

Discovering Ancient China with Ellie the Elephant

Learning objective: To understand the key features of Ancient Chinese civilisation, including the importance of the Yellow River, the Great Wall, and major inventions.

Use your knowledge of Ancient China to answer these questions. Remember to use full sentences and clear handwriting.

Ellie the Elephant has been visiting the archives to learn about Ancient China. She has discovered that this civilisation began thousands of years ago near the Yellow River. The people of Ancient China were famous for their incredible inventions, like paper and silk, and they built the massive Great Wall to protect their borders. The country was often ruled by a powerful family known as a dynasty.

Word bank: Dynasty · Yellow River · Great Wall · Silk Road · Invention · Emperor

1. Why was the Yellow River so important to the people living in Ancient China? (2 marks)

2. Name two inventions from Ancient China that we still use or recognise in the world today. (2 marks)

3. What was the main purpose of building the Great Wall of China? (2 marks)

4. Explain what a 'dynasty' means in the context of Ancient Chinese history. (2 marks)

5. If you were a trader travelling along the Silk Road, what goods might you be carrying to trade with other civilisations? (3 marks)

Draw: Draw a picture of what you imagine the Great Wall of China looks like, including the landscape around it.

A large, empty rectangular box with a thin black border, intended for a student to draw a picture of the Great Wall of China and its surrounding landscape.

Extension challenge: Research one Ancient Chinese invention not mentioned in the passage. Write three sentences explaining how it changed the way people lived.