Ancient China: The Timeline Challenge with Ellie the Elephant

Learning objective: To understand the chronological order of key dynasties and inventions in Ancient China.

Ellie the Elephant has been busy in the history archives! She has found a list of important events and inventions from Ancient China, but they have become muddled up. Use the word bank to place the events into the correct chronological order from 1 (the earliest) to 6 (the most recent).

Word bank: The Shang Dynasty · The invention of paper · The construction of the Great Wall begins · The Han Dynasty · The Zhou Dynasty · The invention of the compass

1. 1. [First event]: The earliest period of Ancient Chinese history listed here. (1 mark)

2. 2. [Second event]: The period following the Shang. (1 mark)

3. 3. [Third event]: The start of the Great Wall's construction. (1 mark)

4. 4. [Fourth event]: The era known for the Han Dynasty. (1 mark)

5. 5. [Fifth event]: The innovation of papermaking. (1 mark)

6. 6. [Sixth event]: The invention used for navigation. (1 mark)

Draw: Draw a picture of a traditional Chinese lantern or a piece of silk, two items that were developed during Ancient China, using patterns that Zara the Zebra would admire.

Extension challenge: Imagine you are a merchant travelling on the Silk Road. Write a short journal entry (3-4 sentences) describing one item you are trading and why it is valuable to the people you meet.