

Ancient China: Ellie's Historical Expedition

Learning objective: To understand key inventions and cultural developments from the Shang Dynasty and the era of Ancient China.

Ellie the elephant has been digging through history! She has found several important items from Ancient China, but she needs your help to sort them into the correct categories. Read the list of items in the word bank and write them into the correct section of the sorting table below.

Word bank: Silk · Paper · The Great Wall · Bronze vessels · Compass · Oracle bones · Tea · Gunpowder

1. Copy the items from the word bank into the correct category table:

Category A: Inventions (things created to solve a problem)

Category B: Cultural Items (things used for daily life, religion, or defence) (8 marks)

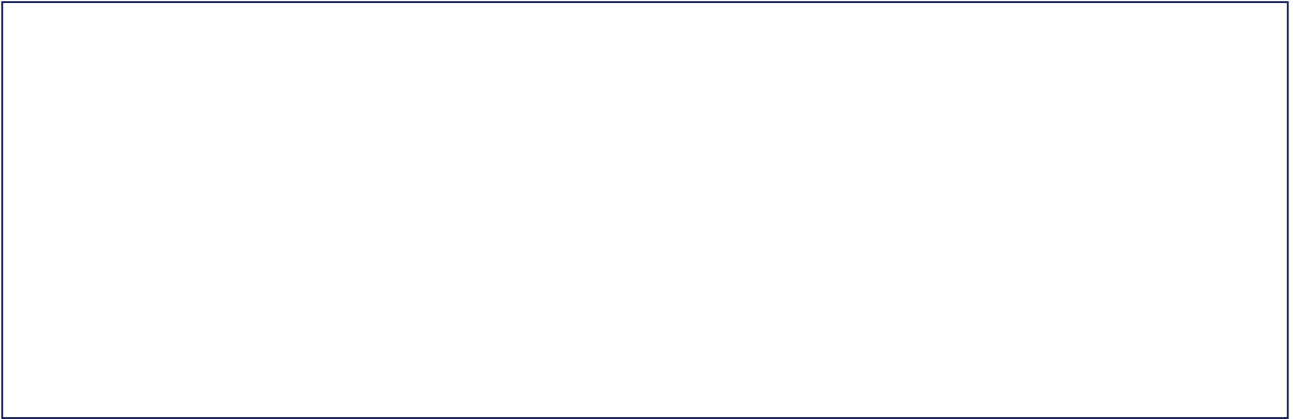
2. Why do you think the invention of paper changed how people lived in Ancient China compared to using bamboo or silk? (2 marks)

3. Look at the list of inventions. Which one do you think was the most important for explorers and why? (2 marks)

4. The Shang Dynasty is famous for using oracle bones. Explain what these were used for in a sentence. (2 marks)

5. True or False: The Great Wall was built all at once by one single emperor. Explain your reasoning. (2 marks)

Draw: Draw a picture of a merchant travelling along the Silk Road. Include one of the inventions from the word bank that they might be carrying in their pack.



Extension challenge: Research one Ancient Chinese invention not listed in the word bank and write a short paragraph explaining what it was used for.