Traveling through China’s History

Dynasties:
- Qin (Ch’in) 221-206 B.C.
- Han Dynasty, 206 B.C.E.-220 C.E.
- Sui Dynasty, 581-618 C.E.
- Tang Dynasty, 618-907 C.E.
- Song [Sung] Dynasty, 960-1279 C.E.
- Yuan (Mongol) Dynasty, 1279-1368 C.E.
- Ming Dynasty, 1368-1644 C.E.
- Qing Dynasty 1644-1911 A.D.

Hmmmm... We are about ready to briefly study the cultural achievements of several dynasties!
1. USE A DICTIONARY AND LOOK UP THE TERM (DYNASTY).

2. LIST TWO REASONS WHY AN AGING DYNASTY LOSES THE CONFIDENCE OF THE PEOPLE.
3. USE A DICTIONARY AND LOOK UP THE TERM (MANDATE).
4. WHAT IS THE MANDATE OF HEAVEN?
5. IF THERE IS A SUCCESSFUL REVOLUTION THEN WHAT HAPPENED TO THE MANDATE?
6. IF THERE IS A NEW WINNER AND THE OLD EMPEROR IS DEFEATED WHAT WILL THE NEW WINNER ESTABLISH?
DYNASTIES OF CHINA

HSIA DYNASTY 2000 - 1500 BC
- BRONZE CASTINGS
- CULTIVATING OF SILKWORMS

SHANG DYNASTY 1500 – 1000BC
- POTTERY
- ANCESTOR WORSHIP
- WRITING
- HUMAN SACRIFICES

CHOU DYNASTY 1000 – 256BC
- IRON IMPLEMENTS
- METAL COINS
- FEUDALISM
- CLASSICAL AGE
- PHILOSOPHERS

HAN DYNASTY 206 –220AD
- PROMOTED CONFUCIANISM
- INTRODUCTION OF CIVIL SERVICE SYSTEM
- INTRODUCTION OF BUDDHISM
- SILK ROAD (JADE, SILK, BRONZE)
- DROUGHT RESISTANT RICE
- USE OF FERTILIZER
- WHEEL BARROW, SEISMOGRAPH
- MEDICAL COLLEGES, ACUPUNCTURE
- WATER CLOCK, SUN DIAL
- PAPER

TANG DYNASTY 618 - 907
- CIVIL SERVICE SYSTEM (CONFUCIANISM)
- BLOCK PRINTING
- INTERNATIONAL TRADE (DIFFUSION)
- LOWERED TAXES/ LAND REFORM
- CONSIDERED A GOLDEN AGE / ART
- LITERATURE/ PERIOD OF PEACE

QUIN (CHIHN) 256 – 206 BC
- END TO FEUDALISM
- LEGALIST PHILOSOPHY
- BOOK BURNING/PERSECUTION
- FORCED LABOR
- GREAT WALL / TROUBLE MAKERS
- ROADS (INFRASTRUCTURE)
- STANDARD WEIGHS AND MEASURES

SUNG (SONG) DYNASTY 960 - 1279
- CONTINUED PEACEFUL PERIOD
- MASSIVE TRADE / HUGE NAVY TO PROTECT
- MAGNETIC COMPASS/ RUDDER/MOVABLE
- MOVABLE TYPE/ PAPER MONEY/ GUN
- POWDER / FOOT BINDING /MECHANICAL
- CLOCK/ CONQUERED VIETNAM (IMPERIAL)
- PORCELAIN / POETRY/ ARTS INCREASED
YUAN (YOO-AHN) DYNASTY 1279-1368
- People from Mongolia (Mongols)
- Emperor Kublai Khan / grandson of Ghenghis Khan / first foreigners to rule all of China
- Ruled in China not from Mongolia
- Golden Horde / Terror
- Distrust of Chinese / advisors / top government jobs
- High gov. jobs to foreigners (Marco Polo) – Silk Road and advisor
- Mail routes / forerunner of Pony Express
- Pax – Mongolia (Peace within the Empire / promoted trade / Cult. Diff.
- Major failure / could not conquer Japan with 150,000 troops / typhoon / (Kamikaze) or divine winds save Japan
- Carried plague infected rats in supplies … spread of disease into South Asia, South West Asia, Europe
- This disease was called the Plague, the Black Death, or bubonic plague

MING DYNASTY 1368-1644
- Expelled the foreign Mongols
- Merit based civil service
- Portuguese 1557 given Macao
- Ruled until Dec. 1999
- Fish farming to raise food
- Fine porcelain (blue)
- Long voyages of Zheng He (Jung Huh) Chinese Muslim Admiral / 1405 Columbus of the East / S.E. Asia / India / Arabia / E. Afr.
- Floating naval city / ex. Goods
- 1453 Turn to isolation / self-suf.
- Smuggling occurred / xenophobia
- 1404-1420 – Built the Forbidden City
- Or Palace in Beijing / Libraries
- Galleries / compare to Versailles

49. Block printing, gunpowder, and the abacus were developed.
- Porcelain making and black ink painting on silk paper were perfected.
- The compass was discovered and used to improve the determination of direction when sailing.

These advances are associated with the
(1) Tang and Sung dynasties of China
(2) Guptas Empire in India
(3) Ghana and Mali civilizations of Africa
(4) Byzantine Empire in the Middle East
QUING (CH’ING) DYNASTY 1644 – 1912 CHINA’S LAST DYNASTY
- ANOTHER FOREIGN GROUP TO RULE CHINA (MANCHU PEOPLE) FROM MANCHURIA
- MANCHUS COULD NOT MARRY CHINESE, WEAR CHINESE CLOTHING
- DID KEEP CONFUCIAN IDEAS
- FORCED CHINESE TO **WEAR PIGTAILS** (QUEUE)
- NO CHINESE ALLOWED TO SETTLE IN MANCHURIA
- DEVELOPED CONCEPT OF MIDDLE KINGDOM
- ALLOWED TRADE IN SPECIAL AREAS OF CHINA (HAD TO KOWTOW)
- KOREA BECAME A TRIBUTE STATE
- TRADED TEA / SILK / PORCELAIN TO THE DUTCH
- FORCED TO ENDURE **UN-EQUAL TREATIES**
- SPHERES OF INFLUENCE SET UP
- **BOXER REBELLION**
How did Marco Polo’s travels change China and Europe?

Marco Polo (1254-1324)

- **Marco Polo**—A Venetian merchant.
- Traveled through Yuan (Mongol) China: 1271-1295. Learned about and introduced Europe to:
  - “Black Stones” [coal]
  - Gunpowder.
  - Noodles.
READ THE DOCUMENT – AN EXCERPT FROM “THE TRAVELS OF MARCO POLO”...THEN ANSWER THE FOLLOWING QUESTIONS.

1. WHAT DID THE POLO BROTHERS DELIVER TO THE GREAT KHAN?

_________________________________________________ & __________________________________________________

2. WHO SENT THE GIFTS? __________________________________________

WHAT WAS THIS INDIVIDUAL RESPONSIBLE FOR RUNNING?

______________________________________________________________

3. TODAY THE POLOS WOULD BE CONSIDERED CITIZENS OF WHAT COUNTRY?

______________________________________________________________

4. HOW DID THE GREAT KHAN TREAT FOREIGN EMISSARIES? _______

________ EXPLAIN YOUR ANSWER ______________________________________

______________________________________________________________

5. WHAT COUNTRY DID THE GREAT KHAN CONTROL? ___________

6. HOW WAS MARCO POLO DESCRIBED...AT HIS FIRST MEETING WITH THE GREAT KHAN?

______________________________________________________________

______________________________________________________________

7. IN POLO'S HOMETOWN WHAT WAS USED FOR MONEY? __________

8. WHAT WAS DIFFERENT ABOUT THE GREAT KHAN'S MONEY? ______

______________________________________________________________

9. “STONES THAT BURN LIKE LOGS” SHOWED POLO'S IGNORANCE OF __________________________________________________________

10. WHAT FAMOUS ROAD DID THE POLOS TRAVEL TO GET TO THE GREAT KHAN'S COUNTRY? _______________________________________
DOCUMENT – THE TRAVELS OF MARCO POLO


THE IDEA OF PAPER SUBSTITUTEING GOLD AND SILVER WAS A TOTAL SURPRISE EVEN TO THE MERCHANDISE POLOS. MARCO ATTRIBUTED THE SUCCESS OF PAPER MONEY TO KUBLAI STATURE AS A RULER. "WITH THESE PIECES OF PAPER THEY CAN BUY ANYTHING AND PAY FOR ANYTHING, AND I CAN TELL YOU THAT THE PAPERS THAT RECKON AS TEN BEZANTS DO NOT WEIGHT ONE." MARCO’S EXPRESSIONS OF WONDER AT "STONES THAT BURN LIKE LOGS" SHOW US HOW IGNORANT EVEN A MAN OF A LEADING MEDITERRANEAN SEA POWER COULD BE IN THE 13TH CENTURY. COAL WAS BY NO MEANS UNKNOWN IN EUROPE BUT WAS NEW TO MARCO: "IT IS TRUE THAT THEY HAVE PLENTY OF FIREWOOD, TOO. BUT THE POPULATION IS SO ENORMOUS AND THERE ARE SO MANY BATH-HOUSES AND BATHS CONSTANTLY BEING HEATED, THAT IT WOULD BE IMPOSSIBLE TO SUPPLY ENOUGH FIREWOOD, SINCE THERE IS NO ONE WHO DOES NOT VISIT A BATH-HOUSE AT LEAST 3 TIMES A WEEK AND TAKE A BATH - IN WINTER EVERY DAY, IF HE CAN MANAGE IT. EVERY MAN OF RANK OR MEANS HAS HIS OWN BATHROOM IN HIS HOUSE..SO THESE STONES, BEING VERY PLENTIFUL AND VERY CHEAP, EFFECT A GREAT SAVING OF WOOD."
Dinner With the Great Khan

The Polo family of Venice were dedicated merchants and intrepid adventurers who made the long overland trip by caravan to China several times. Marco Polo was not quite 20 years old when he traveled with his father and uncle to the court of the Mongol ruler Kublai Khan, known as the "Great Khan." With a flair for languages and diplomacy, Polo stayed in China and served the Khan until the 1290s. His book of adventures amazed most Europeans, who were unaware of the rich culture in China.

Guided Reading In this selection, read to learn what occurs at a banquet given by Kublai Khan.

When his majesty holds a grand and public court, those who attend it are seated in the following order. The table of the sovereign is placed on an elevation and he takes his seat on the northern side, with his face turned toward the south; and next to him, on his left hand, sits the Empress. On his right hand are placed his sons, grandsons, and other persons connected with him by blood, upon seats somewhat lower, so that their heads are on a level with the Emperor's feet. The other princes and the nobility have their places at still lower tables; and the same rules are observed with respect to the females, the wives of the sons, grandsons, and other relatives of the Great Khan being seated on the left hand at tables in like manner gradually lower; then follow the wives of the nobility and military officers; so that all are seated according to their respective ranks and dignities.

The tables are arranged in such a manner that the Great Khan, sitting on his elevated throne, can overlook the whole. It is not, however, to be understood that all who assemble on such occasions can be accommodated at tables. The greater part of the officers and even of the nobles, on the contrary, eat sitting upon carpets in the halls; and on the outside stand a great multitude of persons who come from different countries and bring with them many rare curiosities.

In the middle of the hall where the Great Khan sits at table, there is a magnificent piece of furniture made in the form of a square coffer [chest], each side of which is three paces in length, exquisitely carved in figures of animals and gilt. It is hollow within for the purpose of receiving a capacious vase of pure gold calculated to hold many gallons. On each of its four sides stands a smaller vessel containing about a hogshead [a unit of capacity], one of which is filled with mare's milk, another with that of the camel, and so of the others.

Officers of rank are likewise appointed, whose duty it is to see that all strangers who happen to arrive at the time of the festival and are unacquainted with the etiquette of the court are suitably accommodated with places; and these stewards are continually visiting every part of the hall, inquiring of the guests if there is anything with which they are unprovided or whether any of them wish for wine, milk, meat, or other articles, in which case it is immediately brought to them by the attendants.

At each door of the grand hall, or of whatever part the Great Khan happens to be in, stand two officers of gigantic figure [size], one on each side, with staves in their hands, for the purpose of preventing persons from touching the threshold with their feet and obliging them to step beyond it. If by chance anyone is guilty of this offense, the janitors [doorkeepers] take from him his garment, which he must redeem for money; or when they do not take the garment, they inflict on him such a number of blows as they have authority for doing. But as strangers may be unacquainted with the prohibition, officers are appointed to introduce and warn them. This precaution is used because touching the threshold is regarded as a bad omen. In departing from the hall, as some of the company may be affected by the liquor, it is impossible to guard against the accident, and the order is not then strictly enforced.

The numerous persons who attend at the sideboard of his Majesty and who serve him with victuals [food] and drink are all obliged to
cover their noses and mouths with handsome veils or cloths of worked silk, in order that his victuals or his wine may not be affected by their breath. When the drink is called for by him and the page-in-waiting has presented it, he [the page] retires three paces and kneels down, upon which the courtiers and all who are present in like manner make their prostration [obedient posture]. At the same moment all the musical instruments . . . begin to play and continue to do so until he has ceased drinking, when all the company recover their posture. This reverential salutation is made as often as his Majesty drinks . . .

When the repast is finished and the tables have been removed, persons of various descriptions enter the hall, and among these a troop of comedians and performers on different instruments. Also tumblers and jugglers, who exhibit their skill in the presence of the Great Khan, to the high amusement and gratification of all the spectators. When these sports are concluded, the people separate and each returns to his own house.

**INTERPRETING THE READING**

**Directions** Use information from the reading to answer the following questions. If necessary, use a separate sheet of paper.

1. How does the seating at court indicate a person’s rank and sex? Who ranks highest after the Khan and his wife?

2. How does the banquet seem to reflect the Mongol—rather than Chinese—culture?

3. What ceremony accompanies each drink taken by the Khan?

4. What kinds of entertainment at court does Marco Polo describe?

**Critical Thinking**

5. **Recognizing Ideologies** What superstition is shown in the ceremony of stepping over (not on) the threshold? Can you think of any similar superstitions people hold today?
Chinese Cultural Studies:
Matteo Ricci:
The Art of Printing (late 16th Century CE)


[Duiker Introduction] One of the first sources of information about China were the Jesuits who served at the Ming court in the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries. Clerics such as Matteo Ricci found much to admire in Chinese civilization. Here Ricci expresses a keen interest in Chinese printing methods, which at that time were well in advance of the techniques used in the West.

The art of printing was practiced in China at a date somewhat earlier than that assigned to the beginning of printing in Europe, which was about 1405. It is quite certain that the Chinese knew the art of printing at least five centuries ago, and some of them assert that printing was known to their people before the beginning of the Christian era, about 50 BCE. Their method of printing differs widely from that employed in Europe, and our method would be quite impracticable for them because of the exceedingly large number of Chinese characters and symbols. At present they cut their characters in a reverse position and in a simplified form, on a comparatively small tablet made for the most part from the wood of the pear tree or the apple tree, although at times the wood of the jujube tree is also used for this purpose.

Their method of making printed books is quite ingenious. The text is written in ink, with a brush made of very fine hair, on a sheet of paper which is inverted and pasted on a wooden tablet. When the paper has become thoroughly dry, its surface is scraped off quickly and with great skill, until nothing but a fine tissue bearing the characters remains on the wooden tablet. Then, with a steel graver, the workman cuts away the surface following the outlines of the characters until these alone stand out in low relief. From such a block a skilled printer can make copies with incredible speed, turning out as many as fifteen hundred copies in a single day. Chinese printers are so skilled in engraving these blocks, that no more time is consumed in making one of them than would be required by one of our printers in setting up a form of type and making the necessary corrections. This scheme of engraving wooden blocks is well adapted for the large and complex nature of the Chinese
characters, but I do not think it would lend itself very aptly to our European type which could hardly be engraved upon wood because of its small dimensions.

Their method of printing has one decided advantage, namely, that once these tablets are made, they can be preserved and used for making changes in the text as often as one wishes. Additions and subtractions can also be made as the tablets can be readily patched. Again, with this method, the printer and the author are not obliged to produce here and now an excessively large edition of a book, but are able to print a book in smaller or larger lots sufficient to meet the demand at the time. We have derived great benefit from this method of Chinese printing, as we employ the domestic help in our homes to strike off copies of the books on religious and scientific subjects which we translate into Chinese from the languages in which they were written originally. In truth, the whole method is so simple that one is tempted to try it for himself alone after once having watched the process. The simplicity of Chinese printing is what accounts for the exceedingly large numbers of books in circulation here and the ridiculously low prices at which they are sold. Such facts as these would scarcely be believed by one who had not witnessed them.

They have another odd method of reproducing reliefs which have been cut into marble or wood. An epitaph, for example, or a picture set out in low relief on marble or on wood, is covered with a piece of moist paper which in turn is overlayed with several pieces of cloth. Then the entire surface is beaten with a small mallet until all the lineaments of the relief are impressed upon the paper. When the paper dries, ink or some other coloring substance is applied with a light touch, after which only the impression of the relief stands out on the original whiteness of the paper. This method cannot be employed when the relief is shallow, or too delicate.

ANALYZING A DBQ –

1. WHAT IS AN ORIGINAL OR PRIMARY SOURCE?

2. IS THIS DOCUMENT AN ORIGINAL SOURCE EXPLAIN YOUR ANSWER

3. WHO IS MATTEO RICCI?

4. WHAT IS THE MAJOR THEME OR IDEA OF THIS DOCUMENT?

5. HOW DO THE CHINESE PRINT BOOKS ACCORDING TO THIS DOCUMENT?
   STEP 1
   STEP 2

6. HOW DOES THIS METHOD OF PRINTING AFFECT SUPPLY?

7. COMPARE THE PRICE OF PRINTING A BOOK IN ITALY WITH ONE PRINTED IN CHINA?

8. MATTEO RICCI IS FROM WHAT GEOGRAPHIC REGION OF THE WORLD?
READ THE DOCUMENT “ZHENG HE THE MARITIME EXPEDITIONS” THEN ANSWER THE PROVIDED QUESTIONS.

1. WHO WAS ZHENG HE?

2. WHO DID HE WORK FOR?
   WHAT WAS HIS POSITION IN CHINA?

3. LIST THE DIMENSIONS OF THE LARGEST CHINESE SHIP?

4. USE A DICTIONARY AND LOOK UP THE TERM (TRIBUTE)
   WHAT NATION DEMANDED TRIBUTE?

5. LIST TWO AREAS VISITED BY ZHENG HE &

6. HOW MANY MEN WENT ON THE FIRST MISSION WITH ZHENG HE?

7. SPREADING CHINESE IDEAS IS AN EXAMPLE OF

8. WHAT DID ZHENG HE BRING BACK TO CHINA?

9. WHAT WAS THE NAME OF THE NEW CHINESE CAPITAL BEING BUILT?

10. WHAT WAS THE YEAR THAT THE CHINESE EXPEDITIONS ENDED?

11. WHAT DYNASTY DOES THIS DOCUMENT CONCENTRATE ON?

12. WHAT IS PORCELAIN? (USE A DICTIONARY)

13. WHAT IS A KILN? (USE A DICTIONARY)

14. WHAT CHINESE CITY WAS LINKED TO THE REST OF CHINA BY
   THIS MAN-MADE DITCH?
   NAME THIS MAN-MADE WATER WAY

15. WHAT COLOR PORCELAIN WAS IN GREAT DEMAND THROUGHOUT
   THE WORLD?

16. CHINESE PORCELAIN INFLUENCED WHAT EUROPEAN NATION’S
   POTTERY?
Zheng He THE MARITIME EXPEDITIONS

He led seven maritime expeditions from 1405 to 1433, the last being authorized by Zhu Di's grandson Zhu Zhanji, the fifth Ming emperor. Each mission lasted on average about 20 months. Though the number of ships varied between campaigns, over 300 ships were involved in the first mission, and overall thousands of ships were constructed for the missions. The largest of the ships were 134 m (440 ft) long and 57 m (186 ft) wide. Typical of all the expeditions, the first mission carried 27,800 men. The armadas navigated through the Malacca Strait, entered the Indian Ocean, and sailed to the Persian Gulf and Red Sea. Although the Ming emperors were interested in exploration, their chief purposes were to spread Chinese influence and induce the countries visited to pay valuable tributes to the Ming court. Zheng He returned with curios and artifacts from the discovered lands, including animals such as giraffes, ostriches, and zebras, some of which had never been seen before in China.

Gradually, however, interest in geographical knowledge and foreign artifacts began to be outweighed by the sheer cost of the expeditions. The timing made the expeditions even more burdensome, since the shipbuilding program was carried on while the Ming armies were fighting on the northern and southern fronts. Furthermore, these expeditions occurred at the same time as the construction of the new capital and the Great Wall and improvements to the Grand Canal linking Beijing with the Huang He and the Yangtze River. While executing all these projects, Emperor Zhu Di did nothing to reform the Ming's decentralized administrative structure. As a result, the complicated task of extracting materials and labor from the village-oriented economy proved difficult. When the government was not able to obtain the money required through taxation, it issued paper currency.

Since Zhu Di's expansionist policies had overtaxed the Ming governmental resources, fiscal crises developed and his successors had to retrench to save the dynasty. Annam was abandoned. The paper currency gradually fell into disuse. After 1433 no more maritime expeditions were attempted. The military expansion of the Ming ended in 1449, when Zhu Qizhen (Chu Ch'i-chen), the sixth emperor, was captured by the Oirot Mongols during an inspection tour of the northern frontier. Although he was returned unharmed, the empire never recovered its military dominance of the region.
However, during the Ming period PORCELAIN gained wide recognition. The kilns there were able to turn out enough high-quality pieces to supply all of China. Famous styles include YELLOW imperial bowls, RED monochrome vases, and highly decorated enameled ceramics painted in traditional patterns. IN ADDITION, THE TRADITIONAL BLUE-AND-WHITE PIECES that inspired Dutch delftware had their origins in the Ming period. To this day connoisseurs value certain marks on Ming porcelain that indicate the patronage of a particular emperor. During the Ming period, cotton weaving flourished in the Yangtze River delta, while silk manufacturing also became prominent in the same region.¹

This blue-and-white ware became a major export item in the Ming period (1368-1644). Under its clear glaze the porcelain body was painted with designs of great vigor and freedom of line in cobalt oxide (imported from Iran until a local source was substituted). These pieces became the favorites of 16th-century Europe, although Ming potters also made polychrome stoneware and monochromatic and white wares. New in the Ming era was the delicate Touts'ai ware, a glassy porcelain with overglaze enamel painting. The court provided potters with a wide variety of new designs: scrolls, fruit, flowers, and scenes with people. Pottery was marked with dates of the emperors' reigns; the marks of successful pieces were imitated in later times.
ACROSS
3. Buddhism was introduced to this dynasty, seismograph and acupuncture also are linked to this dynasty
4. Name of people who came from Manchuria
6. Movable type, paper money, gun powder, foot binding are associated with this dynasty
7. First foreign dynasty to rule China
9. Period of great destruction and loss of life...decentralized gov.
15. Fear of outsiders, established by the Mings...Post Zheng He
17. Philosophy used to maintain strict law and order, those who broke rules were treated very harshly
18. Chinese admiral that visited S. Asia, S.W. Asia, and E. Africa, sailed for the Ming dynasty

DOWN
1. A liquid drink that the British imported from China
2. Considered one of China's golden ages
5. Five relationships are the work of this individual
6. Ancestor worship and oracle bones identify with this dynasty
8. Great Wall of China started during this dynasty
10. Considered high class in traditional China, grew their fingernails long to show contempt for manual labor
11. Chinese nationalists who tried to drive out the Imperialists
12. Imperialism in China... the French, British, Germans, Japanese, and the Russians
13. European who worked for Kubla Khan, travelled the silk road, introduced burning stones to Europe...
14. Last dynasty of China
16. Period of peace that was maintained by the Mongols...trade and the silk road
19. This area was taken by the British as a result of the Opium War