

Ellie's Ancient China Chronology Challenge

Learning objective: To understand the chronological sequence of key events and inventions in Ancient China.

Ellie the elephant has been studying history, but she has jumbled up her notes! Help Ellie put these significant moments and inventions from Ancient China into the correct order. Number them from 1 (the earliest) to 6 (the most recent).

Word bank: Silk Road · Great Wall construction · Invention of paper · First Emperor Qin Shi Huang · Invention of the compass · Shang Dynasty

1. **1. The Shang Dynasty begins, often considered the first recorded dynasty in China. (1 mark)**
2. **2. The First Emperor, Qin Shi Huang, unifies China and begins standardising writing and currency. (1 mark)**
3. **3. Construction of the early sections of the Great Wall of China is ordered to protect borders. (1 mark)**
4. **4. The Silk Road trade network is established, connecting China to the West. (1 mark)**
5. **5. Cai Lun is credited with the invention of paper, changing how people recorded history. (1 mark)**
6. **6. The invention of the magnetic compass revolutionises navigation and travel. (1 mark)**

Draw: Draw a scene showing one of the great inventions of Ancient China, such as a paper scroll, a silk garment, or an early compass.



Extension challenge: Research how the invention of paper changed the world. If you could send a message back in time to the First Emperor, what would you tell him about how we use paper today? Write a short, polite letter.