Empress Wu

Lesson 2

porcelain
celadon
woodblock printing
gunpowder
compass

Lesson 3

bureaucracy
civil service
scholar-official

Lesson 4

Genghis Khan
Kublai Khan
Zheng He
isolationism

Lesson 5

cultural diffusion
Trung sisters



China Reunifies

The Big Idea

Rulers of the Sui, Tang, and Song dynasties reunited China after the Period of Disunion.

Main Ideas

- The Period of Disunion was a time of war and disorder that followed the end of the Han dynasty.
- China was reunified under the Sui, Tang, and Song dynasties.
- The Age of Buddhism saw major religious changes in China.

Key Terms and People

Period of Disunion
Grand Canal
Empress Wu

Reading Check

Find Main Ideas
How did Chinese culture change during the Period of Disunion?

If YOU were there . . .

You are a peasant in China in the year AD 264. Your grandfather often speaks of a time when all of China was united, but all you have known is warfare among rulers. A man passing through your village speaks of even more conflict in other areas.

Why might you want China to have just one ruler?

The Period of Disunion

When the Han dynasty collapsed, China split into several rival kingdoms, each ruled by military leaders. Historians sometimes call the time of disorder that followed the collapse of the Han the **Period of Disunion**. It lasted from AD 220 to 589.

Although war was common during the Period of Disunion, peaceful developments also took place at the same time. During this period, nomadic peoples settled in northern China. Some Chinese people adopted the nomads' culture, while the invaders adopted some Chinese practices. For example, one former nomadic ruler ordered his people to adopt Chinese names, speak Chinese, and dress like the Chinese. Thus, the cultures of the invaders and the traditional Chinese mixed.

A similar cultural blending took place in southern China. Many northern Chinese, unwilling to live under the rule of the nomadic invaders, fled to southern China. There, northern Chinese culture mixed with the more southern cultures.

As a result of this mixing, Chinese culture changed. New types of art and music developed. New foods and clothing styles became popular. The new culture spread over a wider geographic area than ever before, and more people became identified as Chinese.

The Sui, Tang, and Song

Finally, after centuries of political confusion and cultural change, China was reunified. For about 700 years, it remained unified under a series of powerful dynasties.

The Sui Dynasty The man who finally ended the Period of Disunion was a northern ruler named Yang Jian (YANG jee-EN). In 589, he conquered the south, unified China, and created the Sui (SWAY) dynasty.

The Sui dynasty didn't last long, only from 589 to 618. During that time, though, its leaders restored order to China and began the **Grand Canal**, a canal linking northern and southern China.

The Tang Dynasty A new dynasty arose in China in 618 when a former Sui official overthrew the old government. This dynasty, the Tang, ruled for nearly 300 years. China grew under the Tang dynasty to include much of eastern Asia and large parts of Central Asia.



Explore ONLINE!

Empress Wu c. 625–705

Married to a sickly emperor, Empress Wu became the virtual ruler of China in 655. After her husband died, Wu decided her sons were not worthy of ruling. She kept power for herself and ruled with an iron fist. Those who threatened her power risked death.

Unlike many earlier rulers, she chose advisors based on their abilities rather than their ranks. Although she was not well liked, Wu was respected for bringing stability and prosperity to China.

Draw Conclusions

Why do you think Empress Wu was never very popular?



Historians view the Tang dynasty as a golden age of Chinese civilization. One of its greatest rulers was Taizong (TY-tzoong). He conquered many lands, reformed the military, and created a code of laws. Another brilliant Tang ruler was Xuanzong (SHOO-AN-tzoong). During his reign, culture flourished. Many of China's finest poets wrote during this period.

The Tang dynasty also included the only woman to rule China—**Empress Wu**. Her methods were sometimes vicious, but she was intelligent and talented.

In the 800s, rebellions broke out against the Tang rulers. The dynasty finally fell apart into a number of kingdoms in 907. After the Tang dynasty fell, China entered another brief period of chaos and disorder, with separate kingdoms competing for power. In fact, China was so divided during this period that it is known as Five Dynasties and Ten Kingdoms. The disorder lasted only 53 years, though, from 907 to 960.

The Song Dynasty In 960, China was again reunified, this time by the Song dynasty. The Song ruled for about 300 years, until 1279. Like the Tang, the period of the Song dynasty was a time of great accomplishments.

Reading Check

Summarize When was China reunified? When did the Tang dynasty fall?



The Grand Buddha statue was added to the spiritual complex at Mount Ling-Shang while the Xiangfu Buddhist temple, built during the Tang dynasty, was being rebuilt.

The Age of Buddhism

While China was experiencing changes in its government, another major change was taking place in Chinese culture. A new religion was spreading quickly throughout the vast land.

Buddhism, one of the world's major religions, originated in India about 500 BC. Buddhism first came to China during the Han dynasty. But for some time, there were few Buddhists in China.

During the troubled Period of Disunion, however, many people turned to Buddhism. They took comfort in the Buddhist teaching that people can escape suffering and achieve a state of peace.

By the end of the Period of Disunion, Buddhism was well established in China. As a result, wealthy people donated land and money to Buddhist temples, which arose across the land. Some temples were architectural wonders and housed huge statues of the Buddha.

Spread of Buddhism



Interpret Maps

- 1. Movement** From where did Buddhism come to China?
- 2. Region** To where did Buddhism spread from China?

Buddhism continued to influence life in China after the country was reunified. In fact, during the Sui and Tang dynasties, Buddhism grew and spread. Chinese missionaries, people who travel to spread their religion, introduced Buddhism to Japan, Korea, and other Asian lands.

Buddhism influenced many aspects of Chinese culture, including art, literature, and architecture. In fact, so important was Buddhism in China that the period from about 400 to about 845 can be called the Age of Buddhism.

Quick Facts

Reasons for Buddhism's Spread

- Buddhist missionaries spread the religion.
- People took comfort from Buddhist teachings during the Period of Disunion.

This golden age of Buddhism came to an end when a Tang emperor launched a campaign against the religion. He burned many Buddhist texts, took lands from and destroyed Buddhist temples, and turned others into schools.

The emperor's actions weakened the influence of Buddhism in China, but they did not destroy it completely.

Reading Check

Analyze Causes

Why did Buddhism spread more easily during the Period of Disunion?

Buddhism continued to play a key role in Chinese society for centuries. As it had during the early Tang period, it continued to shape Chinese art and literature. But even as it influenced life in China, Buddhism changed. People began to blend elements of Buddhism with elements of other philosophies, especially Confucianism and Daoism, to create a new way of thinking.

Summary and Preview From the disorder that followed the fall of the Han dynasty, new dynasties arose to restore order in China. You will read about their many advances in the next lesson.

Lesson 1 Assessment

Review Ideas, Terms, and People

- a. **Define** What was the Period of Disunion?

b. **Explain** How did Chinese culture change during the Period of Disunion?
- a. **Identify** Who was Empress Wu? What did she do?

b. **Recall** What important event occurred in 907 in China?
- a. **Identify** When was the Age of Buddhism?

b. **Explain** Why did people turn to Buddhism during the Period of Disunion?

c. **Elaborate** How did Buddhism influence Chinese culture?

Critical Thinking

- Organize Information** Draw a timeline like this one. Place the lesson's main events and their dates on the timeline.





Tang and Song Achievements

The Big Idea

The eras of the Tang and Song dynasties were periods of economic, cultural, and technological accomplishments.

Main Ideas

- Advances in agriculture led to increased trade and population growth.
- Cities and trade grew during the Tang and Song dynasties.
- The Tang and Song dynasties produced fine arts and inventions.

Key Terms and People

porcelain
celadon
woodblock printing
gunpowder
compass

If YOU were there . . .

It is the year 1270. You are a rich merchant in a Chinese city of about a million people. The city around you fills your senses. You see people in colorful clothes among beautiful buildings. Glittering objects lure you into busy shops. You hear people talking—discussing business, gossiping, laughing at jokes. You smell delicious food cooking at a restaurant down the street.

How do you feel about your city?

Advances in Agriculture

Early Chinese civilization was based on agriculture. Over thousands of years, the Chinese had become expert farmers. In the north, farmers grew wheat, barley, and other grains. In the warmer and wetter south, they grew rice.

During the Song dynasty, though, Chinese farming reached new heights. The improvement was largely due to new irrigation techniques. For example, some farmers dug underground wells. A new irrigation device, the dragon backbone pump, allowed one person to do the work of several. With this light and portable pump, a farmer could scoop up water and pour it into an irrigation canal. Using these new techniques, farmers created elaborate irrigation systems.

Under the Song, the amount of land under cultivation increased. Lands along the Chang Jiang that had been wild now became farmland. Farms also became more productive, thanks to the discovery of a new type of rice. Because it grew and ripened quickly, this rice enabled farmers to grow two or even three crops in the time it used to take to grow just one.

Chinese farmers also learned to grow new crops, such as cotton, efficiently. Workers processed cotton fiber to make clothes and other goods. The production of tea, which had been grown in China for centuries, also increased.

Growing Rice

Rice has long been a vital crop in southern China, where the warm, wet climate is perfect for rice growing.



At harvest time, farmers remove rice kernels from the rest of the plant.



Sometimes farmers build terraces to create level land for farming.

Reading Check

Analyze Effects

How did agricultural advances affect population growth and the Chinese government?

Agricultural surpluses helped pay taxes to the government. Merchants also traded food crops. As a result, food was abundant not just in the countryside but also in the cities. Because food was plentiful, China's population grew quickly. During the Tang dynasty, the population had been about 60 million. During the Song dynasty, the farmers of China fed a country of nearly 100 million people. At the time, China was the largest country in the world.

Cities and Trade

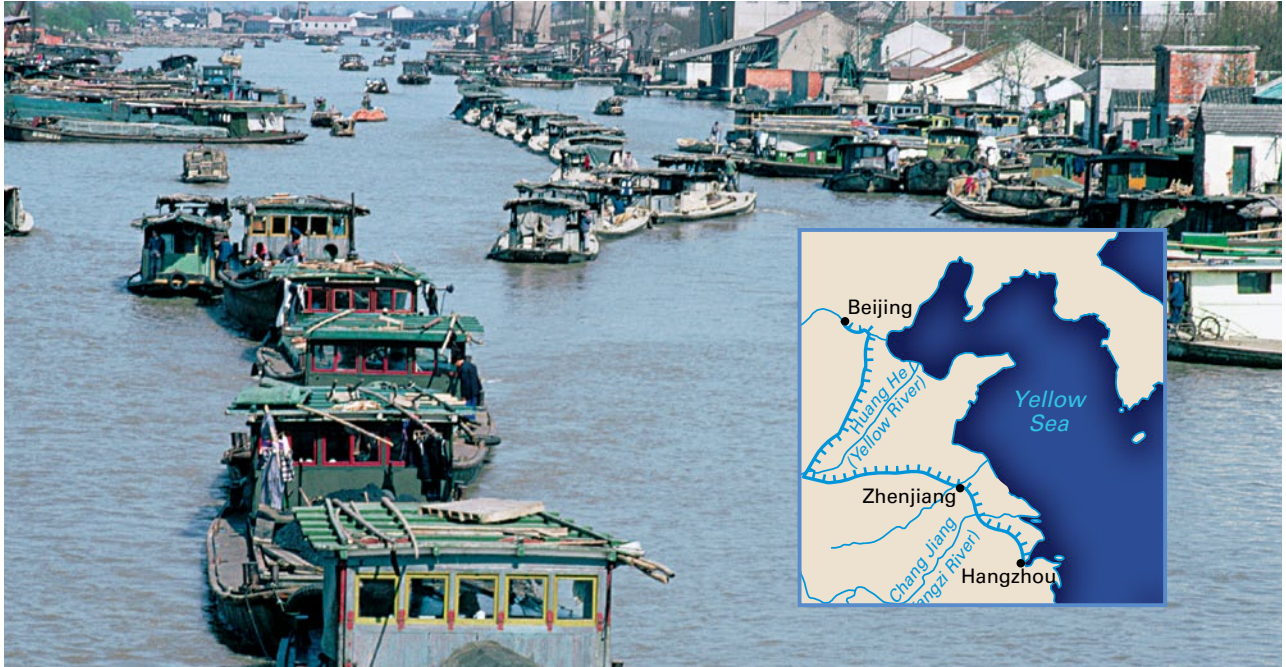
Throughout the Tang and Song dynasties, much of the food grown on China's farms flowed into the growing cities and towns. China's cities were crowded, busy places. Shopkeepers, government officials, doctors, artisans, entertainers, religious leaders, and artists made them lively places as well.

City Life China's capital and the largest city of the Tang dynasty was Chang'an (chahng-AHN), a bustling trade center. With a population of more than a million, it was by far the largest city in the world at the time.

Chang'an, like other trading cities, had a mix of people from many cultures—China, Korea, Persia, Arabia, and Europe. It was also known as a religious and philosophical center, not just for Buddhists and Daoists but for Asian Christians as well.

The Grand Canal

China's Grand Canal is the world's longest human-made waterway. It was begun during the Sui dynasty largely to transport rice and other foods from the south to feed China's cities and armies in the north.



Cities continued to grow under the Song. Several cities, including the Song capital, Kaifeng (KY-fuhng), had about a million people. A dozen more cities had populations close to half a million.

Trade in China and Beyond Trade grew along with Chinese cities. This trade, combined with China's agricultural base, made China richer than ever before. Much trade took place within China itself. Traders used the country's rivers to transport goods on barges and ships.

The Grand Canal was a series of waterways that linked major cities. The canal carried a huge amount of trade goods, especially farm products. Construction on the canal had begun during the Sui dynasty. During the Tang dynasty, it was improved and expanded. The Grand Canal allowed the Chinese to move goods and crops from distant agricultural areas into cities.

The Chinese also carried on trade with other lands and peoples. During the Tang dynasty, most foreign trade was over land routes leading west to India and Southwest Asia, though Chinese traders also went to Korea and Japan in the east. The Chinese exported many goods, including tea, rice, spices, and jade. Nomadic tribes to the north of China adopted the habit of drinking tea, and the Chinese exported tea to them in exchange for horses. However, one export was especially important—silk. So valuable was silk

Trade in the Tang and Song Dynasties



Interpret Maps
Movement What was the name of the trade routes that went west from China?

Reading Check
 Summarize How far did China's trade routes extend?

that the Chinese tried to keep the method of making it secret. In exchange for their exports, the Chinese imported different foods and plants, wool, glass, gold, and silver.

During the Song dynasty, maritime trade, or sea trade, became more important. China opened its Pacific ports to foreign traders. The largest seaport during the Song dynasty was Quanzhou, on China's southeast coast. From there, large Chinese ships carried goods to Japan, other parts of Asia, and down the coast of Africa. During this time, the Chinese also developed another valuable product—a thin, beautiful type of pottery called **porcelain**.

All of this trade helped create a strong economy. As a result, merchants became important in Chinese society. Also because of the growth of trade, the Song created the world's first system of paper money in the 900s.

Arts and Inventions

While China grew rich economically, its cultural riches also increased. In literature, art, and science, China made huge advances.

Artists and Poets The artists and writers of the Tang dynasty were some of China's greatest. Wu Daozi (DOW-tzee) painted murals that celebrated Buddhism and nature. Li Bo and Du Fu wrote poems that readers

still enjoy for their beauty. Also noted for its literature, the Song period produced Li Qingzhao (ching-ZHOW), perhaps China's greatest female poet. She once said that the purpose of her poetry was to capture a single moment in time.

Artists of both the Tang and Song dynasties made exquisite objects in clay. Tang figurines of horses clearly show the animals' strength. Song artists made porcelain items covered in a pale green glaze called **celadon** (SEL-uh-duhn).

Important Inventions The Tang and Song dynasties produced some of the most remarkable—and most important—inventions in human history. Some of these inventions influenced events around the world.

According to legend, a man named Cai Lun invented paper in the year 105 during the Han dynasty. A later Tang invention built on Cai Lun's achievement—**woodblock printing**, a form of printing in which an entire page is carved into a block of wood. The printer applies ink to

Quick Facts

Chinese Inventions

Paper

Invented during the Han dynasty around 105, paper was one of the greatest of all Chinese inventions. It gave the Chinese a cheap and easy way of keeping records and also made printing possible.

Woodblock printing

The Chinese invented printing during the Tang dynasty, centuries before it was known in Europe. Printers could copy drawings or texts quickly, much faster than they could be copied by hand.

Movable type

Inventors of the Song dynasty created movable type, which made printing much faster. Carved characters could be rearranged and reused to print many different messages.

Paper money

The world's first paper money was invented by the Song. Lighter and easier to handle than coins, paper money helped the Chinese manage their growing wealth.

Porcelain

Porcelain was first made during the Tang dynasty, but it wasn't perfected for many centuries. Chinese artists were famous for their work with this fragile material.



Gunpowder

Invented during the late Tang or early Song dynasty, gunpowder was used to make fireworks and signals. The Chinese did not generally use it as a weapon.



Magnetic compass

Invented no later than the Han period, the compass was greatly improved by the Tang. The new compass allowed sailors and merchants to travel vast distances.



The Paper Trail

The dollar bill in your pocket may be crisp and new, but paper money has been around a long time. Paper money was printed for the first time in China in the AD 900s and was in use for about 700 years, through the Ming dynasty, when the bill shown here was printed. However, so much money was printed that it lost value. The Chinese stopped using paper money for centuries. Its use caught on in Europe, though, and eventually became common. Most countries now issue paper money.

Analyze Information

What is an advantage of paper money?



the block and presses paper against the block to create a printed page. The world's first known printed book was printed in this way in China in 868.

Another invention of the Tang dynasty was gunpowder. **Gunpowder** is a mixture of powders used in guns and explosives. It was originally used only in fireworks, but it was later used to make small bombs and rockets. Eventually, gunpowder was used to make explosives, firearms, and cannons. Gunpowder dramatically altered how wars were fought and, in doing so, changed the course of human history. Mongol armies later carried gunpowder to Europe when they conquered much of Asia and parts of eastern Europe.

One of the most useful achievements of Tang China was the perfection of the magnetic **compass**. This instrument, which uses the earth's magnetic field to show direction, revolutionized travel. A compass made it possible to find direction more accurately than ever before. The perfection of the compass had far-reaching effects. Explorers the world over used the compass to travel vast distances. The navigators of trading ships and warships also came to rely on the compass. Thus, the compass has been a key factor in some of the most important sailing voyages in history.

The Song dynasty also produced many important inventions. Under the Song, the Chinese invented movable type. Movable type is a set of letters or characters that is used to print books. Unlike the blocks used in block printing, movable type can be rearranged and reused to create new lines of text and different pages. The ability to print books more quickly and easily made them much less expensive. Lower prices led to an increased demand

Reading Check
Find Main Ideas
 What were some important inventions of the Tang and Song dynasties?

for books and contributed greatly to the spread of literacy in the region. Movable type probably made its way to Europe a few hundred years later when the Mongols established trade routes between China and the West.

The Song dynasty also introduced the concept of paper money. People were used to buying goods and services with bulky coins made of metals such as bronze, gold, and silver. Paper money was far lighter and easier to use. As trade increased and many people in China grew rich, paper money became more popular.

Summary and Preview The Tang and Song dynasties were periods of great advancement. Many great artists and writers lived during these periods. Tang and Song inventions also had dramatic effects on world history. In the next lesson, you will learn about the philosophy and government of the Song dynasty.

Lesson 2 Assessment

Review Ideas, Terms, and People

1. **a. Recall** What advances in farming occurred during the Song dynasty?
b. Explain How did agricultural advancements affect China's population?
2. **a. Describe** What were the capital cities of Tang and Song China like?
b. Draw Conclusions How did geography affect trade in China?
c. Recall What did the Chinese trade with the northern nomadic tribes to get good horses?
3. **a. Identify** Who was Li Bo?
b. Draw Conclusions How might the inventions of paper money and woodblock printing have been linked?
c. Form Opinions Which Tang or Song invention do you think was most important? Defend your answer.

Critical Thinking

4. **Categorize** Copy the chart. Fill in each category with information about the Tang and Song dynasties.

	Tang dynasty	Song dynasty
Agriculture		
Cities		
Trade		
Art		
Inventions		



Confucianism and Government

The Big Idea

Confucian thought influenced the Song government.

Main Ideas

- Confucianism underwent changes and influenced Chinese government.
- Scholar-officials ran China's government during the Song dynasty.

Key Terms and People

bureaucracy
civil service
scholar-official

Academic Vocabulary
function work or perform

If YOU were there . . .

You are a student in China in 1184. Night has fallen, but you cannot sleep. Tomorrow you have a test. You know it will be the most important test of your entire life.

You have studied for it—not for days or weeks or even months, but for *years*. As you toss and turn, you think about how your entire life will be determined by how well you do on this one test.

How could a single test be so important?

Development of Confucianism

The leading philosophy in China, Confucianism, is based on the teachings of Confucius. He lived more than 1,500 years before the Song dynasty. His ideas, though, had a dramatic effect on the Song system of government.

Confucian Ideas Confucius's teachings focused on ethics, or proper behavior, for individuals and governments. He said that people should conduct their lives according to two basic principles. These principles were *ren*, or concern for others, and *li*, or appropriate behavior. Confucius argued that society would **function** best if everyone followed *ren* and *li*.

Confucius thought that everyone had a proper role to play in society. Order was maintained when people knew their place and behaved appropriately. For example, Confucius said that young people should obey their elders and that subjects should obey their rulers.

Early Confucianism After his death, Confucius's ideas were spread by his followers, but they were not widely accepted. In fact, the Qin dynasty officially suppressed Confucian ideas and teachings. By the time of the Han dynasty, Confucianism had again come into favor, and Confucianism became the official state philosophy.



In addition to ethics, Confucianism stressed the importance of education. This painting, created during the Song period, shows earlier Confucian scholars during the Period of Disunion sorting scrolls containing classic Confucian texts.

During the Period of Disunion, which followed the Han dynasty, Confucianism was overshadowed by Buddhism as the major tradition in China. You may recall that many Chinese people turned to Buddhism for comfort during these troubled times. In doing so, they largely turned away from Confucian ideas and outlooks.

Later, during the Sui and early Tang dynasties, Buddhism was very influential. Unlike Confucianism, which stressed ethical behavior, Buddhism stressed a more spiritual outlook that promised escape from suffering. As Buddhism became more popular in China, Confucianism lost some of its influence.

Neo-Confucianism Late in the Tang dynasty, many Chinese historians and scholars again became interested in the teachings of Confucius. Their interest was sparked by their desire to improve Chinese government and society.

During and after the Song dynasty, a new philosophy called Neo-Confucianism developed. The term *neo* means “new.” Based on Confucianism, Neo-Confucianism was similar to the older philosophy in that it taught proper behavior. However, it also emphasized spiritual matters. For example, Neo-Confucian scholars discussed such issues as what made human beings do bad things even if their basic nature was good. Central to the philosophy of Neo-Confucianism was kinship, or the family. Each person should put the interests of the family above his or her interests. This dedication to the family brought peace and order to society.

Neo-Confucianism became much more influential under the Song. Later, its influence grew even more. In fact, the ideas of Neo-Confucianism became official government teachings after the Song dynasty.

Reading Check

Contrast How did Neo-Confucianism differ from early Confucianism?



Civil Service Exams

This painting from the 1600s shows civil servants writing essays for China's emperor. Difficult exams ensured that government officials were chosen for ability—not because of wealth or family connections.

Difficult Exams

- Students had to memorize entire Confucian texts.
- To pass the most difficult tests, students might study for more than 20 years!
- Some exams lasted up to 72 hours, and students were locked in private rooms while taking them.
- Some dishonest students cheated by copying Confucius's works on the inside of their clothes, paying bribes to the test graders, or paying someone else to take the test for them.
- To prevent cheating, exam halls were often locked and guarded.

Civil Service Examinations

The Song dynasty took another major step that affected China for centuries. Song rulers improved the system by which people went to work for the government. These workers formed a large **bureaucracy**, or a body of unelected government officials. They joined the bureaucracy by passing civil service examinations. **Civil service** means service as a government official.

To become a civil servant, a person had to pass a series of written examinations. The examinations tested students' knowledge of Confucianism and related ideas. Because the tests were so difficult, students spent years preparing for them. Only a very small fraction of the people who took the tests would reach the top level and be appointed to a position in the government. However, candidates for the civil service examinations had a good reason to study hard. Passing the tests meant life as a **scholar-official**—an educated member of the government.

Scholar-officials were elite members of society. They performed many important jobs in the government and were widely admired for their knowledge and ethics. Their benefits included considerable respect and reduced penalties for breaking the law. Many also became wealthy from gifts given by people seeking their aid.

The civil service examination system helped ensure that talented, intelligent people became scholar-officials. It was a major factor in the stability of the Song government.

Summary and Preview During the Song period, Confucian ideas helped shape China's government. In the next lesson, you will read about the two dynasties that followed the Song—the Yuan and the Ming.



First rising to prominence under the Song, scholar-officials remained important in China for centuries. The illustration of the scholar-officials shown here offers an impression of what they may have looked like.

Reading Check

Analyze Events
How did the Song dynasty change China's government?

Lesson 3 Assessment

Review Ideas, Terms, and People

- a. Identify** What two principles did Confucius believe people should follow?

b. Explain What was Neo-Confucianism?

c. Recall What aspect of Neo-Confucianism brought order to society?
- a. Define** What was a scholar-official?

b. Explain Why would people want to become scholar-officials?

c. Evaluate Do you think civil service examinations were a good way to choose government officials? Why or why not?

Critical Thinking

- Organize Information** In a graphic organizer like this one, explain the relationship between Confucianism and Neo-Confucianism, and Neo-Confucianism and government bureaucracy.





The Yuan and Ming Dynasties

The Big Idea

The Chinese were ruled by foreigners during the Yuan dynasty, but they threw off Mongol rule and prospered during the Ming dynasty.

Main Ideas

- The Mongol Empire included China, and the Mongols ruled China as the Yuan dynasty.
- The Ming dynasty was a time of stability and prosperity.
- China under the Ming saw great changes in its government and relations with other countries.

Key Terms and People

Genghis Khan
Kublai Khan
Zheng He
isolationism

If YOU were there . . .

You are a farmer in northern China in 1212. As you pull weeds from a wheat field, you hear a sound like thunder. Looking toward the sound, you see hundreds—no, *thousands*—of armed horsemen on the horizon, riding straight toward you. You are frozen with fear. Only one thought fills your mind—the dreaded Mongols are coming.

What can you do to save yourself?

The Mongol Empire

Among the nomadic peoples who attacked the Chinese were the Mongols. For centuries, the Mongols had lived as separate tribes in the vast plains north of China. Then in 1206, a powerful leader, or khan, united them. His name was Temüjin. When he became leader, though, he was given a new title: “Universal Ruler,” or **Genghis Khan** (GENG-guhs KAHN).

The Mongol Conquest Genghis Khan organized the Mongols into a powerful army and led them on bloody expeditions of conquest. The brutality of the Mongol attacks terrorized people throughout much of Asia and eastern Europe. Genghis Khan and his army killed all of the men, women, and children in countless cities and villages. Within 20 years, he ruled a large part of Asia.

Genghis Khan then turned his attention to China. He first led his armies into northern China in 1211. They fought their way south, wrecking whole towns and ruining farmland. By the time of Genghis Khan’s death in 1227, all of northern China was under Mongol control. His empire also included almost all of Central Asia, to the borders of European Russia.

The Mongol conquests did not end with Genghis Khan’s death, though. His sons and grandsons continued to raid lands all over Asia and eastern Europe. The destruction the Mongols left behind was terrible.

Mongol Empire, 1294



Interpret Maps
Region How far west did the Mongol Empire stretch?

In 1260, Genghis Khan's grandson **Kublai Khan** (KOO-bluh KAHN) became ruler of the Mongol Empire. He completed the conquest of China and in 1279 declared himself emperor of China. The lands he ruled made up one of the largest empires in world history—it stretched from the Pacific Ocean to eastern Europe. Kublai Khan unified all of China under his rule. This began the Yuan dynasty, a period that some people also call the Mongol Ascendancy. For the first time in its long history, foreigners ruled all of China.

BIOGRAPHY

Kublai Khan 1215–1294

Kublai came from Mongolia but spent much of his life in China. His capital, Dadu, was near the modern city of Beijing. He completed the conquest of China that Genghis Khan had begun and ruled China as the emperor of the Yuan dynasty.

The lands Kublai Khan ruled made up one of the largest empires in world history, stretching from the Pacific Ocean to eastern

Europe. As China's ruler, Kublai Khan welcomed foreign visitors, including the Italian merchant Marco Polo and the Arab historian Ibn Battutah. The stories these two men told helped create interest in China and its products among Westerners.

Form Generalizations

How did Kublai Khan's actions help change people's views of China?





This painting from the 1200s shows Kublai Khan hunting on horseback.

Life in Yuan China Kublai Khan and the Mongol rulers he led belonged to a different ethnic group from the Chinese. They spoke a different language, worshipped different gods, wore different clothing, and had different customs. The Chinese resented being ruled by these foreigners, whom they saw as rude and uncivilized.

However, Kublai Khan did not force the Chinese to accept Mongol ways of life. Some Mongols even adopted aspects of the Chinese culture, such as Confucianism. Still, the Mongols made sure to keep control of the Chinese. They prohibited Confucian scholars from gaining too much power in the government, for example. The Mongols also placed heavy taxes on the Chinese.

Much of the tax money the Mongols collected went to pay for vast public-works projects. These projects required the labor of many Chinese people. The Yuan extended the Grand Canal and built new roads and palaces. Workers also improved the roads that were part of China's postal system. In addition, the Yuan emperors built a new capital, Dadu, near modern Beijing.

Mongol soldiers were sent throughout China to keep the peace as well as to keep a close watch on the Chinese. The soldiers' presence kept overland trade routes safe for merchants. Sea trade between China, India, and Southeast Asia continued, too. The Mongol emperors also welcomed foreign traders at Chinese ports. Some of these traders received special privileges.

Part of what we know about life in the Yuan dynasty comes from one such trader, an Italian merchant named Marco Polo. Between 1271 and 1295 Polo traveled in and around China. He was highly respected by the

A Chinese City

In this passage, Marco Polo describes his visit to Hangzhou (HAHNG-JOH), a city in southeastern China.

Analyze Historical Sources

From this description, what impression might Europeans have had of Hangzhou?

“Inside the city there is a Lake . . . and all round it are erected [built] beautiful palaces and mansions, of the richest and most exquisite [finest] structure that you can imagine. . . . In the middle of the Lake are two Islands, on each of which stands a rich, beautiful and spacious edifice [building], furnished in such style as to seem fit for the palace of an Emperor. And when any one of the citizens desired to hold a marriage feast, or to give any other entertainment, it used to be done at one of these palaces. And everything would be found there ready to order, such as silver plates, trenchers [platters], and dishes, napkins and table-cloths, and whatever else was needful. The King made this provision for the gratification [enjoyment] of his people, and the place was open to every one who desired to give an entertainment.”

—Marco Polo, from *The Story of Marco Polo*

Mongols and even served in Kublai Khan’s court. When Polo returned to Europe, he wrote of his travels. Polo’s descriptions of China fascinated many Europeans. His book sparked much European interest in China.

The End of the Yuan Dynasty Despite their vast empire, the Mongols were not content with their lands. They decided to invade Japan. A Mongol army sailed to Japan in 1274 and again in 1281. The campaigns, however, were disastrous. Violent storms and fierce defenders destroyed most of the Mongol force.

The failed campaigns against Japan weakened the Mongol military. The huge, expensive public-works projects had already weakened the economy. These weaknesses, combined with Chinese resentment, made China ripe for rebellion.

In the 1300s, many Chinese groups rebelled against the Yuan dynasty. In 1368, a former monk named Zhu Yuanzhang (JOO yoo-ahn-JAHNG) took charge of a rebel army. He led this army in a final victory over the Mongols. China was once again ruled by the Chinese.

Reading Check

Find Main Ideas

How did the Mongols come to rule China, and what part of the world outside of China did they dominate?

The Ming Dynasty

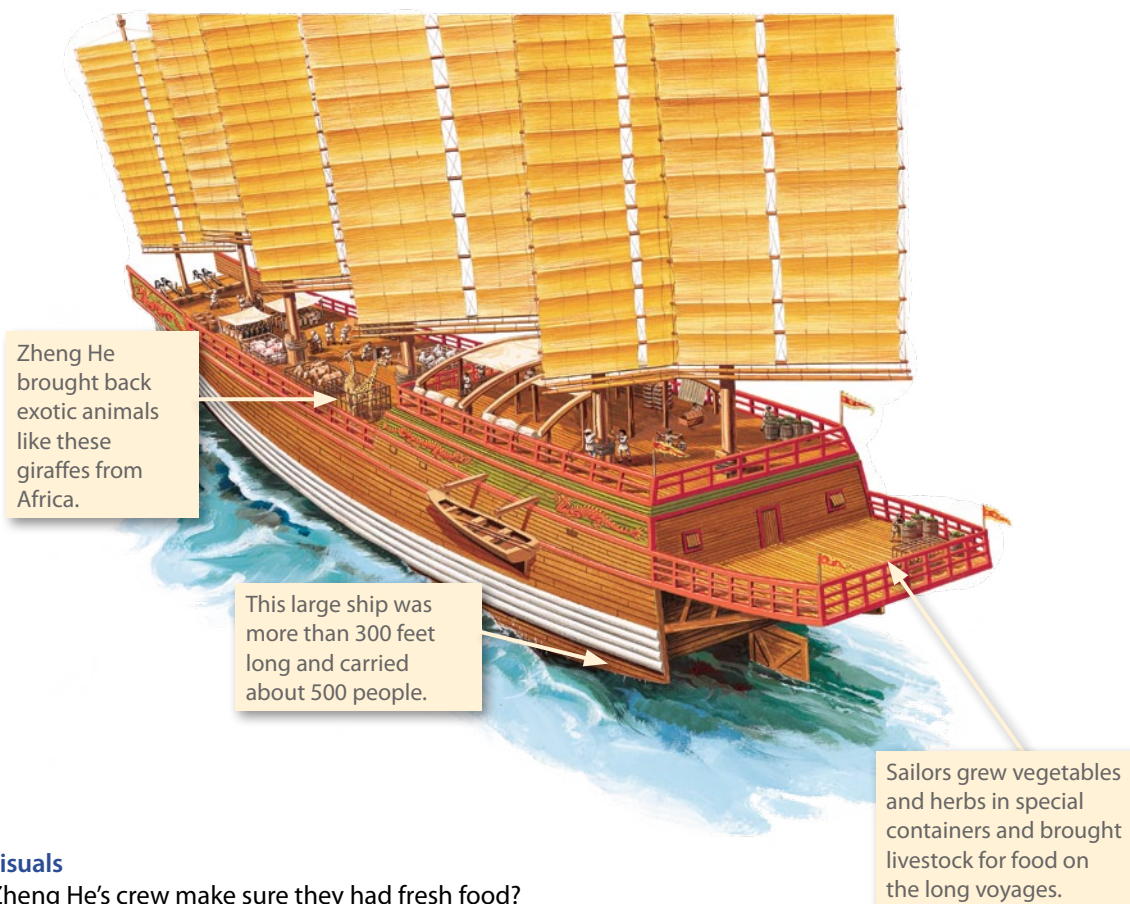
After Zhu Yuanzhang's army defeated the Mongols, he became emperor of China. The Ming dynasty that he founded ruled China from 1368 to 1644—nearly 300 years. Ming China proved to be one of the most stable and prosperous times in Chinese history. The Ming expanded China's fame overseas and sponsored extensive building projects across China.

Great Sea Voyages During the Ming dynasty, the Chinese improved their ships and their sailing skills. The greatest sailor of the period was **Zheng He** (juhng HUH). Between 1405 and 1433, he led seven grand voyages to places around Asia. Zheng He's fleets were huge. One included more than 60 ships and 25,000 sailors. Some of the ships were gigantic too, perhaps more than 300 feet long. That is longer than a football field!

In the course of his voyages, Zheng He sailed his fleet throughout the Indian Ocean. He sailed as far west as the Persian Gulf and the eastern-most coast of Africa.

The Voyages of Zheng He

Zheng He's ocean voyages were remarkable. Some of his ships, like the one shown here, were among the largest in the world at the time.



Analyze Visuals

How did Zheng He's crew make sure they had fresh food?

Everywhere his ships landed, Zheng He presented leaders with beautiful gifts from China. He boasted about his country and encouraged foreign leaders to send gifts to China's emperor. From one voyage, Zheng He returned to China with representatives of some 30 nations, sent by their leaders to honor the emperor. He also brought goods and stories back to China.

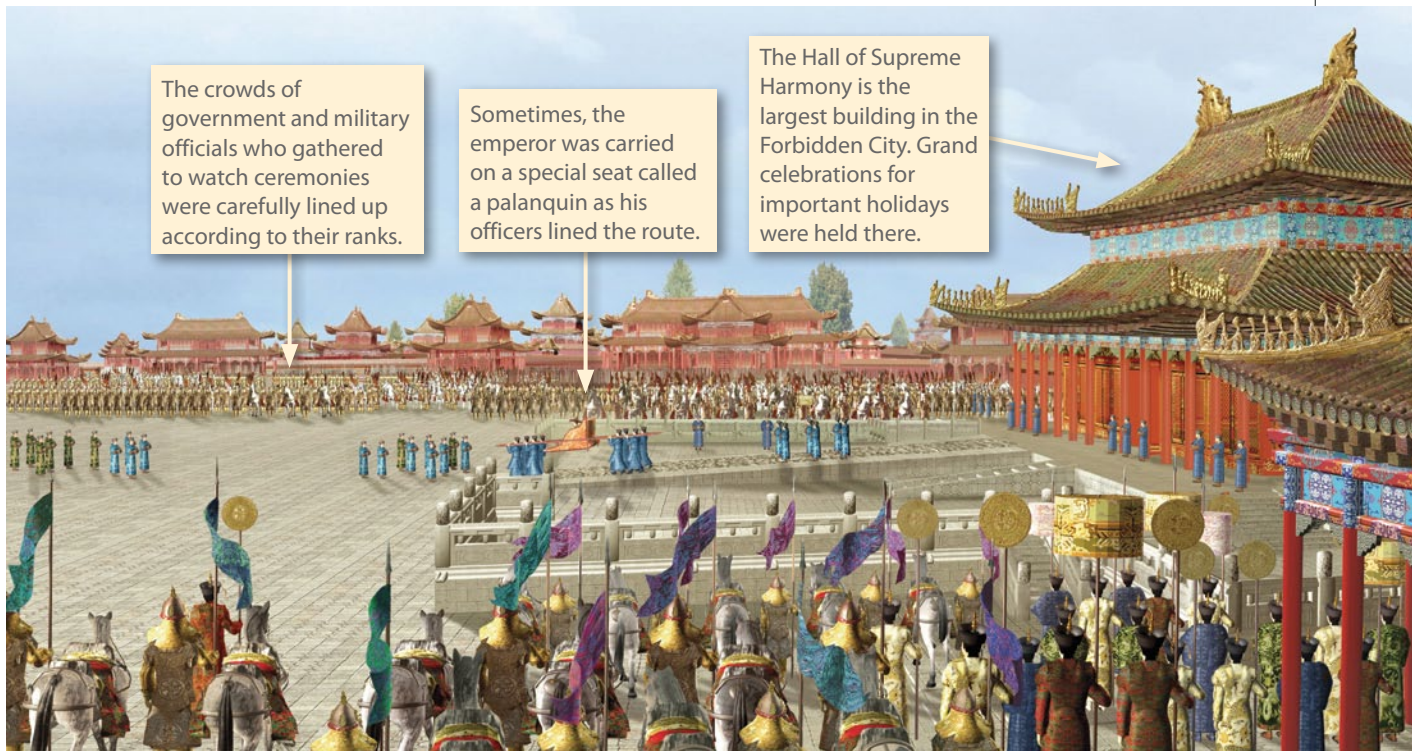
Zheng He's voyages rank among the most impressive in the history of seafaring. Although they did not lead to the creation of new trade routes or the exploration of new lands, they served as a clear sign of China's power.

Great Building Projects The Ming were also known for their grand building projects. Many of these projects were designed to impress both the Chinese people and their enemies to the north.

In Beijing, for example, Ming emperors built the Forbidden City. This amazing palace complex included hundreds of imperial residences, temples, and other government buildings. Within the buildings were some

The Forbidden City

The Forbidden City is not actually a city. It's a huge complex of almost 1,000 buildings in the heart of China's capital. The Forbidden City was built for the emperor, his family, his court, and his servants, and ordinary people were forbidden from entering.



Analyze Visuals

How did the Forbidden City show the power and importance of the emperor?

9,000 rooms. The name *Forbidden City* came to be used because the common people were not even allowed to enter the complex. For centuries, this city within a city was a symbol of China's glory.

Ming rulers also directed the restoration of the famous Great Wall of China. Large numbers of soldiers and peasants worked to rebuild collapsed portions of walls, connect existing walls, and build new ones. The result was a construction feat unmatched in history. The wall was more than 2,000 miles long. It could reach from San Diego to New York City! The wall was about 25 feet high and, at the top, 12 feet wide. Protected by the wall—and the soldiers who stood guard along it—the Chinese people felt safe from invasions by the northern tribes.

China Under the Ming

Chinese society began to change under the Ming emperors. Having expelled the Mongols, the Ming emperors worked to eliminate all foreign influences from Chinese society. This decision had significant **consequences**. As a result, China's government and relations with other countries changed dramatically.

Ming Government When the Ming took over China, they adopted many Tang and Song government programs. However, the Ming emperors were much more powerful than the Tang and Song emperors had been. They abolished the offices of some officials, such as the position of prime minister, and took a larger role in running the government. They punished anyone who challenged their authority.

Despite their personal power, though, the Ming emperors did not disband the civil service system. Because the emperor personally oversaw the entire government, he needed officials to keep his affairs organized. Many of these officials passed government examinations to enter the civil service system.

The Ming emperors also used examinations to appoint censors. The censors served in a different branch of government than other officials. Censors investigated the behavior of local leaders and judged the quality of schools and other institutions. Censors had existed for many years in China, but under the Ming emperors their power and influence grew.

The Chinese government continued to function in a similar manner long after the Ming dynasty. In fact, the basic governmental structure of strong emperors and government officials continued until the early 1900s.

Relations with Other Countries In the 1430s, a new Ming emperor made Zheng He return to China and dismantle his fleet. At the same time, the emperor banned trade. China entered a period of isolationism. **Isolationism** is a policy of avoiding contact with other countries.

Reading Check

Form Generalizations

In what ways did the Ming dynasty strengthen China?

Academic

Vocabulary

consequences
effects of a
particular event
or events

Reading Check
Analyze Effects
How did isolationism
affect China?

Isolationism had great consequences for China. In 1644, the Ming dynasty was overthrown. By the late 1800s, the Western world had made huge leaps in technological progress. Westerners were then able to gain influence in Chinese affairs. Partly because of its isolation and lack of progress, China was too weak to stop them.

Summary and Preview Under the Yuan and Ming dynasties, Chinese society changed. Eventually, the Ming began a policy of isolationism. In the next lesson, you will read about China's influence on its neighbors.

Lesson 4 Assessment

Review Ideas, Terms, and People

- a. Identify** Who was Genghis Khan?

b. Explain How did the Mongols gain control of China?

c. Evaluate Judge this statement: "The Mongols should never have tried to invade Japan."
- a. Identify** Who was Zheng He, and what did he do?

b. Analyze How might residents of Beijing have felt about the Forbidden City?

c. Predict Effects How might the Great Wall have both helped and hurt China?

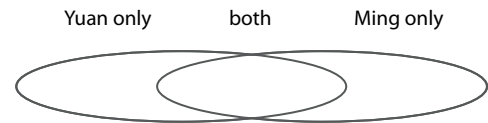
- a. Define** What is isolationism?

b. Explain How did the Ming change China?

c. Evaluate What are the advantages and disadvantages of isolationism?

Critical Thinking

- Compare and Contrast** Draw a diagram like this one. Use your notes to see how the Yuan and Ming dynasties were alike and different.



History and Geography

The Great Wall

The Great Wall of China is one of the longest structures ever built. It stretches for many miles across China's northern lands. Along the way, the Great Wall crosses mountains, deserts, plains, and valleys.

Why did the Chinese build such a gigantic wall? The answer is for defense. For centuries, the people of China had been attacked by nomadic horsemen from Mongolia and other lands to the north. The Great Wall was built to keep these invaders—and their horses—out.

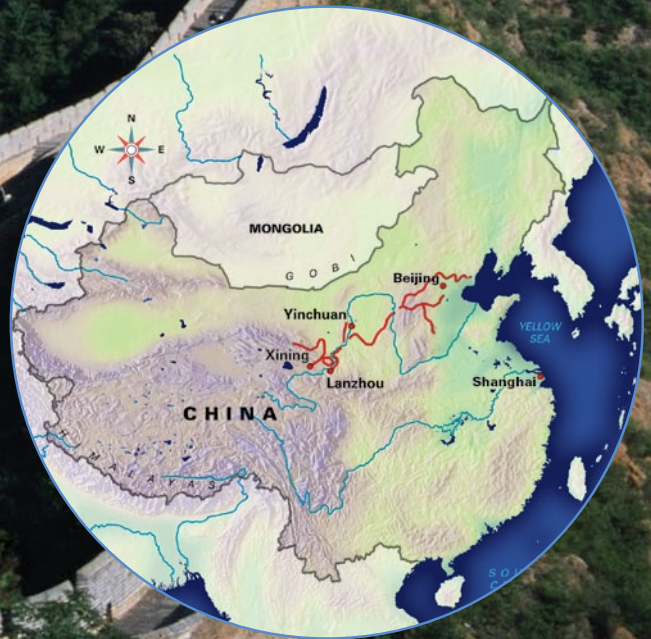
Standing Guard Watchtowers allowed soldiers to see invaders in the distance. During battles, watchtowers could be used as fortresses.

Great Facts about the Great Wall

- Parts of the Great Wall have been built and rebuilt for more than 2,000 years. Most of the wall that stands today was built during the Ming dynasty (1368–1644).
- The Great Wall was also used for communication. Soldiers marched along the wall, and guards used smoke signals and torches to send messages along it.
- Many people died building the Great Wall. Some historians estimate that as many as 8 million people died working on the wall over the years.



Built to Last Workers used the best materials available locally to build the wall. Some parts are built of compacted dirt, some are built of stone blocks, and others are built of brick and rubble.



Interpret Maps

- 1. Movement** Why was the Great Wall built?
- 2. Region** From what area to the north of China did many invaders come?



China and Its Neighbors

The Big Idea

China had a major influence on the region's other civilizations.

Main Ideas

- Ideas and philosophies central to life in China spread to other nearby states and took root.
- The Koryo dynasty of Korea adopted several elements of Chinese culture, including the civil service system.
- Under Chinese rule, the Vietnamese absorbed many features of Chinese civilization.

Key Terms and People

cultural diffusion
Trung sisters

If YOU were there . . .

You are a public official in Vietnam in the 900s. You speak Vietnamese at home, but you use the Chinese language at work, where you wear Chinese-style clothing. Your religion is Buddhism, not a traditional Vietnamese belief system. All your life, you've lived under Chinese rule. Now you hear that a rebellion against China has begun.

Why might you want Vietnam to be free from China?

Neighbors to the North, East, and South

By the time of the Sui dynasty, China was the largest and most powerful state in East Asia. During the Sui and the dynasties that followed, China became a major influence on the region's other civilizations. At various times, the Chinese even conquered and ruled parts of the region, such as Southeast Asia, forcing people to adopt Chinese ways of life. In other cases, the influence was more gradual and indirect. Ideas and philosophies central to life in China spread into other nearby regions and took root. Many of these ideas were carried by Chinese traders, who traveled widely throughout Asia. The spread of cultural traits from one region to another, such as from China to its neighbors, is called **cultural diffusion**.

One region that was heavily influenced by China early in its history was Korea. As you can see on the map, Korea is located on a peninsula just northeast of China. Because the two nations are so close, there has been contact between them for centuries. Several times, the Chinese attempted to invade and conquer Korea, but they were usually unsuccessful. Still, traders and missionaries carried elements of Chinese culture, such as Buddhism, into Korea.

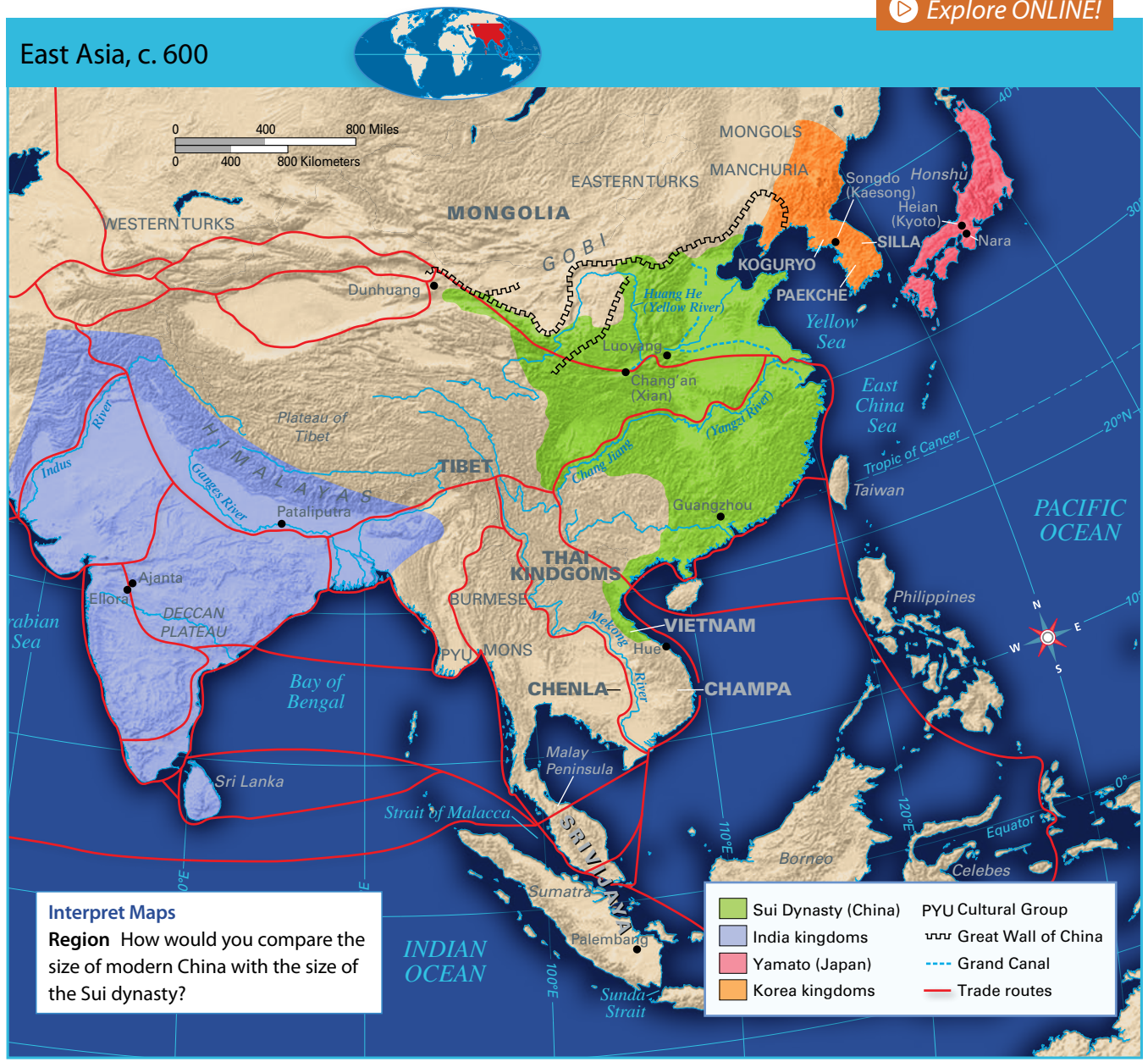
Just east of Korea are the islands of Japan. Like Korea, Japan was heavily influenced by Chinese culture. Early in Japan's history, Chinese missionaries—many of whom traveled through Korea—introduced Buddhism to the islands. In addition, several early rulers of Japan were great admirers of Chinese culture. They invited Chinese officials and scholars to come to Japan and share their ideas. Later, you will learn more about China's influence on Japan.

The region south and east of China was located between the two most advanced civilizations of early Asia—China and India. Throughout most of Southeast Asia, Indian culture was a much greater influence than was Chinese culture. In the kingdom of Vietnam, however, the opposite was true. The Vietnamese embraced many elements of Chinese culture, which helped to shape life there for centuries.

Reading Check

Analyze Causes
Why did China become a major influence on the region's other civilizations?

[▶ Explore ONLINE!](#)



Interpret Maps

Region How would you compare the size of modern China with the size of the Sui dynasty?



China's long influence in East Asia is reflected in the architecture of neighboring states. Changdeokgung Palace in Seoul was the home of many of Korea's rulers. Its horizontal design and curved roof suggest early Chinese influence.

Chinese Influence in Korea

In the 100s BC, a kingdom called Choson ruled much of what is now Korea. However, China soon came to influence life in the Korean peninsula. In 108 BC, China's Han dynasty conquered Choson and colonized part of Korea. During this period, the Koreans adopted Chinese writing. They also copied China's political systems and farming methods. Eventually, Chinese missionaries introduced Buddhism to Korea.

After the Han dynasty declined, Korea broke away from Chinese control. Three rival kingdoms rose to power in Korea. By 668, the rulers of one of these kingdoms, Silla (SHIH-lah), allied with China's Tang dynasty. With Chinese assistance, Silla conquered the other two Korean kingdoms. Then the Silla drove the Chinese out of Korea. By about 680, the Silla ruled all of Korea.

Although they were independent, Silla's rulers wanted to maintain trading ties with the larger and more powerful China. This trade helped maintain peace and good feelings between the two countries. Under Silla rule, the Koreans embraced many aspects of Chinese culture. For example, Silla rulers promoted Buddhism. They also formed a strong government modeled after the Tang bureaucracy.

Eventually, the Silla kingdom grew weaker. By 935, rebels had overthrown the Silla and formed a new dynasty, the Koryo dynasty. This dynasty, whose name is the origin of the word *Korea*, lasted until 1392.



This Korean statue from the 700s shows Buddha holding a pose. Buddhism spread rapidly in Korea and was synthesized with local Shamanism.

Early Korean Culture

During the Silla and Koryo periods, the people of Korea made great advances in art and technology. Korean culture reflected a combination of Chinese influence and native ideas.



This celadon kettle from the Koryo period is shaped like a tortoise.



Koryo artists were gifted metalworkers. This bell was used to call people to religious ceremonies.



Goldsmiths made delicate golden crowns for Silla rulers. Such crowns may have never been worn. Instead, they were created as burial objects.



Buddhism was a major influence on life in the Silla period. These golden religious texts were found in a Silla tomb.

Analyze Visuals

What elements of the kettle above reflect Chinese influence?

Like earlier rulers, the Koryo adopted several elements of Chinese culture. For example, they created a civil service system similar to the one in China. At the same time, they did not want Korea to turn into another China. They urged the Korean people to maintain elements of their traditional culture, such as religion. As a result, Korean religion during the Koryo period blended elements of Chinese Buddhism with traditional Korean beliefs in nature spirits.

Also during the Koryo period, Korean culture thrived. Artisans created beautiful pottery covered with a celadon glaze. Korean printers invented metal movable type—an improvement over the earlier Chinese wooden type. With this invention, they printed thousands of Buddhist texts.



Buddhism was introduced to Vietnam from India and China before AD 300 and quickly became a major influence on life in the country. Temples and shrines like this one near the ancient capital of Hoa Lu can still be found throughout the country.

Reading Check
Summarize
What cultural features did Koreans adopt from the Chinese?

In the 1200s, the Mongol rulers of China invaded and conquered Korea. The Mongols were harsh and unpopular rulers. Finally, in the 1380s, a young Korean general forced the Mongols out of Korea. He then defeated all his rivals and ended the Koryo dynasty, uniting Korea as he took power for himself. He named his new dynasty Choson, in honor of Korea's first kingdom.

Vietnam Seeks Independence

Like Korea, Vietnam was invaded by the Chinese early in its history. In 111 BC armies from the Han dynasty conquered the kingdom of Nam Viet in what is now northern Vietnam. The Chinese called the conquered region Annam, and they ruled it for about 800 years.

Timeline: Key Events in China, Korea, and Vietnam



Analyze Timelines
When did the Vietnamese gain their independence?

Ly Dai Hanh was one of the first rulers of the kingdom of Dai Viet. During his reign, the Vietnamese held off an attack by the Chinese and expanded their kingdom to the south.



Under Chinese rule, the Vietnamese absorbed many features of Chinese civilization. Chinese rulers forced them to adopt the Chinese language and clothing styles. The Chinese imposed their own system of government on Vietnam, including a bureaucracy headed by Chinese governors. The Chinese also introduced Confucianism, Daoism, and Buddhism. Buddhist art and architecture became common in Vietnam. Despite the many ways in which China influenced Vietnam, though, the Vietnamese were determined to maintain much of their own culture. For example, they continued to worship nature spirits alongside other belief systems.

Hoping to regain their independence, the Vietnamese sometimes rebelled when Chinese rule grew weak. One of the most famous rebellions took place in AD 39. In that year, two sisters raised an army and briefly drove the Chinese out of Vietnam. However, the Chinese soon regained control of the country. Although they were unsuccessful, the **Trung sisters** are regarded as heroes in Vietnam today.

The fall of China's Tang dynasty in the early 900s allowed the Vietnamese to finally win their independence. In 939, they established the independent kingdom of Dai Viet. For about 60 years, fighting within Vietnam caused chaos.

In 1009, however, the first of a series of strong rulers took power in Dai Viet. These rulers belonged to the Ly dynasty. Ly rulers created a civil service system in Dai Viet similar to the one in China. They also created a standing army that kept their country safe from invasion by China and allowed them to expand southward. In more peaceful pursuits, they built canals and roads, and improved the country's farming practices. They also established Dai Viet's first university and supported art and literature. During the Ly dynasty, Chinese literature was popular in Vietnam.

Reading Check

Summarize

What did the Trung sisters do to become heroes to the Vietnamese?

The Ly dynasty lasted until 1225, when it was replaced by the Tran dynasty. Many great works of Vietnamese literature date from the Tran period. During the reign of the Tran, the Mongol rulers of China attempted to invade Vietnam. They were unsuccessful, however, and Vietnam remained free. The Tran remained in power until 1400, when the Chinese once again took control of Vietnam.

Summary China, the most powerful state in East Asia, had a major influence on the region's other civilizations, including Korea, Vietnam, and Japan.

Lesson 5 Assessment

Review Ideas, Terms, and People

- a. Identify** Where is Korea located?

b. Explain In which Southeast Asian kingdom was Chinese influence the strongest?
- a. Identify** What were two important Korean inventions?

b. Describe How did Korean culture remain distinct from Chinese culture?
- a. Explain** What elements of Chinese culture were adopted in Vietnam?

b. Explain How did Vietnam become an independent kingdom?

Critical Thinking

- Compare and Contrast** Draw a chart like the one here. Using your notes, list two similarities and two differences between Chinese and Korean cultures.

Similarities	Differences
1.	1.
2.	2.

Social Studies Skills

Determine the Context of Statements

Define the Skill

A *context* is the circumstances under which something happens. *Historical context* includes values, beliefs, conditions, and practices that were common in the past. At times, some of these were quite different from what they are today. To truly understand a historical statement or event, you have to take its context into account. It is not right to judge what people in history did or said based on present-day values alone. To be fair, you must also consider the historical context of the statement or event.

Learn the Skill

To better understand something a historical figure said or wrote, use the following guidelines to determine the context of the statement.

1. Identify the speaker or writer, the date, and the topic and main idea of the statement.
2. Determine the speaker's or writer's attitude and point of view about the topic.
3. Review what you know about beliefs, conditions, or practices related to the topic that were common at the time. Find out more about the times in which the statement was made, if you need to.
4. Decide how well the statement reflects the values, attitudes, and practices of people living at that time. Then, determine how well it reflects values, attitudes, and practices related to the topic today.

Applying these guidelines will give you a better understanding of Chinese scholars.

You read in this module that scholar-officials were elite members of Chinese society. However, becoming a scholar-official meant having to pass a series of difficult written

examinations. Students spent years studying for the exams so they could pass them and become civil servants. How well they did determined their careers and place in Chinese society. The ninth-century Chinese writer Bai Xingjian describes his character's experience when passing examinations:

“He went in for the examination and passed at the first attempt. His reputation spread rapidly through the examination rooms, and even older men, when they saw the compositions, were filled with admiration and respect, and sought his friendship.”

By modern standards, the reaction to a student passing an exam may seem extreme. But think about the times in which Bai Xingjian wrote his story. Positions in the government were based on merit, and doing well on the exams meant that the student might have an important role in Chinese government. When the historical context is considered, the admiration and respect the student gained makes sense.

Practice the Skill

Read the following passage by Bai Juyi, a Chinese poet from the Tang Dynasty. Then answer the questions to determine its context and better understand it.

“For ten years I never left my books; I went up . . . and won unmerited praise. My high place I do not prize; the joy of my parents will first make me proud.”

1. Why does Bai Juyi value his parents' joy more than his own accomplishment?
2. How might the values of Chinese society during this time cause him to feel this way?

Module 15 Assessment

Review Vocabulary, Terms, and People

Match the words or names with their definitions or descriptions.

- | | |
|--|---------------------|
| 1. ruthless but effective Tang dynasty ruler | a. Kublai Khan |
| 2. porcelain made with a pale-green glaze | b. celadon |
| 3. leader who united the Mongols and began invasion of China | c. scholar-official |
| 4. body of unelected government officials | d. Empress Wu |
| 5. thin, beautiful pottery | e. bureaucracy |
| 6. device that indicates direction | f. Zheng He |
| 7. policy of avoiding contact with other countries | g. compass |
| 8. founder of the Yuan dynasty | h. porcelain |
| 9. mixture of powders used in explosives | i. Genghis Khan |
| 10. commanded huge fleets of ships | j. isolationism |
| 11. educated government worker | k. Trung sisters |
| 12. heroes who drove the Chinese out of Vietnam | l. gunpowder |

Comprehension and Critical Thinking

Lesson 1

13. a. **Identify** What period did China enter after the Han dynasty collapsed? What dynasty brought an end to this period?
- b. **Analyze** Why is the Tang dynasty considered a golden age of Chinese civilization?
- c. **Predict Effects** How might Chinese culture have been different in the Tang and Song dynasties if Buddhism had not been introduced to China?

Lesson 2

14. a. **Describe** What did Wu Daozi, Li Bo, Du Fu, and Li Qingzhao contribute to Chinese culture?
- b. **Analyze** What led to the growth of cities in China? What were China's cities like during the Tang and Song dynasties?
- c. **Evaluate** Which Chinese invention has had a greater effect on world history, the magnetic compass or gunpowder? Why?

Lesson 3

15. a. **Define** What is Confucianism? How did it change during and after the Song dynasty?
- b. **Make Inferences** Why do you think the civil service examination system was created?
- c. **Elaborate** Why were China's civil service examinations so difficult?

Lesson 4

16. a. **Describe** How did the Mongols create their huge empire? What areas were included in it?
- b. **Draw Conclusions** How did Marco Polo and Zheng He help shape ideas about China?
- c. **Elaborate** Why do you think the Ming emperors spent so much time and money rebuilding and enlarging the Great Wall?

Module 15 Assessment, continued

Lesson 5

17. a. **Identify** What are three East Asian civilizations on which China had a major influence?
- b. **Make Inferences** Why did the Koreans unify after the Mongols invaded?
- c. **Elaborate** In what way did the Vietnamese try to maintain their own culture while under Chinese rule?

Review Themes

18. **Science and Technology** How did Chinese inventions alter the course of world history?
19. **Economics** How did the strong agricultural and trading economy of the Tang and Song eras affect China?

Reading Skills

Draw Conclusions About the Past Use the Reading Skill taught in this module to answer the question about the reading selection below.

The Ming ruled China from 1368 to 1644. Zhu Yuanzhang was a Ming emperor. The Great Wall was rebuilt by the Ming.

20. Read the statements about the Ming dynasty. For each conclusion that follows, decide whether the statements provide sufficient evidence to justify the conclusion.
- a. The Great Wall is located in China.
- b. Zhu Yuanzhang was a good emperor.
- c. Zhu Yuanzhang ruled sometime between 1368 and 1644.
- d. Zhu Yuanzhang rebuilt the Great Wall.

Social Studies Skills

Determine the Context of Statements Use the Social Studies Skills taught in this module to answer the question about the reading selection below.

“That year it happened that the Emperor had decreed a special examination for the selection of candidates of unusual merit from all parts of the Empire. The young man competed, and came out top in the ‘censorial essay.’ He was offered the post of Army Inspector at Chengdu.”

—Bai Xingjian, *The Story of Miss Li*

21. Do you think that Bai Xingjian’s statement accurately describes China at this time? Why or why not?

Focus On Writing

22. **Write a Magazine Article** Now that you have read about later Chinese dynasties, write a magazine article about three achievements or inventions that struck you as interesting. You may want to use the Internet to search for more information on your choices. Open with a sentence that states your main idea. Include three or four sentences about each achievement or invention you have chosen. These sentences should describe the achievement or invention and explain why it was so important. End your article with a sentence or two summarizing China’s importance to the world.