

TOPIC PACKS · Y3-Y6

# Ancient China

Five days about a civilisation that lasted 4,000 years

## Day 1 — The dynasties

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## Day 2 — The Great Wall

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**Day 3 — Inventions that changed the world**

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**Day 4 — The Silk Road**

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**Day 5 — Terracotta Army**

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**Ancient China dynasties — quick reference**

Dynasty	Dates	Famous for
Shang	~1600-1046 BCE	Earliest writing (oracle bones), bronze working
Zhou	1046-256 BCE	Confucius, philosophy, long peaceful period



Dynasty	Dates	Famous for
Qin	221-206 BCE	First emperor unified China; Great Wall begun; Terracotta Army
Han	206 BCE - 220 CE	Silk Road, paper invented, golden age
Tang	618-907 CE	Poetry, gunpowder, printing — peak of culture
Song	960-1279 CE	Compass, naval power, civil service exams
Yuan	1271-1368 CE	Mongol rule (Kublai Khan); Marco Polo visits
Ming	1368-1644 CE	Most of the visible Great Wall; Forbidden City
Qing	1644-1912 CE	Last imperial dynasty

## Ancient China facts to wow children with

**How long has China existed as a civilisation?**

About 4,000 years of continuous civilisation — one of the oldest still going

**Why is the writing the same across China today?**

Qin Shi Huang standardised the script around 220 BCE — the same characters work for many spoken languages

**How long is the Great Wall?**

About 21,000 km if you include all sections from all dynasties

**Did Marco Polo really visit China?**

Probably yes — visited around 1271-1295. His book sparked European interest in trade with China

**Confucius — when and why does he matter?**

Lived around 551-479 BCE. His teachings about respect, family, and good governance shape Chinese culture even today

**What does 'China' actually mean?**

The English name comes from the QIN dynasty (pronounced 'chin'). The Chinese call it 中国 (Zhōngguó), meaning 'middle kingdom'

