

Ellie's Historical Expedition: Discovering Ancient China

Learning objective: To research and describe key aspects of Ancient Chinese civilisation, including the significance of the Yellow River and early inventions.

Use the prompts below to build your historical report. Think like Ellie the elephant—use your memory to connect facts about the past and explain why they were important for the people living then.

Ancient China was a fascinating civilisation that flourished along the banks of the mighty Yellow River thousands of years ago.

Word bank: furthermore · consequently · in addition to · civilisation · prosperous · significant · dynasty · nevertheless · innovation · consequently

1. The Importance of the River: Why was the Yellow River often called the 'cradle of Chinese civilisation'? Consider how the water helped people live and work... (3 marks)

2. Life in a Dynasty: Describe the structure of society during a dynasty. Who held the most power, and how did their decisions affect the lives of ordinary farmers? (3 marks)

3. Inventions and Discoveries: Choose one major invention from Ancient China (such as silk, paper, or the compass). Explain why this invention was a significant turning point for humanity. (3 marks)

4. Compare and Contrast: Compare the way Ancient Chinese people lived with how we live today. What is one thing that has changed, and what is one thing that has stayed similar? (4 marks)

5. Justify your answer: Why do you think the Ancient Chinese people felt it was necessary to build the Great Wall? What might have happened if they hadn't built it? (4 marks)

6. Explain why: Historians often study pottery and coins found in ancient ruins. Explain why these objects are so valuable for understanding the economy and trade of the past. (3 marks)

Extension challenge: Imagine you are an explorer travelling along the Silk Road. Write a diary entry describing the goods you are carrying and the challenges you face while trading across different regions. Use the word bank to help you include higher-level vocabulary.