

Grade 4 History & Geography

Unit 6: Dynasties of China

10 lessons and a unit quiz. Use this pack with the **Dynasties of China Student Reader** (print it, or download it once from the course) to teach the whole unit without the internet.

What is in this pack

- A lesson plan for each chapter: the Big Question, words to know, which pages to read, questions to talk over and the activity pages.
- The unit quiz, ready to print.
- Answers for the teacher at the back: every discussion question and the quiz key.

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Lesson schedule

Two or three lessons a week, about 30 minutes each. Tick each one off as you go.

	Lesson	Reader pages	Activity pages
☐	Chapter 1: The First Emperor	PDF pages 8–17	AP 1.1, AP 1.2
☐	Chapter 2: The Han Dynasty	PDF pages 18–25	AP 1.1, AP 1.2
☐	Chapter 3: Wu Zhao	PDF pages 26–35	AP 3.1, AP 3.2
☐	Chapter 4: The Tang Dynasty	PDF pages 36–41	AP 3.1, AP 4.1
☐	Chapter 5: The Peddler’s Curse	PDF pages 42–47	AP 3.1
☐	Chapter 6: Town and Country	PDF pages 48–55	AP 3.1, AP 6.1
☐	Chapter 7: The Mongol Invasions	PDF pages 56–63	AP 3.1
☐	Chapter 8: Kublai Khan and Marco Polo	PDF pages 64–69	AP 8.1
☐	Chapter 9: The Forbidden City	PDF pages 70–77	AP 8.1
☐	Chapter 10: The Last Dynasty	PDF pages 78–83	AP 8.1, AP 10.1
☐	Unit quiz	—	—

Page numbers are the PDF page numbers of the Student Reader file, so they match what your PDF reader shows.

Chapter 1: The First Emperor

THE BIG QUESTION

What were some of the things the first emperor did to unite China?

Words to know

- **terracotta** — baked or hardened brownish-red clay *The emperor of China had an army made of terracotta.*
- **emperor** — the ruler of an empire *The emperor dressed in fine robes of silk to show his wealth and importance.*
- **jade** — a hard mineral, usually green, that can be made into jewelry or small figurines *The small figure of a horse was carved from jade.*
- **crossbow** — a type of weapon that shoots arrows when the trigger is released *The warrior shot an arrow from his crossbow while riding on horseback.*
- **tyrant** — a leader who rules by cruel or unjust means *A mean and ruthless man, the tyrant ruled his country without mercy.*
- **Ming dynasty** — a period of Chinese rule from the late 1300s to the mid-1600s *Leaders of the Ming dynasty wanted to unite China.*
- **barbarian** — a violent or uncivilized person *The Chinese thought their northern neighbors were barbarians, so they built a wall for protection.*
- **immortality** — unending life *As he grew older, the emperor of China looked for magic potions or other secrets that would give him immortality.*
- **generation** — a period of time of about twenty-five years *In the generation after the invention of the Internet, computers became an important part of everyday life.*

Read

Read Chapter 1 in the Student Reader: PDF pages 8–17. Look at the pictures and maps together.

Talk it over

1. What was the purpose of the terracotta soldiers?
2. How did the emperor ensure that his tomb was kept secret?
3. What evidence is there in the text to suggest that the emperor's efforts to keep the location of his tomb and its contents secret were successful for thousands of years?
4. Why did Shihuangdi build the Great Wall?
5. Did Shihuangdi complete the construction of the Great Wall of China as we know it today?
6. Which of Shihuangdi's actions show that he became extremely afraid of dying?

7. Shihuangdi's advisers went to great lengths to keep the emperor's death a secret. What did they do when the emperor died while traveling?

Answers are at the back of this pack.

Check for understanding

- Answer the Big Question in a sentence or two: What were some of the things the first emperor did to unite China?
- Use one of today's words in a sentence of your own.

Activity pages

- Activity Page 1.1 — Teacher Guide PDF page 89
- Activity Page 1.2 — Teacher Guide PDF page 90

Chapter 2: The Han Dynasty

THE BIG QUESTION

Why might the Chinese have wanted to protect their silk industry?

Words to know

- **official** — a person who carries out a government duty *The emperor sent his official into the countryside to collect taxes from the village.*
- **tribesmen** — the people who belong to a tribe or a society *Many of the tribesmen hunted for food for their families.*
- **yak** — an ox-like animal that lives in Asia *The farmer relied on his yak to help plow the fields.*
- **oasis** — an area in the desert where there are water and plants *The travelers stopped at the oasis to get food and water for their animals.*
- **hemp** — a type of plant, the fibers of which are used to make such things as rope, fabric, and paper *Hemp is a very useful plant that can be made into many different things. The Han Dynasty 35 min*

Read

Read Chapter 2 in the Student Reader: PDF pages 18–25. Look at the pictures and maps together.

Talk it over

1. Why were the Chinese people separated from the rest of the world for so many hundreds of years?
2. Why did the Chinese finally seek contact with other places?
3. What was the Silk Road, and why was it important to China?
4. Why do you think the Han dynasty is viewed as a golden time in Chinese history?

Answers are at the back of this pack.

Check for understanding

- Answer the Big Question in a sentence or two: Why might the Chinese have wanted to protect their silk industry?
- Use one of today's words in a sentence of your own.

Activity pages

- Activity Page 1.1 — Teacher Guide PDF page 89
- Activity Page 1.2 — Teacher Guide PDF page 90

Chapter 3: Wu Zhao

THE BIG QUESTION

Why might it be said that Wu Zhao's rise to power was an extraordinary achievement?

Words to know

- **foreigner** — a person who comes from another country *Many foreigners came to the capital city to do business with China's emperor.*
- **imperial** — relating to an emperor, empress, or empire *Chang'an was the imperial capital of China because the emperor lived and ruled from there.*
- **shrine** — a place considered holy because it is associated with a religious person or saint *Many people visited the shrine to pray.*
- **Buddhist religion** — also called Buddhism, a religion originating in India that is based on the teachings of Siddhartha Gautama *Today, there are followers of the Buddhist religion all around the world.*
- **nun** — a woman who lives a simple, religious life in a religious community of other women *The nun spent her days caring for the ill.*
- **ruthless** — cruel; without mercy or pity *The ruthless judge always gave harsh punishments for even the smallest crimes.*
- **resign** — to step down from or leave a job *It is very rare for a powerful leader to resign from his or her position.*
- **Buddha** — the name given to Siddhartha Gautama, the founder of Buddhism *Statues of Buddha filled the entryway to the temple.*

Read

Read Chapter 3 in the Student Reader: PDF pages 26–35. Look at the pictures and maps together.

Talk it over

1. What did Wu Zhao see as her carriage drove through the city of Chang'an?
2. What do you think Wu Zhao's impression was of Chang'an?
3. Why did the palace guards know to let Wu Zhao's carriage continue past the walls and through the gate to the Imperial City?
4. Who was Taizong?
5. What was life like for women like Wu Zhao living in the imperial palace?
6. What happened to the women in the imperial palace after Emperor Taizong died?
7. How did Wu Zhao avoid living out the rest of her life as a nun?
8. How does the story about the birds show that Wu Zhao was superstitious?

9. How did Wu Zhao help spread Buddhism in China?

Answers are at the back of this pack.

Check for understanding

- Answer the Big Question in a sentence or two: Why might it be said that Wu Zhao's rise to power was an extraordinary achievement?
- Use one of today's words in a sentence of your own.

Activity pages

- Activity Page 3.1 — Teacher Guide PDF page 91
- Activity Page 3.2 — Teacher Guide PDF page 92

Chapter 4: The Tang Dynasty

THE BIG QUESTION

What great advances happened during the Tang Dynasty?

Words to know

- **calligraphy** — artistic handwriting *Each page of the old text featured beautiful and intricate calligraphy.*
- **woodblock printing** — a type of printing in which designs and patterns are carved into a woodblock and the woodblock is then dipped in paint or ink and stamped on paper or another surface *Woodblock printing made it possible for the artist to make many copies of his art.*
- **alchemist** — a person who tries to turn other metals into gold *The emperor's alchemist worked tirelessly to try to change the lead to gold.*
- **charcoal** — black chunks of burned wood *Chunks of charcoal remained after the fire finished burning.*
- **nitrate** — a chemical; often used as fertilizer *The fertilizer the farmer used on his crops included nitrate as an ingredient.*
- **saltpeter** — a type of nitrate *The fertilizer the farmer used on his crops included saltpeter as an ingredient.*

Read

Read Chapter 4 in the Student Reader: PDF pages 36–41. Look at the pictures and maps together.

Talk it over

1. Why did the Japanese send missions to China?
2. Who were Li Bai and Du Fu? How were they different?
3. What were some of the accomplishments in China during the Tang dynasty?
4. What did Chinese alchemists discover when they mixed charcoal, nitrate, and saltpeter, and how did the Chinese use it?

Answers are at the back of this pack.

Check for understanding

- Answer the Big Question in a sentence or two: What great advances happened during the Tang Dynasty?
- Use one of today's words in a sentence of your own.

Activity pages

- Activity Page 3.1 — Teacher Guide PDF page 91
- Activity Page 4.1 — Teacher Guide PDF page 93

Chapter 5: The Peddler's Curse

THE BIG QUESTION

How did emperor Hui Zong fall from power?

Words to know

- **prophecy** — a prediction about the future *According to the peddler's prophecy, the emperor of China would beg for pancakes someday.*
- **peddler** — a person who travels from one place to another selling goods *The village children were excited to see the new toys the peddler brought with him.*
- **academy** — a distinguished place where scholars go to study *The academy only accepted a handful of bright students each year.*
- **canvas** — a strong, durable fabric made from natural fibers *The artist painted a picture of the landscape on canvas that was stretched and attached to a wooden frame,*
- **panoramic** — giving a wide view of an area *Standing atop the tower gave the onlooker a panoramic view of the city.*
- **siege machine** — a type of weapon used to break, weaken, or destroy thick walls during a siege *The siege machine helped the invaders enter the city.*
- **virtue** — a high moral standard *The boy's greatest virtue was his honesty.*

Read

Read Chapter 5 in the Student Reader: PDF pages 42–47. Look at the pictures and maps together.

Talk it over

1. What was the pancake prophecy?
2. Why do you think the peddler gave such a prophecy to Hui Zong?
3. How did Hui Zong show that he was interested in art?
4. What new ideas and techniques for painting were developed during the Song dynasty?
5. Who were the Jurchen and what effect did they have on Chinese history?
6. How did the peddler's prediction about Hui Zong come true?

Answers are at the back of this pack.

Check for understanding

- Answer the Big Question in a sentence or two: How did emperor Hui Zong fall from power?
- Use one of today's words in a sentence of your own.

Activity pages

- Activity Page 3.1 — Teacher Guide PDF page 91

Chapter 6: Town and Country

THE BIG QUESTION

What was the difference between life in the countryside and life in the city in southern China during the Song dynasty?

Words to know

- **ton** — a unit of weight equal to two thousand pounds *The wagon full of grain weighed half of a ton.*
- **vendor** — a person who sells something, usually on the street; a peddler *In the market, the vendor sold trinkets to people walking down the street.*
- **wares** — goods for sale *The peddler's wares included many different kinds of vases and jars.*
- **horoscope** — a prediction about a person's future, usually based on when a person was born and such things as the alignment of stars and planets *According to his horoscope, Jin was going to have a very good month.*
- **porter** — a person hired to carry or transport goods *The porter quickly moved the cart full of rice from one side of town to the other.*
- **ritual** — an act or series of actions done in the same way in a certain situation, such as a religious ceremony *Singing and dancing were an important part of the ritual.*
- **elite** — having more talent, wealth, power, or privilege than everyone else *Years of practice made the boy an elite swimmer.*

Read

Read Chapter 6 in the Student Reader: PDF pages 48–55. Look at the pictures and maps together.

Talk it over

1. What was daily life like for peasants in China?
2. How much rice was consumed each day in the city of Hangzhou?
3. What types of amusements and entertainments were people living in the city able to enjoy?
4. What were some of the differences between life in the city of Hangzhou and life in the countryside during the Song dynasty?
5. How was the geography of northern China different from that of southern China?
6. Who were the scholars, and how were they viewed by other Chinese people?
7. Why was the risk of fire so high in Hangzhou?

Answers are at the back of this pack.

Check for understanding

- Answer the Big Question in a sentence or two: What was the difference between life in the countryside and life in the city in southern China during the Song dynasty?
- Use one of today's words in a sentence of your own.

Activity pages

- Activity Page 3.1 — Teacher Guide PDF page 91
- Activity Page 6.1 — Teacher Guide PDF page 94

Chapter 7: The Mongol Invasions

THE BIG QUESTION

What made the Mongols such fearsome warriors?

Words to know

- **plaque** — a decorative tablet, usually made to celebrate an individual or an event *The student was awarded a plaque for her accomplishments.*
- **locust** — a large grasshopper-like insect; in large swarms they can cause widespread crop damage *A large locust landed on the ground in front of the farmer, causing him to worry about his crops.*

Read

Read Chapter 7 in the Student Reader: PDF pages 56–63. Look at the pictures and maps together.

Talk it over

1. How did Chinggis Khan respond to his visitors from northern China?
2. How did Mongols train to be effective warriors?
3. How large was the area conquered by the Mongols?
4. Why is Chinggis Khan so famous?
5. How did Kublai Khan show he was not as cruel as his uncles and his grandfather?

Answers are at the back of this pack.

Check for understanding

- Answer the Big Question in a sentence or two: What made the Mongols such fearsome warriors?
- Use one of today's words in a sentence of your own.

Activity pages

- Activity Page 3.1 — Teacher Guide PDF page 91

Chapter 8: Kublai Khan and Marco Polo

THE BIG QUESTION

Why might the development of the postal service have been considered one of Kublai Khan's greatest achievements?

Words to know

- **observatory** — a building or room used to study the weather or astronomy *Many stars could be seen from the observatory atop the hill.*
- **astronomer** — a scientist who studies the stars, the planets, and other features of outer space *The astronomer watched the comet move across the sky.*
- **heavenly bodies** — objects found in the sky, such as planets or stars *The sun and moon are just two of many heavenly bodies that can be viewed from Earth.*
- **postal system** — an organization, usually run by the government, responsible for sorting and delivering mail *Members of the postal system transport packages and mail across the country.*
- **tax** — to require people to pay money or goods to support the workings of the government *Before he could tax his citizens, the emperor needed to know how many people were in each village.*
- **typhoon** — a windy storm with heavy rain; a hurricane *The typhoon caused widespread damage to crops.*

Read

Read Chapter 8 in the Student Reader: PDF pages 64–69. Look at the pictures and maps together.

Talk it over

1. How would you describe Kublai Khan's surroundings in the Imperial City?
2. What were some positive changes that Kublai Khan made in China?
3. What do we know about Marco Polo and his travels in China?
4. What was unusual about the Mongols' invasions of Japan and the region now called Vietnam?

Answers are at the back of this pack.

Check for understanding

- Answer the Big Question in a sentence or two: Why might the development of the postal service have been considered one of Kublai Khan's greatest achievements?
- Use one of today's words in a sentence of your own.

Activity pages

- Activity Page 8.1 — Teacher Guide PDF page 95

Chapter 9: The Forbidden City

THE BIG QUESTION

How did the Manchu gain control of China?

Words to know

- **kowtow** — in Chinese culture, to kneel and touch your forehead to the ground nine times as a sign of respect *Officials wishing to speak to the emperor first had to kowtow to him.*
- **log book** — a journal to keep track of daily events, especially when traveling *Details of the traveler's journey were recorded in his log book.*
- **queue** — a short braid of hair worn at the back of the neck *The small boy needed help fixing his hair in a queue before heading out to the fields.*

Read

Read Chapter 9 in the Student Reader: PDF pages 70–77. Look at the pictures and maps together.

Talk it over

1. What made Zhu Yuanzhang's appearance unusual?
2. How would you describe Zhu Yuanzhang's early life?
3. When did the Ming dynasty start, and how did China change after the Ming dynasty replaced the Mongol emperor?
4. Why was Zheng He so important to the Ming dynasty?
5. Why do you think Zheng He kept detailed log books of his journeys?
6. How would you describe the emperors of the Ming dynasty who came after Zhu Yuanzhang and Zhu Di?
7. How did the Manchu rulers treat the Chinese?

Answers are at the back of this pack.

Check for understanding

- Answer the Big Question in a sentence or two: How did the Manchu gain control of China?
- Use one of today's words in a sentence of your own.

Activity pages

- Activity Page 8.1 — Teacher Guide PDF page 95

Chapter 10: The Last Dynasty

THE BIG QUESTION

What brought about an end to two thousand years of rule by emperors in China?

Words to know

- **prosperity** — success or wealth *China experienced a time of great prosperity under the wise emperor.*
- **porcelain** — a type of fine pottery *The vase was made of a fine, white porcelain.*
- **ingenious** — clever *The boy's ingenious idea made carrying water from the well much easier.*
- **republic** — a kind of government in which people elect representatives to rule for them *Members of the republic chose officials to serve in the government.*

Read

Read Chapter 10 in the Student Reader: PDF pages 78–83. Look at the pictures and maps together.

Talk it over

1. Why did Qianlong refuse the goods from British officials?
2. How did the opium trade lead to war between China and Britain?
3. What factors led to the decline of the final Chinese empire?

Answers are at the back of this pack.

Check for understanding

- Answer the Big Question in a sentence or two: What brought about an end to two thousand years of rule by emperors in China?
- Use one of today's words in a sentence of your own.

Activity pages

- Activity Page 8.1 — Teacher Guide PDF page 95
- Activity Page 10.1: 10 — Teacher Guide PDF pages 96–97

UNIT QUIZ

Dynasties of China

Name: _____ Date: _____

Circle the letter of the best answer.

1. In his tomb, Shihuangdi was surrounded by
 - a) statues of angels.
 - b) the bodies of his wife and children.
 - c) thousands of clay soldiers to guard him.
 - d) statues of dragons to protect him.
2. The Great Wall was constructed to
 - a) connect western China to the Yellow Sea.
 - b) keep out the Xiongnu who lived near the northern border of China.
 - c) stop trade with Britain and France.
 - d) celebrate the power of the Tang dynasty.
3. Emperor Wudi of the Han dynasty ordered an official to travel into the wilderness to find
 - a) people willing to help China defend its northern border.
 - b) the Silk Road.
 - c) a country willing to buy China's rice and silk.
 - d) magic potions that would make him live forever.
4. In the time of the Han dynasty, foreigners were especially eager to buy Chinese
 - a) rice.
 - b) art.
 - c) silk.
 - d) flowering shrubs.
5. One thousand years before it appeared in Europe, _____ was invented in China.
 - a) silk
 - b) paper
 - c) brick
 - d) fish netting
6. Wu Zhao was China's
 - a) only female emperor, after forcing her son to resign.
 - b) youngest leader.
 - c) most popular leader.
 - d) first person to sell silk.
7. The invention of _____ led the Chinese to create the world's first books.
 - a) literature
 - b) calligraphy
 - c) ink
 - d) woodblock printing

- 8.** The Tang dynasty was known for which of the following?
- a) the invention of paper money
 - b) extensive trading of tea
 - c) the invention of gunpowder and fireworks
 - d) all of the above
- 9.** Emperor Hui Zong of the Song dynasty was most interested in
- a) military strength.
 - b) the arts such as painting, calligraphy, and poetry.
 - c) opium.
 - d) Buddhism.
- 10.** After getting military help from the Song dynasty, which group turned against the Chinese and claimed much of northern China?
- a) Jurchen
 - b) Mongols
 - c) Xiongnu
 - d) Russians
- 11.** During the Song dynasty, who were the most honored and respected people in China?
- a) soldiers
 - b) priests
 - c) scholars
 - d) merchants
- 12.** Partly because its wooden houses were crowded together, _____ could easily sweep through Hangzhou.
- a) fires
 - b) floods
 - c) monsoons
 - d) snow
- 13.** Chinggis Khan was the leader of the _____ who attacked northern China.
- a) Russians
 - b) Mongols
 - c) Japanese
 - d) Koreans
- 14.** Who was Marco Polo?
- a) the inventor of the game of polo
 - b) a Spanish king
 - c) an Italian explorer
 - d) a Mongol military leader

- 15.** What was one of Kublai Khan's greatest achievements?
- a) creating a postal system
 - b) creating paper money
 - c) creating a uniform Chinese alphabet
 - d) inventing gunpowder
- 16.** The Chinese word ming means
- a) fierce.
 - b) loyal.
 - c) brightness.
 - d) beautiful.
- 17.** Emperor Zhu Di of the Ming dynasty built a new residence called
- a) Chang'an.
 - b) the Forbidden City.
 - c) the Yellow Palace.
 - d) Dadu.
- 18.** Zheng He is famous because he
- a) fought the British warships.
 - b) invented the postal system.
 - c) attacked the Manchu armies in north China.
 - d) built a fleet of ships at the emperor's request and explored the world.
- 19.** Britain refused to stop selling _____ to China.
- a) tobacco
 - b) rice
 - c) tea
 - d) opium
- 20.** In 1912, the last emperor stepped down and China became
- a) a republic.
 - b) a communist state.
 - c) an empire.
 - d) a British colony.

Answers

Chapter 1: The First Emperor

- 1. What was the purpose of the terracotta soldiers?**
The terracotta soldiers were made to protect the emperor and his tomb and possessions from robbers.
- 2. How did the emperor ensure that his tomb was kept secret?**
He had the workers buried alive inside the tomb.
- 3. What evidence is there in the text to suggest that the emperor's efforts to keep the location of his tomb and its contents secret were successful for thousands of years?**
The terracotta soldiers and the tomb were not discovered until 1974. They had remained undiscovered for more than two thousand years.
- 4. Why did Shihuangdi build the Great Wall?**
He wanted to keep the Xiongnu, or Huns, who were nomads and fierce warriors, out of China.
- 5. Did Shihuangdi complete the construction of the Great Wall of China as we know it today?**
No. The Great Wall as we know it today was completed during the Ming dynasty.
- 6. Which of Shihuangdi's actions show that he became extremely afraid of dying?**
Shihuangdi ordered sea voyagers to search for a magic potion for immortality. He kept his whereabouts secret and slept in a different place every night.
- 7. Shihuangdi's advisers went to great lengths to keep the emperor's death a secret. What did they do when the emperor died while traveling?**
They had a cart of rotten fish follow the emperor's carriage to hide the smell of his decaying body on their way back to the capital.

Chapter 2: The Han Dynasty

- 1. Why were the Chinese people separated from the rest of the world for so many hundreds of years?**
China is surrounded by vast steppes, the Gobi Desert, towering mountain ranges, the Pacific Ocean, and dense jungle, as well as Shihuangdi's walls.
- 2. Why did the Chinese finally seek contact with other places?**
Han Emperor Wudi sent an official to lands outside of China to convince these people to help the Chinese fight the Xiongnu.
- 3. What was the Silk Road, and why was it important to China?**
The Silk Road was a system of trails linking China to lands and peoples of the West. The Silk Road was important because it enabled the Chinese to establish trade with many other countries that wanted silk.

4. **Why do you think the Han dynasty is viewed as a golden time in Chinese history?**

The culture was very advanced. The Chinese invented paper during the Han dynasty. They also produced beautiful silk fabric. At the time, the Chinese were the only people in the world who knew how to make paper and silk.

Chapter 3: Wu Zhao

1. **What did Wu Zhao see as her carriage drove through the city of Chang'an?**

The streets were crowded and filled with people dressed in the latest fashions. It had two great marketplaces that sold newly imported luxury goods. The population was large and included many immigrants from Korea, Persia, Turkey, India, and Arabia. There were many religious buildings.

2. **What do you think Wu Zhao's impression was of Chang'an?**

Possible response: Wu Zhao thought Chang'an was crowded, busy, and very different from what she was used to. She probably felt overwhelmed and maybe a little scared.

3. **Why did the palace guards know to let Wu Zhao's carriage continue past the walls and through the gate to the Imperial City?**

The carriage was painted red, the color of the emperor's court.

4. **Who was Taizong?**

He was the emperor.

5. **What was life like for women like Wu Zhao living in the imperial palace?**

The women lived a life of luxury. They spent their days applying makeup and watching sports like polo for entertainment. Life, however, was not always easy. Women who displeased the emperor could be removed from the city.

6. **What happened to the women in the imperial palace after Emperor Taizong died?**

They had to shave their heads in mourning and live out the rest of their days as Buddhist nuns.

7. **How did Wu Zhao avoid living out the rest of her life as a nun?**

She gained the attention of Gaozong, the emperor's son. He ordered that she be returned to the imperial palace.

8. **How does the story about the birds show that Wu Zhao was superstitious?**

She saw the birds as a sign from the gods. She believed the birds flying over the emperor's throne room were signs from Heaven that she was meant to be emperor.

9. **How did Wu Zhao help spread Buddhism in China?**

She had many Buddhist temples built and had giant statues of Buddha carved.

Chapter 4: The Tang Dynasty

1. **Why did the Japanese send missions to China?**

The Japanese were very impressed by Chinese culture. They sent missions to learn more about Chinese religion, art, government, and medicine.

2. **Who were Li Bai and Du Fu? How were they different?**

They were two of the most famous poets in Chinese history. Du Fu was serious and hardworking. Li Bai got into trouble because he fought and drank.

3. **What were some of the accomplishments in China during the Tang dynasty?**

Two of the country's greatest poets wrote at this time. Calligraphy flourished, and the invention of woodblock printing allowed the Chinese to create the world's first printed books. Paper money was also invented.

4. **What did Chinese alchemists discover when they mixed charcoal, nitrate, and saltpeter, and how did the Chinese use it?**

The alchemists discovered gunpowder, which created an explosion. The Chinese used it to make fireworks.

Chapter 5: The Peddler's Curse

1. **What was the pancake prophecy?**

While in the countryside, Hui Zong came across a peddler who offered to share his food with the emperor. The emperor was disgusted by the peddler's pancake and refused his offer. The peddler warned Hui Zong that one day he might be happy to have such food to eat.

2. **Why do you think the peddler gave such a prophecy to Hui Zong?**

Student responses will vary. Students may note that Hui Zong's behavior was unkind; perhaps his treatment of others would have an effect on what happens to him in the future.

3. **How did Hui Zong show that he was interested in art?**

Hui Zong collected art and made his own paintings as well. He developed new styles of calligraphy and methods of painting. He kept painters at the imperial palace and even set up a special academy for artists.

4. **What new ideas and techniques for painting were developed during the Song dynasty?**

Painters began to use water-based paints rather than oil paints, and they painted on paper or silk instead of on canvas. Chinese painters of the Song dynasty often painted landscapes on very tall or long scrolls that could be unrolled to show tall mountains or panoramic views.

5. **Who were the Jurchen and what effect did they have on Chinese history?**

They were a tribe of foreigners to the north of China. They helped the Chinese defeat other tribes, then attacked China. They captured the capital city of Kaifeng and overthrew Hui Zong, who became their prisoner. Then they made a deal with one of Hui Zong's sons: the Jurchen would control northern China and the Song dynasty would control the south.

6. **How did the peddler's prediction about Hui Zong come true?**

After the Jurchen turned against China, they destroyed Kaifeng and captured Hui Zong. The emperor was a prisoner with no wealth or pride left. As the peddler had predicted, a day came when Hui Zong would have been glad to have a pancake like

the one offered by the peddler.

Chapter 6: Town and Country

1. What was daily life like for peasants in China?

The peasants spent most days in the fields, planting and harvesting rice. Life was not easy, and they worked very hard. Page 43

2. How much rice was consumed each day in the city of Hangzhou?

About 220 tons of rice were consumed each day in the city of Hangzhou.

3. What types of amusements and entertainments were people living in the city able to enjoy?

They could watch puppet shows, listen to music and storytellers, as well as watch acrobats, jugglers, tightrope walkers, and animal acts.

4. What were some of the differences between life in the city of Hangzhou and life in the countryside during the Song dynasty?

In rural areas, peasants worked long, difficult hours in rice fields. In the city of Hangzhou there were always many activities going on. Vendors sold a variety of goods. People enjoyed many different kinds of entertainment and going out to eat and drink in restaurants.

5. How was the geography of northern China different from that of southern China?

Northern China was very dry, but southern China had a great deal of water.

6. Who were the scholars, and how were they viewed by other Chinese people?

Scholars were an elite group of men who were among the most honored and respected people in China. Scholars had passed a series of difficult exams.

7. Why was the risk of fire so high in Hangzhou?

The buildings were built with wood and very close together. People cooked and lit their homes with open flames. If a lamp or lantern was dropped, the fire could catch and spread quickly.

Chapter 7: The Mongol Invasions

1. How did Chinggis Khan respond to his visitors from northern China?

Chinggis Khan did not speak. Instead, he spit on the ground, jumped on his horse, and then rode away.

2. How did Mongols train to be effective warriors?

Children were trained at an early age to ride horses and shoot with bows and arrows. Adults trained themselves to endure hardships, such as going without food and water.

3. How large was the area conquered by the Mongols?

The area stretched from the Pacific Ocean to Eastern Europe. It was the largest empire ever known.

4. Why is Chinggis Khan so famous?

Chinggis Khan ruled an expanding empire that eventually became the world's largest. His fame is due also to his reputation for spreading terror and cruelty, as well as to the

fact that his descendants continued to rule much of Asia for decades.

5. **How did Kublai Khan show he was not as cruel as his uncles and his grandfather?**

After Kublai Khan captured Hangzhou, the five-year-old Song emperor was brought before him. Kublai took pity on the boy and sent him to live in a Buddhist monastery.

Chapter 8: Kublai Khan and Marco Polo

1. **How would you describe Kublai Khan's surroundings in the Imperial City?**

Kublai Khan's surroundings were very unusual and an indication of his wealth. He had mechanical tigers on a platform near where he met guests. Some of the Mongols missed their way of life in Mongolia, so Kublai Khan had yurts with magnificent furniture inside placed in the gardens of the Imperial City. He also had grass from the Mongolian steppes collected and brought to the emperor's palace.

2. **What were some positive changes that Kublai Khan made in China?**

Kublai Khan built new roads, thousands of postal stations, and created a postal system to deliver messages throughout China more rapidly. He also built an observatory and put a new, more accurate calendar in place.

3. **What do we know about Marco Polo and his travels in China?**

Marco Polo wrote a famous book that describes in great detail the sights and sounds of Kublai Khan's vast empire. We know he visited China, but we don't know whether he ever met Kublai Khan.

4. **What was unusual about the Mongols' invasions of Japan and the region now called Vietnam?**

Even though the Mongols were mighty warriors, they were defeated during both invasions. A typhoon helped prevent the Mongol invasion of Japan.

Chapter 9: The Forbidden City

1. **What made Zhu Yuanzhang's appearance unusual?**

He had a large jaw and a pockmarked face. He is remembered in history for not being a handsome emperor.

2. **How would you describe Zhu Yuanzhang's early life?**

Zhu Yuanzhang came from very humble beginnings. He had poor parents and was eventually orphaned. He had to travel the countryside begging for food and money.

3. **When did the Ming dynasty start, and how did China change after the Ming dynasty replaced the Mongol emperor?**

Zhu Yuanzhang defeated the Mongol emperor and became the first Ming emperor. Although he could be a bad-tempered, cruel leader, he defended poor Chinese people, especially farmers. He and his son Zhu Di, who later became emperor, made China a strong nation again.

4. **Why was Zheng He so important to the Ming dynasty?**

At the emperor's request, he built a fleet of more than three hundred ships to explore the world. He sailed great distances and made contact with other countries. The emperor and other officials probably learned many new things about the places Zheng

He explored.

5. **Why do you think Zheng He kept detailed log books of his journeys?**

Student responses will vary. Students may note that the log books were a way for Zheng He to better remember all of the details of the places he'd been, including how he got there and whom he met.

6. **How would you describe the emperors of the Ming dynasty who came after Zhu Yuanzhang and Zhu Di?**

Many emperors spent money extravagantly on foolish luxuries, while many of the Chinese people were starving. The situation got even worse when climate changes led to even more people starving and to violence.

7. **How did the Manchu rulers treat the Chinese?**

They were strict. They outlawed weapons and required Chinese men to wear a queue to show loyalty to the Manchu government.

Chapter 10: The Last Dynasty

1. **Why did Qianlong refuse the goods from British officials?**

The emperor believed that the Chinese already possessed everything they could possibly need. He was uninterested in anything new or different because he thought China made the best of everything.

2. **How did the opium trade lead to war between China and Britain?**

A very addictive and destructive drug, opium harmed Chinese families to the degree that the Chinese government tried to stop its transport into China. In response, the British sent warships and eventually attacked the emperor's summer palace.

3. **What factors led to the decline of the final Chinese empire?**

Many factors led to the fall of the Chinese empire including population increases, employment shortages, foreign trade, and rebellions.

Unit quiz key

1. c 2. b 3. a 4. c 5. b 6. a 7. d 8. d 9. b 10. a 11. c 12. a 13. b 14. c 15. a 16. c 17. b 18. d 19. d 20. a