

Ancient China with Ellie the Elephant

Learning objective: To understand key features of Ancient Chinese civilisation.

Read the story below carefully. Use the word bank to help you. Answer the questions in the boxes provided.

Ellie the Elephant loves to travel back in time to learn about history. Today, she is visiting Ancient China. China is a very old civilisation. It began thousands of years ago near the Yellow River. The people there were very clever. They were the first to make a soft, shiny fabric called silk. They kept how they made it a secret for a long time! Ancient China was ruled by an Emperor. When an Emperor died, a new family would take over. This was called a Dynasty. The people built huge walls to keep their cities safe. They also invented paper, which changed how people wrote stories forever. Ellie thinks it is amazing how much they discovered. She wants to write a poem about the long, winding rivers and the busy markets where farmers sold their crops for copper coins. She notes that even back then, people worked hard to build a great home for their families. History shows us that these inventions are still used by us today.

Word bank: Dynasty · Emperor · Silk · River · Ancient

1. 1. Near which river did the Ancient Chinese civilisation begin? (2 marks) (2 marks)

2. 2. What was the name for the period when a new family ruled? (2 marks) (2 marks)

3. 3. Why do you think the people wanted to keep the way they made silk a secret? (2 marks) (2 marks)

4. 4. How did the invention of paper help people in Ancient China? (2 marks) (2 marks)

5. 5. Which Ancient Chinese invention do you think is the most useful to us today? Explain why. (3 marks) (3 marks)

Draw: Draw a picture of a long stone wall or a piece of shiny silk fabric.



Extension challenge: Imagine you are an inventor in Ancient China. What would you invent to help your village? Write one sentence about your invention.