Each civilization that you will study in this unit made important contributions to history.

- The Chinese first produced gunpowder, the compass, and printed books.
- The Japanese developed a constitution and new forms of art and poetry.
- The Europeans took the first steps toward representative government.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Event</th>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Event</th>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Event</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A.D. 300</td>
<td>Chinese figurines</td>
<td>A.D. 450</td>
<td>C. A.D. 590</td>
<td>Grand Canal links northern and southern China</td>
<td>A.D. 750</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A.D. 400</td>
<td>Yamato clan controls Japan</td>
<td>A.D. 600</td>
<td>A.D. 631</td>
<td>Prince Shotoku writes constitution</td>
<td>A.D. 900</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A.D. 496</td>
<td>King Clovis becomes a Catholic</td>
<td>A.D. 800</td>
<td>Pope crowns Charlemagne emperor</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>c. A.D. 590</td>
<td></td>
<td>c. A.D. 400</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
A.D. 1050
- Chinese invent movable type
- Lady Murasaki Shikibu composes *The Tale of Genji*
- Vikings reach North America

A.D. 1200
- Chinese invent movable type
- Lady Murasaki Shikibu composes *The Tale of Genji*
**People to Meet**

1. **Buddha statue**
   - A.D. 573–621
   - Japanese leader
   - Chapter 5, p. 300

2. **Takamatsu Castle**
   - A.D. 742–814
   - Frankish ruler
   - Chapter 6, p. 329

3. **Prince Shotoku**
   - A.D. 742–814
   - Frankish ruler
   - Chapter 6, p. 329

4. **Charlemagne**
   - C. A.D. 973–1025
   - Japanese writer
   - Chapter 5, p. 313
China in the Middle Ages

- A.D. 581: Wendi founds the Sui dynasty
- 1206: Genghis Khan unites the Mongols
- 1405: Zheng He begins overseas voyage

Where & When?

- A.D. 600
- A.D. 900
- 1200
- 1500

Imperial Palace at the Forbidden City
China Reunites

Systems of order, such as law and government, contribute to stable societies. During the Middle Ages, Chinese rulers who supported Confucian ideas brought peace, order, and growth to China.

Chinese Society

The interaction of different societies brings about the development of new ideas, art, and technology. Farming and trade brought wealth to China. This allowed the Chinese to develop new technology and enjoy a golden age of art and writing.

The Mongols in China

All civilizations depend upon leadership for survival. Led by Genghis Khan, the Mongols built a vast empire. Under his son, Kublai Khan, they went on to conquer China as well.

The Ming Dynasty

Exploration and trade spread ideas and goods. China’s Ming rulers strengthened the government and supported trading voyages that spread Chinese ideas and goods.

View the Chapter 4 video in the Glencoe Video Program.

Categorizing Information  Make this foldable to help you organize your notes about China in the Middle Ages.

Step 1  Fold a sheet of paper in half from side to side, leaving 1/2 inch tab along the side.

Step 2  Turn the paper and fold it into fourths.

Step 3  Unfold and cut along the top three fold lines.

Step 4  Label as shown.

Reading and Writing

As you read the chapter, identify the main ideas in the chapter. Write these under the appropriate tab.
Making Connections

1 Learn It!

Making connections means relating what you read to what you already know. Read the excerpts below.

Text-to-self: personal experiences
Have you ever eaten at a Chinese restaurant? How important do you think rice is to the Chinese diet? What kind of foods do you eat every day?

Farmers also developed new kinds of rice, which grew well in poor soil, produced more per acre, grew faster, and were resistant to disease.

These changes helped farmers grow more and more rice. China’s farmers also began to grow tea, which became a popular drink. They made improvements in other crops as well. With more food available, the number of people in China greatly increased.

— from page 261

Text-to-world: events in other places
How popular is tea in China today? What is the most popular drink in the United States?

Text-to-text: what you have read before
Have you ever read about China’s population? How important is the food supply to them today?

The better the connection is, the easier it is to remember. Be sure to make connections with memorable ideas or experiences from your life.
With a partner, read the following paragraphs. Make a list of the connections you made and compare them to your partner’s list. Discuss what things in your lives relate to the story of Marco Polo.

One of the most famous European travelers to reach China was Marco Polo (MAHR • koh POH • loh). He came from the city of Venice in Italy. Kublai Khan was fascinated by Marco Polo’s stories about his travels. For about 16 years, Polo enjoyed a special status in the country. Kublai sent him on many fact-finding and business trips. For three of those years, Polo ruled the Chinese city of Yangchow. When Polo finally returned to Europe, he wrote a book about his adventures. His accounts of the wonders of China amazed Europeans.

—from page 273

Choose five words or phrases from this chapter that make a connection to something you already know.

Choose one of the three types of connections that you make most often. Write a brief paragraph explaining why.

Kublai Khan presents gift to Marco Polo.

Choose five words or phrases from this chapter that make a connection to something you already know.

Choose one of the three types of connections that you make most often. Write a brief paragraph explaining why.

Kublai Khan presents gift to Marco Polo.
Looking Back, Looking Ahead

You learned in 6th grade that the Han dynasty of China collapsed and China plunged into civil war. As you will read, China eventually reunited. The new dynasties took Chinese civilization to even higher levels.

Focusing on the Main Ideas

• The Sui and Tang dynasties reunited and rebuilt China after years of war. (page 253)
• Buddhism became popular in China and spread to Korea and Japan. (page 256)
• The Tang dynasty returned to the ideas of Confucius and created a new class of scholar-officials. (page 258)

Locating Places
Korea (kuh•REE•uh)
Japan (juh•PAN)

Meeting People
Wendi (WHEHN•DEE)
Empress Wu (WOO)

Content Vocabulary
warlord
economy (ih•KAH•nuh•mee)
reform
monastery (MAH•nuh•STEH•ee)

Academic Vocabulary
project (PRAH•JEHKT)
seek
medical (MEH•dih•kuhl)

Reading Strategy
Categorizing Information
Complete a table like the one below to show the time periods, the most important rulers, and the reasons for the decline of the Sui and Tang dynasties.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time Period</th>
<th>Sui</th>
<th>Tang</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Important Rulers</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Reasons for Decline</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

A.D. 500
- Wendi founds Sui dynasty

A.D. 581
- Wendi founds Sui dynasty

A.D. 907
- Tang dynasty falls

1279
- Mongols end Song rule
WH7.3.1 Describe the reunification of China under the Tang Dynasty and reasons for the spread of Buddhism in Tang China, Korea, and Japan.

Rebuilding China’s Empire

Main Idea The Sui and Tang dynasties reunited and rebuilt China after years of war.

Reading Connection Have you ever thought about how the economy in your town or city works? How do goods get to your local stores? Who makes sure roads are paved? Read to learn how China dealt with these issues.

Earlier you read that China’s Han empire ended in A.D. 220. For the next 300 years, China had no central government. It broke into 17 kingdoms. War and poverty were everywhere. Chinese warlords—military leaders who run a government—fought with each other while nomads conquered parts of northern China.

While China was absorbed in its own problems, it lost control of some of the groups it had conquered. One of these groups was the people of Korea (kuh•REE•uh). They lived on the Korean Peninsula to the northeast of China. The Koreans decided to end Chinese rule of their country. They broke away and built their own separate civilization.

The Reunification of China China finally reunited in A.D. 581. In that year, a general who called himself Wendi (WHEHN•DEE) declared himself emperor. Wendi won battle after battle and reunited China by force. He then founded a new short-lived dynasty called the Sui (SWEE).
After Wendi died, his son Yangdi (YAHNG•DEE) took the Chinese throne. Yangdi wanted to expand China’s territory. He sent an army to fight the neighboring Koreans, but the Chinese were badly defeated. At home, Yangdi took on many ambitious building projects. For example, the Great Wall had fallen into ruins, and Yangdi had it rebuilt.

Yangdi’s greatest effort went into building the Grand Canal. This system of waterways linked the Chang Jiang (Yangtze River) and Huang He (Yellow River). The Grand Canal became an important route for shipping products between northern and southern China. It helped unite China’s economy. An economy (ih•KAH•nuh•mee) is an organized way in which people produce, sell, and purchase things.

In 1994 China began building the Three Gorges Dam on the Chang Jiang. The dam will control flooding and produce electricity. Building it, however, requires many areas to be flooded. Millions of people have had to move, and much farmland will be lost. What have construction projects changed in your state?
Yangdi rebuilt China, but he did it by placing stress on the Chinese people. Farmers were forced to work on the Great Wall and the Grand Canal. They also had to pay high taxes to the government for these projects. Finally, the farmers became so angry that they revolted. The army took control and killed Yangdi. With Yangdi gone, the Sui dynasty came to an end.

The Tang Dynasty  In A.D. 618 one of Yangdi’s generals took over China. He made himself emperor and set up a new dynasty called the Tang (TAHNG). Unlike the short-lived Sui, the Tang dynasty was in power for about 300 years—from A.D. 618 to A.D. 907. The Tang capital at Chang’an became a magnificent city, with about one million people living there.

Tang rulers worked to strengthen China’s government. They carried out a number of reforms, or changes that brought improvements. The most powerful Tang emperor was named Taizong (TY•ZAWNG). He restored the civil service exam system. Government officials were once again hired based on how well they did on exams rather than on their family connections. Taizong also gave land to farmers and stabilized the countryside.

During the late A.D. 600s, a woman named Wu ruled China as empress. She was the only woman in Chinese history to rule the country on her own. A forceful leader, Empress Wu (WOO) added more officials to the government. She also strengthened China’s military forces.

Under the Tang, China regained much of its power in Asia and expanded the areas under its control. Tang armies pushed west into central Asia, invaded Tibet, and took control of the Silk Road. They marched into Korea and forced the Korean kingdoms to pay tribute, a special kind of tax that one country pays to another to be left alone. The Tang also moved south and took control of northern Vietnam.

By the mid-A.D. 700s, however, the Tang dynasty began to have problems. A new group of nomads known as the Turks drove the Tang armies out of central Asia and took control of the Silk Road. This damaged China’s economy. Revolts in Tibet and among Chinese farmers at home further weakened the Tang. In A.D. 907 all of this disorder caused the Tang dynasty to collapse.

The Song Dynasty  For about 50 years after the fall of the Tang, military leaders ruled China. Then, in A.D. 960, one of the generals declared himself emperor and set up the Song (SOONG) dynasty.
The Song dynasty ruled from A.D. 960 to 1279. This period was a time of prosperity and cultural achievement for China. From the start, however, the Song faced problems that threatened their hold on China. Song rulers did not have enough soldiers to control their large empire. Tibet broke away, and nomads took over much of northern China. For safety, the Song moved their capital farther south to the city of Hangzhou (HÀNH•JOH). Hangzhou was on the coast near the Chang Jiang delta.

Buddhism Spreads to China

**Main Idea**  Buddhism became popular in China and spread to Korea and Japan.

**Reading Connection**  Where do you turn when you are having problems? Read to learn why many Chinese turned to Buddhism when China was in trouble.

Traders and missionaries from India brought Buddhism to China in about A.D. 150. At the time, the Han dynasty was already weak. Soon afterward, China collapsed into civil war. People everywhere were dying from war and a lack of food and shelter. It was a time of great suffering. Buddhism taught that people could escape their suffering by following its principles. As a result, many Chinese seeking peace and comfort became Buddhists.

**Chinese Buddhism**  Early Tang rulers were not Buddhists, but they allowed Buddhism to be practiced in China. They even

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**City Life in Tang China**

Under the Tang, China grew and was prosperous. Tang cities could be large, with many activities occurring within the city’s walls. A city contained many shops and temples. The homes of rich families often had two or three floors. *When did the Tang rule China?*
supported the building of Buddhist temples. Many Chinese Buddhists became monks and nuns. They lived in places called monasteries (MAH•nuh•STEHR•eez), where they meditated and worshiped.

Buddhist temples and monasteries provided services for people. They ran schools and provided rooms and food for travelers. Buddhist monks served as bankers and provided medical care.

Not all Chinese people liked Buddhism, however. Many thought that it was wrong for the Buddhist temples and monasteries to accept donations. Others believed that monks and nuns weakened respect for family life because they were not allowed to marry.

In the early A.D. 800s, Tang officials feared Buddhism’s growing power. They saw Buddhism as an enemy of China’s traditions. In A.D. 845 the Tang had many Buddhist monasteries and temples destroyed. Buddhism in China never fully recovered.

**Chinese Buddhism Spreads East** As you read earlier, Korea broke free of China when the Han dynasty fell in A.D. 220. For several hundred years after, Korea was divided into three distinct kingdoms.

In the A.D. 300s, Chinese Buddhists brought their religion to Korea. About A.D. 660, the Koreans united to form one country. After that, with government support, Buddhism grew even stronger in Korea.

Buddhism later spread to the nearby islands of Japan (juh•PAN). According to legend, one of Korea’s kings wrote to Japan’s emperor. The letter contained a statue of the Buddha and Buddhist writings. “This religion is the most excellent of all teachings,” the king wrote. As time passed, Buddhism won many followers in Japan as well.

**Reading Check** Explain Why did some Chinese people dislike Buddhism?
New Confucian Ideas

Main Idea  The Tang dynasty returned to the ideas of Confucius and created a new class of scholar-officials.

Reading Connection  Have you ever seen someone get a reward that he or she did not earn? Read to learn how China’s rulers tried to avoid this problem when hiring government officials.

You have already learned about Confucius and his teachings. Confucius and his followers believed that a good government depended on having wise leaders who ruled to benefit the people. The civil service examinations introduced by Han rulers were a product of Confucian ideas. These examinations were supposed to recruit talented government officials.

After the fall of the Han dynasty, no national government existed to give civil service examinations. Confucianism lost much support, and Buddhism with its spiritual message won many followers. Tang and Song rulers, however, brought Confucianism back into favor.

What Is Neo-Confucianism?  The Tang dynasty gave its support to a new kind of Confucianism called neo-Confucianism. This new Confucianism was created, in part, to reduce Buddhism’s popularity. It taught that life in this world was just as important as the afterlife. Followers were expected to take part in life and help others.

Although it criticized Buddhist ideas, this new form of Confucianism also picked up some Buddhist and Daoist beliefs. For many Chinese, Confucianism became more than a system of rules for being good. It became a religion with beliefs about the spiritual world. Confucian thinkers taught that if people followed Confucius’s teachings, they would find peace of mind and live in harmony with nature.

The Song dynasty, which followed the Tang, also supported neo-Confucianism. The Song even adopted it as their official philosophy, or belief system.

Scholar-Officials  Neo-Confucianism also became a way to strengthen the government. Both Tang and Song rulers used civil service examinations to hire officials. In doing so, they based the bureaucracy on a merit system. Under a merit system, people are accepted for what they can do and not on their riches or personal contacts.

Defending Confucianism

Han Yu (A.D. 768 to A.D. 824) encouraged the Chinese people to remain faithful to Confucianism.

“What were the teachings of our ancient kings? Universal love is called humanity. To practice this in the proper manner is called righteousness. To proceed according to these is called the Way. . . . They offered sacrifices to Heaven and the gods came to receive them. . . . What Way is this? I say: This is what I call the Way, and not what the Taoists [Daoists] and the Buddhists called the Way. . . .”

—Han Yu, “An Inquiry on The Way” (Tao)

DBQ Document-Based Question

Why does Han Yu think Confucianism should be followed?
The examinations tested job seekers on their knowledge of Confucian writings. To pass, it was necessary to write with style as well as understanding. The tests were supposed to be fair, but only men could take them. Also, only rich people had the money to help their sons study for the tests.

Passing the tests was very difficult. However, parents did all they could to prepare their sons. At the age of four, boys started learning to write the characters of the Chinese language. Later, students had to memorize all of Confucius’s writings. If a student recited the passages poorly, he could expect to be hit by his teacher.

After many years of study, the boys took their examinations. Despite all the preparation, only one in five passed. Those who failed usually found jobs helping officials or teaching others. However, they would never be given a government job.

Over the years, the examination system created a new wealthy class in China. This group was made up of scholar-officials. Strict rules set the scholar-officials apart from society. At the same time, these scholar-officials began to influence Chinese thought and government well into modern times.

Describe How did Confucianism change in China?
Looking Back, Looking Ahead
In the last section, you learned about the rise and fall of the Sui, Tang, and Song dynasties. During those dynasties, China’s economy began to grow again. Chinese inventors developed many new technologies, and Chinese artists and writers produced new works that are still admired today.

Focusing on the Main Ideas
• The Tang dynasty strengthened China’s economy by supporting farming and trade. (page 261)
• The Chinese developed new technologies, such as steelmaking and printing. (page 262)
• During the Tang and the Song dynasties, China enjoyed a golden age of art and literature. (page 264)

Locating Places
Chang’an (CHAHNG•AHN)

Meeting People
Li Bo (LEE BOH)
Du Fu (DOO FOO)

Content Vocabulary
porcelain (POHR•suh•luhn)
calligraphy (kuh•LIH•gruh•fee)

Academic Vocabulary
available (uh•VAY•luh•buhl)
method (MEH•thuhd)

Reading Strategy
Organizing Information Complete a chart like the one below describing the new technologies developed in China during the Middle Ages.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>New Technologies</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Where & When?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>A.D. 600</th>
<th>A.D. 900</th>
<th>1200</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A.D. 618</td>
<td>A.D. 868</td>
<td>c. 1150</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tang dynasty takes power</td>
<td>Chinese print world’s first complete book</td>
<td>Chinese sailors are the first to use compass</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Chang’an, Hangzhou
A Growing Economy

The Tang dynasty strengthened China’s economy by supporting farming and trade.

Reading Connection Do you know anyone who drinks tea or wears silk clothing? Both of these goods were first produced in China. Read to learn how farming changed under the Tang dynasty.

When the Han dynasty in China collapsed in the A.D. 200s, it was a disaster for China’s economy. As fighting began, cities were damaged and farms were burned. Artisans made fewer goods, farmers grew fewer crops, and merchants had less to trade. Under the Tang dynasty, these problems were solved.

Why Did Farming Improve? When the Tang rulers took power in A.D. 618, they brought peace to the countryside and gave more land to farmers. As a result, farmers were able to make many advances. They improved irrigation and introduced new ways of growing their crops. Farmers also developed new kinds of rice, which grew well in poor soil, produced more per acre, grew faster, and were resistant to disease.

These changes helped farmers grow more and more rice. China’s farmers also began to grow tea, which became a popular drink. They made improvements in other crops as well. With more food available, the number of people in China greatly increased. At the same time, more people moved southward, where rice grew abundantly in the Chang Jiang valley. This led to the rise of new cities.

China’s Trade Grows Tang rulers also had roads and waterways built. These changes made travel within and outside of China much easier. Chinese merchants were able to increase trade with people in other parts of Asia. The Silk Road, now under Tang control, once again bustled with activity.

Silk, shown here being harvested, remained an important trade item for the Chinese. How did Tang rulers help increase trade?

A worker removes a tray of silkworms eating mulberry leaves. Eventually the worms will spin cocoons. Workers then collect and unravel the cocoons to make silk thread. Why do you think silk is still expensive today?
One of the items traded by the Chinese was silk fabric. This product gave the road its name and was popular in markets to the west of China. In addition, China traded other products, such as tea, steel, paper, and porcelain. **Porcelain** (POHR•suh•luhn) is made of fine clay and baked at high temperatures. In return, other countries sent China products such as gold, silver, precious stones, and fine woods.

Other trade routes were also established. Roads linked China to central Asia, India, and southwest Asia. In addition, the Tang opened new ports along China’s coast to boost trade.

**Cause and Effect** How did the new kinds of rice developed in China help its population grow?

**New Technology**

**Main Idea** The Chinese developed new technologies, such as steelmaking and printing.

**Reading Connection** This book is made of paper with letters printed on the paper by a machine. Read to learn how printing was first invented in China during the Tang dynasty.

During the Tang and Song dynasties, new inventions changed China’s society. In time, these discoveries spread to other parts of the world.

**China Discovers Coal and Steel** For most of China’s history, people burned wood to heat their homes and cook their food. By the time of the Tang dynasty, wood was

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**Chang’an’s Royal Palace**

The Tang capital city of Chang’an may have had a population of one million people at its peak. The city had large blocks that included houses, businesses, and temples set along straight streets. Its layout inspired the design of many later cities. The area containing the royal palace, shown below, was bordered by parklands. **What improvements to agriculture allowed China’s population to grow during the Tang dynasty?**
becoming scarce in China. However, the Chinese had discovered that coal could be used to heat things, and soon a coal-mining industry developed.

The Chinese used coal to heat furnaces to high temperatures, which led to another discovery. When iron was produced in hot furnaces heated by coal, the molten iron mixed with carbon from the coal. This created a new, stronger metal known today as steel.

The Chinese used steel to make many things. They made armor, swords, and helmets for their army, but they also made stoves, farm tools, drills, steel chain, and even steel nails and sewing needles.

The Printing Process Paper had been invented under the Han dynasty. Under the Tang, the manufacture of paper reached new heights. For example, the Tang government printed about 500,000 sheets of paper a year just to assess taxes.

The mass production of paper led to another important Chinese innovation: a method for printing books. Before printing, books were copied by hand and were very expensive.

The Chinese began printing in the A.D. 600s. They used blocks of wood on which they cut the characters of an entire page. Ink was placed over the wooden block. Then paper was laid on the block to make a print. Cutting the block took a long time, but the woodblocks could be used again and again to make copies.

Printing allowed for yet another important Chinese invention: paper currency. As both the production of rice increased and trade increased during the Tang dynasty, Chinese merchants needed more money to conduct business. Eventually it became difficult for the Chinese to make enough copper coins to support the economy throughout the empire.
In 1024, during the Song dynasty, the Chinese decided to print the world’s first paper money as a way to help merchants. Paper money helped the economy to expand and cities to grow.

The Chinese soon began printing books. The earliest known printed book dates from about A.D. 868. It is a Buddhist book called the *Diamond Sutra*. The invention of printing was very important. It helped to spread ideas more rapidly.

In the A.D. 1000s, a Chinese printer named Pi Sheng (BEE SHUHNG) invented movable type for printing. With movable type, each character is a separate piece. The pieces can be moved around to make sentences and used again and again. Pi Sheng made his pieces from clay and put them together to produce book pages. However, because written Chinese has so many characters, woodblock printing was easier.

**Other Chinese Inventions** The Chinese made gunpowder for use in explosives. One weapon was the fire lance, an ancestor of the gun. It used gunpowder and helped make the Chinese army a strong force. The Chinese also used gunpowder to make fireworks.

The Chinese also built large ships with rudders and sails. About 1150, Chinese sailors began using the compass to help them find their way. This let ships sail farther from land. With these inventions, the Chinese would eventually sail to Indonesia, India, and other places to the west.

Eventually many of these inventions would have a great impact on Europe. For example, block printing made it possible to publish books in large numbers. Gunpowder changed how wars were fought, and the compass encouraged Europeans to explore the world.

**Art and Literature**

**Main Idea** During the Tang and the Song dynasties, China enjoyed a golden age of art and literature.

**Reading Connection** If you were to choose one poem to read to the class, which poem would it be? Below, you will read a poem that is a Chinese favorite.

The Tang and Song eras were a golden age for Chinese culture. The invention of printing helped to spread Chinese ideas and artwork. Chinese rulers actively supported art and literature, and invited artists and poets to live and work in the capital city of Chang’an (CHAHNG•AHN).

**What Was Tang Poetry Like?** Chinese writers best expressed themselves in poems. In fact, the Tang dynasty is viewed as the great age of poetry in China. Some Tang poems celebrated the beauty of nature, the thrill of seasons changing, and the joy of having a good friend. Other Tang poems expressed sadness for the shortness of life and mourned the cruelty of friends parting.

**Li Bo** (LEE BOH) was one of the most popular poets of the Tang era. His poems often centered on nature. The poem below by Li Bo is probably the best-known poem in China. For centuries, Chinese schoolchildren have had to memorize it. Its title is “Still Night Thoughts.”

> Moonlight in front of my bed—
> I took it for frost on the ground!
> I lift my eyes to watch the mountain moon,
> lower them and dream of home.

—Li Bo, “Still Night Thoughts”

Another favorite poet of that time was **Du Fu** (DOO FOO). He was a poor civil servant who had a hard life. Civil war swept
China, and food was hard to find. Du Fu nearly died of starvation. His problems opened his eyes to the sufferings of the common people.

As a result, Du Fu’s poems often were very serious. They frequently dealt with issues such as social injustice and the problems of the poor. Du Fu wrote the poem below after a rebellion left the capital city in ruins. It is called “Spring Landscape.”

"Rivers and mountains survive
broken countries.
Spring returns. The city grows
lush again.
Blossoms scatter tears thinking of
us, and this
Separation in a bird’s cry startles
the heart.

Beacon-fires have burned
through three months.
By now, letters are worth ten
thousand in gold.

—Du Fu,
“Spring Landscape”

Painting in Song China  The painting of landscapes became widespread during the Song dynasty. However, Chinese artists did not try to make exact pictures of the landscapes they were painting. Instead, they attempted to portray the “idea” of the mountains, lakes, and other features of their landscapes. Empty spaces were left in the paintings on purpose. This distinctive style comes from the Daoist belief that a person cannot know the whole truth about something.

Daoist beliefs also can be seen in the way people are portrayed. They are tiny figures, fishing in small boats or wandering up a hillside trail. In other words, the people are living in, but not controlling, nature. They are only a part of the harmony of the natural setting.

Chinese painters often wrote poetry on their works. They used a brush and ink to write beautiful characters called calligraphy.

Chinese Porcelain  During the Tang period, Chinese artisans perfected the making of porcelain. Because porcelain later came from
During the Tang dynasty, both farming and trade flourished, and the empire grew much larger than ever before.

Many important inventions were developed in China during the Tang and Song dynasties, including steel, printing, and gunpowder.

Chinese literature and arts, including poetry, landscape painting, and porcelain making, reached new heights during the Tang and Song dynasties.

What products were traded by China along the Silk Road?

What were some of the subjects of Tang poetry?

Critical Thinking

3. Organizing Information Draw a chart to describe the new technologies developed in China.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Metalworking</th>
<th>Printing</th>
<th>Weapons</th>
<th>Sailing</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

The technology for making porcelain spread to other parts of the world. It finally reached Europe in the 1700s.

What did Du Fu often write about?

What did you learn?

1. What products were traded by China along the Silk Road?
2. What were some of the subjects of Tang poetry?
3. Organizing Information Draw a chart to describe the new technologies developed in China.
4. Summarize Describe how farming changed during the Tang dynasty.
5. The Big Ideas Which Chinese invention do you think is most important? Why?
6. Creative Writing Reread the poem “Still Night Thoughts” by Li Bo. Then write a short, four-line poem about the view from a window in your school.
7. Analysis Write a short essay explaining how the invention of printing affected China’s economy.
Looking Back, Looking Ahead

By A.D. 1200, China had developed a complex society with great achievements in art, literature, and technology. However, an enemy to the North had been building a vast army to invade.

Focusing on the Main Ideas

• Genghis Khan and his sons built the Mongol Empire, which stretched from the Pacific Ocean to Eastern Europe. (page 268)

• The Mongols conquered China and created a new dynasty that tried to conquer Japan and began trading with the rest of Asia. (page 272)

Locating Places

Mongolia (mah•GOH•lee•uh)
Gobi (GOH•bee)
Karakorum (KAHR•uh•KOHR•uhm)
Khanbaliq (KAHN•buh•LEEK)
Beijing (BAY•JIHNG)

Meeting People

Genghis Khan (GEHNG•guhs KAHN)
Kublai Khan (KOO•BLUH KAHN)
Marco Polo (MAHR•koh POH•loh)

Content Vocabulary

tribe
steppe (STEHP)
terror (TEHR•uhr)

Academic Vocabulary

eventual (ih•VEHNT•shuh•wuhl)
encounter (ihn•KOWN•tuhr)

Reading Strategy

Organizing Information Use a diagram like the one below to show the accomplishments of Genghis Khan’s reign.
WH7.3 Students analyze the geographic, political, economic, religious, and social structures of the civilizations of China in the Middle Ages.

WH7.3.5 Trace the historic influence of such discoveries as tea, the manufacture of paper, wood-block printing, the compass, and gunpowder.

The Mongols

Main Idea Genghis Khan and his sons built the Mongol Empire, which stretched from the Pacific Ocean to Eastern Europe.

Reading Connection Have you ever had the chance to ride a horse? For thousands of years, the horse was the most important form of transportation in the world. Read to learn how one people used their skills as horse riders to build a vast empire.

The Mongols lived in an area north of China called Mongolia (mah • GOH • lee • uh). They were made up of tribes, or groups of related families, loosely joined together. The Mongols raised cattle, goats, sheep, and horses. They followed their herds as the animals grazed Mongolia’s great steppes (STEHPS). Steppes are wide, rolling, grassy plains that stretch from the Black Sea to northern China.

From an early period in their history, the Mongols were known for two things. One was their ability to ride horses well. Mongols practically lived on horseback, learning to ride at age four or five. The other skill for which the Mongols were known was the ability to wage war. They could accurately fire arrows at enemies from a distance while charging at them. As they got closer they would attack with spears and swords.

Mongol Empire Under Genghis Khan 1227

KEY
- Genghis Khan’s empire, 1227
- Mongol homeland
- Campaign under Genghis Khan

Using Geography Skills
1. Movement In what direction from Mongolia did Genghis Khan first strike? In what year?
2. Place What physical features may have prevented Genghis Khan from capturing more territory to the south?
Who Was Genghis Khan? The man who would unite the Mongols was born in the 1160s. He was named Temujin (teh•MOO•juhn), which means “blacksmith.” Temujin showed his leadership skills early. He was still a young man when he began to unite the Mongol tribes.

In 1206 a meeting of Mongol leaders took place somewhere in the Gobi (GOH•bee), a vast desert that covers parts of Mongolia and China. At that meeting, Temujin was elected Genghis Khan (GEHNG•guhs KAHN), which means “strong ruler.” Genghis Khan brought together Mongol laws in a new code. He also created a group of tribal chiefs to help him plan military campaigns. From the time of his election until the end of his life, Genghis Khan fought to conquer the lands beyond Mongolia.

Genghis Khan gathered an army of more than 100,000 warriors. He placed his soldiers into well-trained groups. Commanding them were officers chosen for their abilities, not for their family ties. This approach made the Mongols the most skilled fighting force in the world at that time.

Genghis Khan began building his empire by conquering other people on the steppes. These victories brought him wealth and new soldiers to fill the army.
Soon the Mongols were strong enough to attack major civilizations. In 1211 Mongol forces turned east and invaded China. Within three years, they had taken all of northern China. They then moved west and struck at the cities and kingdoms that controlled parts of the Silk Road.

Genghis Khan and his Mongol warriors became known for their cruelty and use of terror (TEHR•uhr). Terror refers to violent actions that are meant to scare people into surrendering, or giving up. Mongol warriors attacked, robbed, and burned cities. Within a short time, the Mongols became known for their fierce ways, and many people surrendered to them without fighting.

The Mongol Empire Genghis Khan died in 1227. His large empire was divided among his four sons. Under their leadership, the empire continued to expand. The Mongols swept into parts of eastern and central Europe. They also conquered much of southwest Asia. In 1258 the famous Muslim city of Baghdad fell to the Mongols. Mongol armies then pushed through Syria and Palestine to Egypt. They were finally stopped by the Muslim rulers of Egypt in 1260.

The Mongols united all of these different territories under their rule. Their empire reached from the Pacific Ocean in the east to Eastern Europe in the west and from Siberia in the north to the Himalaya in the south. It was the largest land empire the world had ever known.

Despite widespread destruction, the Mongols eventually brought peace to the lands they ruled. Peace encouraged trade, which helped the Mongols. Many of Asia’s trade routes now lay in Mongol hands. The Mongols taxed the products traded over these roads and, as a result, grew wealthy.

The Mongols felt great respect for the advanced cultures they conquered. Sometimes they even adopted some of the beliefs and customs they encountered. For example, the Mongols in southwest Asia accepted Islam and adopted Arab, Persian, and Turkish ways.

The Mongols also learned many things from the Chinese. As they battled Chinese troops, they learned about gunpowder and its use as an explosive. They also saw the Chinese use the fire lance. Quickly, the Mongols adopted both gunpowder and the fire lance for use in battle. These new weapons made Mongol armies even more imposing to their enemies.
Genghis Khan

C. A.D. 1167–1227

Mongol Leader

Was Genghis Khan a ruthless warrior who enjoyed causing death and destruction, a skilled leader who improved the lives of those in his empire, or both? Genghis Khan built a huge empire across Asia using loyal, strong, and well-trained warriors. Although the wars he and his sons fought were brutal and bloody, they eventually brought peace and prosperity to most of Asia.

Genghis Khan was named Temujin by his father, the Mongol chief Yisugei. Folklore says Temujin had a large blood clot in his right hand, which meant he was destined to become a great warrior. Temujin grew up in his father’s camp along the Onon River in Mongolia.

Temujin’s father arranged a marriage for his nine-year-old son. His wife came from another tribe, and the marriage helped bring wealth to his family. Borte, his wife at age ten, was beautiful. Temujin and Borte had four sons when they both became older.

Years later, when his father was killed by the Tartars and his loyal warriors left the tribe, Temujin lost his wealth. His poverty and the disloyalty of his father’s soldiers angered him so much that he decided to become a great warrior. Over time, Temujin became Ghengis Khan.

“Life is short, I could not conquer the world.”

—attributed to Genghis Khan

In Mongolia today, Genghis Khan is considered a national hero. What do you think? Was Genghis Khan a villain or a hero?
Mongol Rule in China

**Main Idea** The Mongols conquered China and created a new dynasty that tried to conquer Japan and began trading with the rest of Asia.

**Reading Connection** What does it mean to be tolerant? Read to find out how the Mongols used tolerance to rule the Chinese.

In 1260 the Mongols named Genghis Khan’s grandson, Kublai, to be the new khan, or ruler. **Kublai Khan** (KOO•BLUH KAHN) continued the Mongol conquest of China that his grandfather had begun. In 1264 Kublai moved his capital from Karakorum in Mongolia to **Khanbaliq** in northern China. Today the modern city of **Beijing** (BAY•JIHNG) stands on the site of the Mongols’ Chinese capital.

**What Did the Mongols Do in China?** In 1271 Kublai Khan decided to become China’s next emperor. Within 10 years, the Mongols had conquered southern China and put an end to the Song dynasty. Kublai Khan started the **Yuan** (YOO•AHN) dynasty. **Yuan** means “beginning,” and its name showed that the Mongols wanted to rule China for a long time. But the Yuan dynasty would last only about 100 years. Kublai would rule for 30 of those years.

Kublai Khan gave Mongol leaders the top jobs in China’s government, but he knew he needed Chinese scholar-officials to run the government. So he let many of the Chinese keep their government jobs. Later Mongol rulers continued the practice. In 1313 a decree was issued requiring four major texts of Confucian thought to be used in all imperial examinations.

The Mongols were different from the Chinese in many ways. They had their own language, laws, and customs. This kept them separate from Chinese society. The Mongols were rulers at the top of Chinese society, but they did not mix with the Chinese people.

Like many Chinese, the Mongols were Buddhists. They were tolerant, however, of other religions. For example, Kublai Khan invited Christians, Muslims, and Hindus from outside China to practice their faiths and to win converts.

Under Mongol rule, China reached the height of its wealth and power. Its splendor drew foreigners who came to China over the Silk Road. Khanbaliq, the capital, became known for its wide streets, beautiful palaces, and fine homes.
One of the most famous European travelers to reach China was Marco Polo (MAHR•koh POH•loh). He came from the city of Venice in Italy. Kublai Khan was fascinated by Marco Polo’s stories about his travels. For about 16 years, Polo enjoyed a special status in the country. Kublai sent him on many fact-finding and business trips. For three of those years, Polo ruled the Chinese city of Yangchow. When Polo finally returned to Europe, he wrote a book about his adventures. His accounts of the wonders of China amazed Europeans.

Trade and Conquest The Mongols ruled a large empire that stretched from China to Eastern Europe. As a result, China prospered from increased overland trade with other areas. The Mongols also continued the shipbuilding of the Song dynasty and expanded seagoing trade. Goods such as silver, spices, carpets, and cotton flowed from Europe and places in Asia, including Japan, Korea, India, and Southeast Asia. In return, China shipped out tea, silk, and porcelain. Europeans and Muslims also brought Chinese discoveries, such as steel, gunpowder, and the compass, back to their homelands.

The Mongols enlarged China’s empire by conquering Vietnam and northern Korea. The rulers of Korea, called the Koryo, remained in power because they accepted Mongol control. The Mongols forced thousands of Koreans to build warships. These ships were used by the Mongols on two separate occasions in attempts to invade Japan. Unfortunately for Kublai Khan, both expeditions ended in failure when huge storms destroyed much of his fleet. You will read more about the Mongol invasions of Japan in the next chapter.

Identify  Who founded the Yuan dynasty?

c. 1167  Temujin born
1281  Mongols conquer China

Reading Summary
Review the Main Ideas
• Under leaders such as Genghis Khan and his sons, the Mongol Empire expanded until it stretched from the Pacific Ocean to Eastern Europe and from Siberia south to the Himalaya.

• Kublai Khan conquered China, which led to increased trade between China and other parts of the world.

What Did You Learn?
1. Who was Marco Polo?
2. What areas did the Mongols conquer?

Critical Thinking
3. Sequencing Information
Draw a time line like the one below. Fill in details to show the Mongols’ rise to power in China.

4. The Big Ideas  How did Ghengis Khan use terror to gain wealth and power for the Mongols? CA 7RC2.0

5. Summarize  How did the Mongols benefit from their contact with the Chinese? CA 7HS.

6. Expository Writing  Imagine you are Marco Polo visiting Kublai Khan in Khanbaliq. Write a journal entry describing some of the things you are learning about the Mongol Empire under Kublai Khan. CA 7WA2.1
CHINA’S BRAVEST GIRL
THE LEGEND OF HUA MU LAN

by Charlie Chin

Before You Read
The Scene: This story takes place in China around A.D. 400.
The Characters: Hua Mu Lan is a brave young woman who disguises herself as a soldier.
The Plot: Hua Mu Lan volunteers to fight in a war in order to protect her father.

Vocabulary Preview

darts: moves quickly
weaves: laces together strands of material
perfumed: scented
yield: to give way
banquet: large feast

Have you ever tried to help or protect a family member or a friend? How did that make you feel? In this story, a daughter makes a true sacrifice to help her father.
The Emperor called for the Pipa player. “Have him sing a song of old. I will give him a seat of honor and a ring of hammered gold.”

The Pipa player took his place and he sang an ancient story, the legend of young Hua Mu Lan, the girl who won fame and glory.

The sound is click, and again, click click, young Hua Mu Lan at the loom.
Her fingers fly, the shuttle darts, as she weaves inside her room.

Last night she saw the notice. It was posted on the wall. On it was her father’s name. He must answer the Emperor’s call.

The enemy has invaded China. Our army must prepare to fight. One man from every household must be ready by morning light.

As You Read

This exciting tale of Hua Mu Lan’s success in battle occurred during the war-filled years between the dynasty of the Han empire and the reunification of China under the Sui empire. The story was known in folklore throughout the ages but did not become popular until it was written down and told across China during the Song dynasty. What did Hua Mu Lan come to represent to the people of China when her story was heard?

1 Pipa: a small, guitar-like musical instrument
2 loom: a machine used for weaving threads to make cloth
3 shuttle: a tool used to weave thread together
Her father is old and tired. His hair is turning white. She tells him of her plan as they talk by candlelight.

“I am young and healthy, and you have no eldest son. If the Emperor needs a soldier, then I must be the one.”

For love of her elderly father, she will dress in warrior’s clothes, walking and talking like a man, so no one ever knows.

She travels in the four directions, preparing for the trip. She will buy in different towns the saddle, horse and whip.

The crescent moon spear in her hand, the willow leaf sword by her side, her armor is laced and tightened, her war horse is saddled to ride.

The bravest girl in China puts away the perfumed comb. To repay her father’s kindness she will ride away from home.

The banks of the Yellow River echo the sound of flowing water. In her heart she hears her father’s words, “Farewell, my faithful daughter.”

She joins ten thousand soldiers camped in the moon-lit snow. Their tents shine like lanterns lit by the campfire glow.
The morning light brings the battle. 
The invaders take the field. 
Enemy arrows find their mark. 
China’s line begins to yield.

When all seems lost a shout is heard, 
“Brave sons of China follow me!” 
Warriors wheel and turn about like the waves of an angry sea.

Cheering troops rally around her. 
The enemy line breaks in fear. 
Hua Mu Lan’s courage wins the day as she fights with her sword and spear.

She wins in a hundred battles. 
Ten years like arrows fly by. 
She gains the rank of General. 
Her legend will never die.

The Emperor summons his “hero” to receive from the royal hand a minister’s post and the title to a nobleman’s house and land.

“There is nothing that I desire, neither wealth nor minister’s post. My duty is to my father. In old age, he needs me most.”

“Give me only a strong camel and my freedom then to roam. I will ride the southern road that leads back to my home.”

The news is heard at her father’s gate where colorful lanterns burn. Her family prepares a feast to celebrate her return.
She enters as a general. Her father watches with pride. She greets her father and mother, then turns to go inside.

Alone in her room at last, she sits on her childhood bed. She takes off the iron helmet and places flowers on her head.

The ocean hides the oyster. The oyster hides the pearl. Bright armor and heavy helmet hid China’s bravest girl.

As she steps into the courtyard, her comrade says in surprise, “My general has become a woman. I can’t believe my eyes!”

“We fought shoulder to shoulder. Our hands gripped sword and spear. I knew you as a warrior who was strong and without fear.

“How many times in danger did you turn to save my life? We were always the best of friends. Why not become husband and wife?”

“If I become your wife,” she says, “we will play a different game. You treat your friends with honor. Can your wife expect the same?”

“Yes, I will honor you,” he says, “in all I do and say. Now let’s invite the villagers and set the wedding day.”
Red and gold banners adorn the house.
A banquet is prepared for all.
She wears the finest jade\(^4\) and silk
for the wedding in her husband’s hall.

The Pipa player sang the last verse
His rewards had been foretold:
for his skill a seat of honor;
for his song a ring of gold.

The legend of young Hua Mu Lan
whose bravery saved her nation
is loved by the Chinese people
and retold each generation.

\(^4\text{jade: a green gemstone}\)

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**Responding to the Literature**

1. Why did Hua Mu Lan’s father have to go into battle?
2. How long did Mu Lan stay away from home?
3. **Drawing Conclusions** After reading her story, what do think of the character of Hua Mu Lan? What does the author do to make Mu Lan a sympathetic and heroic character? \(\text{CA 7RL3.3}\)
4. **Understanding Poetry** This story is written in poetry form. How does the presentation of this tale as a poem change the story for the reader? How does the author use poetry to move the story along? After answering these questions, write a short story version of Hua Mu Lan’s tale. How does your version differ from the one you have just read? How are they the same? \(\text{CA 7RL3.1}, \text{CA 7WA2.1}\)
5. **Read to Write** Imagine that you are one of Hua Mu Lan’s fellow soldiers. How might you have reacted if you found out that she was a woman? Would this change how you viewed her? Write an essay that explains how you would react to the situation. \(\text{CA 7WA2.2}\)
Are you interested in amazing events in China, the exciting life of a samurai, or life in medieval Europe? If so, check out these other great books.

**Nonfiction**

*The Great Wall of China* by Leonard Everett Fisher recounts the story and construction of this amazing wall. Learn the political and social reasons for its creation and meet several interesting characters in Chinese history. *The content of this book is related to History–Social Science Standard WH7.3.*

**Fiction**

*Mysterious Tales of Japan* by Rafe Martin is a collection of scary stories in a Japanese setting. These edge-of-your-seat Japanese tales are filled with mystery and offer a look at the Shinto and Buddhist belief systems. *The content of this book is related to History–Social Science Standard WH7.5.*

**Biography**

*Images Across the Ages: Japanese Portraits* by Dorothy and Thomas Hoobler recounts the lives of important Japanese people. This book includes firsthand accounts from the people who lived during that time. *The content of this book is related to History–Social Science Standard WH7.5.*

**Fiction**

*Catherine, Called Birdy* by Karen Cushman, a Newbery Award winner, tells the story of a teenage girl in the thirteenth century. Catherine is determined to marry for love even though her father wants to marry her to the first rich man he can find. This story lets you see into the daily life and family customs of medieval times. *The content of this book is related to History–Social Science Standard WH7.6.*
The Ming Dynasty

Looking Back, Looking Ahead
In Section 3, you read about the Mongol conquest. Eventually, the Chinese drove the Mongols out, and a new dynasty arose.

Focusing on the Main Ideas
• Ming rulers strengthened China’s government and brought back peace and prosperity. (page 282)
• During the Ming dynasty, China sent a fleet to explore Asia and East Africa. (page 284)

Locating Places
Nanjing (NAHN•JIHNG)
Portugal (POHR•chih•guhl)

Meeting People
Zhu Yuanzhang (JOO YOO•AHN•JAHNG)
Yong Le (YUNG LEE)
Zheng He (JUNG HUH)

Content Vocabulary
treason (TREE•zuhn)
census (SEHN•suhs)
novel (NAH•vuhl)
barbarian (bahr•BEHR•ee•uhn)

Academic Vocabulary
erode (ih•ROHD)
compile (kuhm•PYL)
drama (DRAH•muh)
contact (KAHN•TAHT)

Reading Strategy
Cause and Effect Use a chart like the one below to show cause-and-effect links in China’s early trade voyages.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Cause</th>
<th>Effect</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Zheng He traveled to parts of Asia and Africa.</td>
<td>1405 Zheng He begins first overseas voyage</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1450 Portuguese ships arrive in China</td>
<td>1644 Ming dynasty falls</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

History Social Science Standards
WH7.3 Students analyze the geographic, political, economic, religious, and social structures of the civilizations of China in the Middle Ages.
The Rise of the Ming

Main Idea: Ming rulers strengthened China’s government and brought back peace and prosperity.

Reading Connection: Think about all the different things the government does for people. Imagine if you were running the government and had to rebuild the country after a war. What would you do? Read to learn how the Ming rulers in China rebuilt their country after the Mongols left.

Kublai Khan died in 1294. A series of weak rulers followed him, and Mongol power began to erode. During the 1300s, problems mounted for the Yuan dynasty. Mongol groups in Mongolia to the north broke away. At the same time, many Chinese resented Mongol controls and wanted their own dynasty.

How Did the Ming Dynasty Begin? A series of rebellions finally drove out the Mongols. In 1368 a rebel leader named Zhu Yuanzhang (JOO YOO-AHN-JAHNG) became emperor. Zhu reunited the country and set up his capital at Nanjing (NAHN-JIHNG) in southern China. There, he founded the Ming, or “Brilliant,” dynasty.

As emperor, Zhu took the name Hong Wu, or the “Military Emperor.” He brought back order, but he also proved to be a cruel leader. Hong Wu trusted no one and killed officials he suspected of treason (TREE-zuhn), or disloyalty to the government. Hong Wu ruled China for 30 years. When he died in 1398, his son became emperor and took the name of Yong Le (YUNG LEE).

NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC

Ming Dynasty China 1368–1644

Using Geography Skills

1. Place What feature made up the northern border of the Ming empire?
2. Location How far away was Guangzhou from Beijing?

A bronze Buddha from the Ming dynasty
Yong Le worked hard to show that he was a powerful emperor. In 1421 he moved the capital north to Beijing. There, he built a large area of palaces and government buildings known as the Imperial City. The very center of the Imperial City was known as the Forbidden City. Only top officials could enter the Forbidden City because it was home to China’s emperors.

The Forbidden City had beautiful gardens and many palaces with thousands of rooms. The emperor and his court lived there in luxury for more than 500 years. The buildings of the Forbidden City still exist. You can visit them if you travel to China.

**How Did the Ming Reform China?** Ming emperors made all the decisions, but they still needed officials to carry out their orders. They restored the civil service examinations and made the tests even harder. From time to time, Ming officials compiled a census (SEHN•suhs), or a count of the number of people. This helped them collect taxes more accurately.

With the strong government of the early Ming emperors providing peace and stability, China’s economy began to grow. Hong Wu ordered many of the canals and farms destroyed by the Mongols to be rebuilt and ordered people to move to the new farms. He also ordered new forests to be planted and new roads to be paved.

Agriculture thrived as farmers worked on the new lands and grew more crops. Ming rulers repaired and expanded the Grand Canal so that rice and other goods could again be shipped from southern to northern China. They imported new types of rice from southeast Asia that grew faster. This helped feed the growing number of people living in cities. The Ming also supported the silk industry and encouraged farmers to start growing cotton and weaving cloth. For the first time, cotton became the cloth worn by most Chinese.

**Chinese Culture** Chinese culture also advanced under the Ming. As merchants and artisans grew wealthier, they wanted to learn more and be entertained. During the Ming period, Chinese writers produced many novels (NAH•vuhrs), or long fictional stories. The Chinese also enjoyed seeing dramas on stage. These works combined spoken words and songs with dances, costumes, and symbolic gestures.
China Explores the World

Main Idea During the Ming dynasty, China sent a fleet to explore Asia and East Africa.

Reading Connection You probably have heard of Christopher Columbus and his trip to America. Imagine if China had sent ships to America first. Read to learn about Chinese explorations of Asia and East Africa.

Early Ming emperors were curious about the world outside of China. They also wanted to increase China’s influence abroad. To reach these goals, Ming emperors built a large fleet of ships. The new ships usually traveled along China’s coast. However, they could also sail in the open sea.

Who Was Zheng He? From 1405 to 1431, Emperor Yong Le sent the fleet on seven overseas voyages. The emperor wanted to trade with other kingdoms, show off China’s power, and demand that weaker kingdoms pay tribute to China.

The leader of these journeys was a Chinese Muslim and court official named Zheng He (Jung Hu). Zheng He’s voyages were quite impressive. His first fleet had 62 large ships, 250 smaller ships, and almost 28,000 men. The largest ship was over 440 feet (134 m) long. That made it more than five times as long as the Santa María that Christopher Columbus sailed almost 90 years later!

Zheng He’s Voyages 1405–1433

Using Geography Skills

1. Location What cities in Africa did Zheng He visit?
2. Movement About how far did Zheng He travel?
Zheng He 1371–1433

Chinese Navigator

The famous Chinese navigator Zheng He was born in Kunyang in southwest China in 1371. His birth name was Ma He, and he was from a poor Chinese Muslim family. Scholars say that his father and grandfather were honored hajjis—people who successfully made the pilgrimage to Makkah in Arabia. Little did Ma He know that his life would also involve travel. His seven missions across the oceans earned him heroic honors.

His father died when Ma He was little. As a child, Ma He was taken prisoner by the Chinese army. To overcome his sad life, Ma He turned to education. He learned different languages, including Arabic, and studied philosophy and geography. With his language skills and knowledge of the outside world, 10-year-old Ma He became a valuable imperial aide to Chinese officials.

By age 12, he was an assistant to a young prince named Zhu Di. Ma He accompanied the prince on several military missions. The prince, who later became the Emperor Yong Le, became a friend of Ma He. The emperor changed Ma He’s name to the honored surname Zheng. Soon after, Zheng He was assigned to lead a fleet of Chinese ships across the Indian Ocean, beginning the career that would make him famous. Zheng He’s voyages to new lands opened the door for trade among China, India, and Africa. Many of the Chinese moved abroad to sell Chinese goods. Those who learned and spoke more than one language, like Zheng He, prospered.

“We have set eyes on barbarian regions far away.”

—Zheng He, as quoted in Chinese Portraits

Then and Now

What “Made in China” products do you use on a daily basis? Do research to find out what percentage of goods imported to the United States is from China.
Zheng He's voyages had significant impacts on China and its relationships with other countries. His travels not only brought new goods to China but also facilitated the spread of Chinese culture abroad. However, these voyages also had their costs, and Chinese officials were concerned about the influence of foreign ideas and the potential for merchants to become too rich. The voyages were eventually stopped after Zheng He's death in 1433, leading to a decline in China's trade with other countries.

The Europeans arrived in China in the 16th century, marking a significant shift in the country's interaction with the outside world. Initially, the Chinese were not impressed by the Portuguese and saw them as barbarians. Despite this, Portugal was allowed to set up a trading post in Macao, which facilitated trade with Japan. Chinese officials were not able to fully isolate the country from the outside world, and ideas from Europe did reach China. Christian missionaries arrived on European ships, and some were able to influence Chinese society, albeit to a limited extent.

The arrival of Europeans in China had both positive and negative impacts. While it facilitated the exchange of goods and ideas, it also highlighted the need for China to adapt to the changing global landscape. The Chinese response to European presence set a precedent for future interactions with outsiders.
were highly educated, and their scientific knowledge impressed the Chinese. To get China to accept European ideas, the Jesuits brought with them clocks, eyeglasses, and scientific instruments. Although they tried, the Jesuits did not convert many Chinese.

**Why Did the Ming Dynasty Fall?** After a long era of prosperity and growth, the Ming dynasty began to decline. Ming emperors had gathered too much power into their own hands. With the emperor having so much control, officials had little desire to make improvements. As time passed, Ming rulers themselves became weak. Greedy officials placed heavy taxes on the peasants, who began to revolt.

As law and order disappeared, a people called the Manchus attacked China’s northern border. The Manchus lived to the northeast of the Great Wall in an area known today as Manchuria. The Manchus defeated Chinese armies and captured Beijing. In 1644 they set up a new dynasty.

**Reading Check** Cause and Effect What caused the Ming dynasty to decline and fall?

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**Section 4 Review**

**Reading Summary**

**Main Ideas**
- The Ming dynasty rebuilt and reformed China after the Mongols were driven out. The dynasty restored peace and prosperity to China.
- During the Ming dynasty, China’s contacts with the outside world increased as Zheng He led fleets to faraway lands and European ships began arriving in China.

**What Did You Learn?**

1. **What was the purpose of the Forbidden City and where was it located?**
2. **How did the Chinese react to the arrival of Portuguese traders in 1514?**
3. **Organizing Information**
   Draw a diagram like the one below. Fill in details about the achievements of the Ming dynasty. **CA 7RC2.2**
4. **Cause and Effect** Why did Ming rulers repair and expand the Grand Canal? **CA 7RC2.3**
5. **The Big Ideas** Why did the Emperor Yong Le send Zheng He on his voyages? How did Zheng He’s voyages benefit China? **CA 7RC2.0**
6. **Predict** What do you think happened after China tried to limit trade? **CA H12**
7. **Persuasive Writing** Imagine you are living in China at the time of Zheng He’s voyages. Write a newspaper editorial either for or against the voyages. Describe why you think the voyages are helping or hurting China. **CA 7WA2.5**

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**History Online**

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**This porcelain bowl is from the Ming dynasty. Where in China did the Portuguese set up a trading post?**
CHAPTER 4 • China in the Middle Ages

A Growing China

In the Middle Ages, China changed dramatically. Improvements in farming techniques helped increase food production and boost the economy. As China’s food supply increased, so did its population. For example, from A.D. 750 to A.D. 1100, China’s population doubled from about 50 million to 100 million people. Chinese technology, agriculture, and economic activity continued to advance through the Ming dynasty.

Read the following passages and study the photo. Then answer the questions that follow.

The Cities of the Song

During the Song dynasty, Chinese cities were transformed. The following is a description of a medicine fair in the city of Chengdu, in the western part of the Song empire in the 1200s.

Coming in a palanquin to visit the medicine fair, our bearers’ knees are caught in the press of the crowd . . . there is such a profusion it cannot be detailed. . . . Mica and frankincense the colour of sparkling crystal, aloe and sandalwood wafting their fragrant scents . . . Some things are costly, . . . others are bitter, . . . some are stale like pemmican and mincemeat pickled in brine, some fresh like dates and chestnuts. Many are products of barbarian tribes . . . Merchants have buffeted the sea-winds and the waves and foreign merchants crossed over towering crags drawn onwards by the profit to be made . . . Here are the rich and powerful with numerous bondservants . . . carriages and horses in grand array, scattering clouds of dust . . . [They] go home, their bags and boxes bulging.

—Du Zheng, a 13th-century poet, as quoted in Chronicle of the Chinese Emperors

Reader’s Dictionary

palanquin (pə•luhn•KEEN): a covered vehicle made up of a couch, usually enclosed by curtains, and carried by people on their shoulders

profusion (pruh•FYOO•zhuhn): large amount; abundance

barbarian: foreigner

buffeted (BUH•fuht•uhd): fought against

crags: steep, rugged rocks or cliffs

WR7.3.2 Describe agricultural, technological, and commercial developments during the Tang and Song periods. WR7.3.4 Understand the importance of both overland trade and maritime expeditions between China and other civilizations in the Mongol Ascendancy and Ming Dynasty.
Planting Rice

The image to the right depicts Chinese farmers planting rice. Rice is an excellent food crop—it stores well, offers good nutrition, and is easy to cook. During the Middle Ages, the production of rice expanded steadily. Improvements in water pumps and the making of dams allowed farmers to make the land suitable for growing rice.

Chinese Ships

During the Middle Ages, the Chinese developed merchant ships that were the most advanced in the world. The following is a description of Chinese ships during the 1100s.

The ships which sail the Southern Sea and south of it are like houses. When their sails are spread they are like great clouds in the sky. Their rudders are several tens of feet long. A single ship carries several hundred men. It has stored on board a year’s supply of grain.

—Zhou Qufei as quoted in Chronicle of the Chinese Emperors

The Cities of the Song

1. What kinds of people have come to the medicine fair?
2. How did some of the people who traveled to the medicine fair get there? Why do you think they made such a trip?

Planting Rice

3. Do you think rice farming was easy? Explain. Use the picture to support your answer.

Chinese Ships

4. What do you suppose was the purpose of such ships?
5. What comparisons does the writer make about the ships?

Read to Write

6. Using the primary sources you have just examined, write an essay describing how economic prosperity and the rise of trade during the Middle Ages affected Chinese society.
Review Content Vocabulary

Match the word in the first column with its definition in the second column.

1. treason
2. warlord
3. terror
4. economy
5. reform
6. steppe
7. tribe
8. census

a. groups of related families loosely joined together
b. change that brings improvement
c. disloyalty to the government
d. military leader who also runs a government
e. a count of the number of people
f. violent actions meant to scare others
g. organized way to buy, sell, and produce
h. wide grassy plain

Critical Thinking


18. **Predict** How would China be different today if Tang rulers had not tried to stop Buddhism in A.D. 845? CA H14.

19. **Hypthesize** The Mongols built a vast empire, but the Yuan dynasty lasted only about 100 years. Create a hypothesis that might explain this situation. CA HR1.

Geography Skills

Study the map below and answer the following questions.

20. **Location** What was the length of the Grand Canal? CA CS3.


22. **Region** What geographic features helped the Tang dynasty expand? CA CS3.
Read to Write

23. **The Big Ideas**  **Persuasive Writing** Imagine you are a Portuguese merchant. You have just traveled to China to persuade the Chinese people to trade with your country. Create a script detailing the dialogue that would take place between you and a representative of the Chinese government.  (**CA 7WA2.5**)

24. **Using Your Foldables** On your foldable, add details to the main headings in Section 2. Think about how the changes and arts described there might have had an impact on people’s lives. Write a story about a family whose life is affected by these changes. Illustrate your story.  (**CA 111.**)

Using Academic Vocabulary

25. All the words in the chart below are verbs. Complete the chart by changing them into past tense verbs.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Term</th>
<th>Past Tense</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>encounter</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>contact</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>seek</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>erode</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>compile</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Linking Past and Present

26. **Expository Writing** Write a short essay that describes similarities and differences between the Imperial City of the Ming dynasty and the United States capital, Washington, D.C.  (**CA 7WA2.0**)

Understanding Change

27. When the Portuguese traders first went to China, they were not quickly accepted. Write an essay that describes why they were not accepted and how that eventually changed. Be sure to discuss the role of trade and its benefits in China.  (**CA 112.**)

Building Citizenship

28. **Writing Research Reports** How did neo-Confucianism strengthen government in China? How does the use of a merit system reflect the way that jobs in the U.S. government are given? How is it different?  (**CA 7WA2.3**)

Reviewing Skills

29. **Making Connections** The voyages of Zheng He introduced China to many other cultures. His journeys took him to parts of Asia, Africa, and the Middle East. Use your local library and the Internet to identify other important explorers who have helped cultures learn about one another. Explain your findings in a short essay.  (**CA 7WA2.3**)

30. **Understanding Perspective** Major exploration and trade was stopped by Chinese leaders in 1433. Write a letter to the emperor explaining why you think this is a good or bad decision. What are the benefits of exploration and trade with the outside world? What possible harm can come from opening a country’s borders to foreigners?  (**CA 115.**)

Standards Practice

Select the best answer for each of the following questions.

31 What helped the Chinese economy to improve during the Tang dynasty?
   A wars and lower taxes  
   B farming and trade  
   C wars and farming  
   D exploration and education

32 The Tang and Song dynasties encouraged the Chinese people to practice
   A neo-Confucianism.  
   B Buddhism.  
   C Confucianism.  
   D Daoism.