

Year 4 History Assessment: The Wonders of Ancient China

Learning objective: To demonstrate knowledge and understanding of Ancient Chinese civilisation, including the significance of rivers, dynasties, inventions, and daily life.

Read each question carefully. Use your historical knowledge to provide detailed answers. Ensure your spelling and punctuation are accurate.

Ellie the elephant has been studying the rise of Ancient China. She discovered that the civilisation began along the fertile banks of the Yellow River. Over thousands of years, different dynasties—families of rulers—governed the land, building great walls and creating inventions that changed the world forever. From the delicate production of silk to the creation of paper, Ancient China left a lasting legacy on human history.

Word bank: Dynasty · Yellow River · Silk Road · Emperor · Invention · Agriculture · Terracotta · Philosophy

1. Identify the two major rivers that were essential for the development of early Chinese civilisation. Why were these rivers important for farming? (2 marks)

2. What is a 'dynasty' in the context of Ancient Chinese history? (1 mark)

3. Explain the significance of the Silk Road. How did it connect China to the rest of the world? (2 marks)

4. List two inventions from Ancient China and describe how each one changed the way people lived. (4 marks)

5. Compare and contrast the life of a wealthy merchant in a city with the life of a peasant farmer in the countryside. Consider their daily work and resources. (4 marks)

6. Justify why the building of the Great Wall was considered a significant achievement for the Emperor. What was its primary purpose? (3 marks)

7. Imagine you are an archaeologist who has just discovered the Terracotta Army. Describe what you see and explain why you think the Emperor wanted these statues made for his tomb. (4 marks)

8. What might have happened if Ancient China had stayed isolated and never traded along the Silk Road? Explain the impact on global knowledge and culture. (5 marks)

Draw: Draw a map of Ancient China, labelling the Yellow River and the path of the Great Wall. Include one invention you have learned about in the corner of your map.



Extension challenge: Total: /25. Extension Task: Research the philosophy of Confucius. Write a short poem in the style of Leo the lion explaining one of his core teachings about kindness or respect.