

Ancient China: A Journey with Ellie the Elephant

Learning objective: To identify key features of Ancient Chinese civilisation, including the dynasties, inventions, and the importance of the rivers.

Read each flashcard carefully to learn about life in Ancient China. Test your knowledge by covering the answer side and seeing if you can recall the facts.

What is a 'dynasty' in Ancient Chinese history?

A series of rulers from the same family who controlled the country for many years.

Which major river is known as the 'cradle of Chinese civilisation'?

The Yellow River (Huang He).

What was the main purpose of the Great Wall of China?

To protect the empire from invaders coming from the north.

What luxury fabric was invented in Ancient China and traded across the world?

Silk.

What was the 'Silk Road'?

A network of trade routes that connected China to the Mediterranean, allowing goods and ideas to be exchanged.

Who was the supreme leader at the top of Ancient Chinese society?

The Emperor.

Name one significant invention from Ancient China that is still used today.

Paper, gunpowder, the compass, or printing.

Why were rivers like the Yangtze and Yellow River so important to early farmers?

They provided fertile soil for growing crops like rice and wheat.

What did Ancient Chinese people use to write questions for their ancestors?

Oracle bones (made from animal bones or turtle shells).

How much might a merchant pay in Ancient China for a small bag of silk?

This was often traded for other goods, but a merchant might value high-quality silk at many pieces of silver or gold.