

Ancient China: Discovery and Dynasty Flashcards

Learning objective: To understand key features of Ancient Chinese civilisation, including the significance of rivers, inventions, and the social hierarchy.

Use these cards to test your knowledge of Ancient China. Read the question on the front, think of your answer, then flip to check the definition provided.

What is a dynasty?

A series of rulers from the same family who hold power for many years.

Why was the Yellow River important to early Chinese settlers?

It provided fertile soil for farming and a reliable water source, often called the 'cradle of Chinese civilisation'.

What was the Silk Road?

A vast network of trade routes that connected China to the West, used for trading silk, spices, and ideas.

Who was at the top of the social hierarchy in Ancient China?

The Emperor, who was believed to have a divine right to rule called the 'Mandate of Heaven'.

What was the purpose of the Terracotta Army?

Thousands of life-sized clay soldiers built to protect the first Emperor, Qin Shi Huang, in the afterlife.

Name one major invention from Ancient China.

Examples include paper, the compass, gunpowder, or silk production.

What is the Great Wall of China?

A massive series of fortifications built across the historical northern borders of China to protect against invasions.

How did the invention of paper change life in Ancient China?

It allowed for easier record-keeping, the spread of literature, and more efficient government administration.

What does 'Mandate of Heaven' mean?

The belief that an Emperor was chosen by the gods to rule, but could lose that power if they were unjust.

Compare the role of a merchant to a farmer in Ancient Chinese society.

Farmers were highly respected for producing food, whereas merchants were often viewed with suspicion for simply trading goods made by others.

Why was the Great Wall constructed?

Primarily for protection and border control, but also to regulate trade along the Silk Road.

What might happen if an Emperor failed to protect his people?

According to the 'Mandate of Heaven', the people might believe the Emperor had lost the favour of the gods, potentially leading to a rebellion.