

CHINESE HISTORY IN ONE HOUR!

Dynasty Name	Time Period	Main Characters	Main Accomplishments
Early tribes by the Yellow River		Yao, early chieftain Shun, early chieftain Yu, early chieftain	Great Yu controlled the waters taught people to build dikes to
Xia Dynasty	2100-1600 BC		Time of slavery, per some sources It is said that Chinese astronomers in the Xia were among the 1st to chart constellations & record supernovas. In 2296 BC Chinese astronomers observed a comet.
Shang Dynasty	1600-1100 BC		Fine bronzeware developed qingtonqi-bronzeware Ancestor worship; divination practiced Said to be the world's first "state", an autonomous political entity.
Zhou Dynasty	1100-770BC	Per Confucius, Zhou was China's golden era	Capitol, Western Zhou-Xian Capitol, Eastern Zhou-Luoyang Time of Confucius & his student Mencius Confucius developed the inverse "Golden Rule" (see below)
Spring & Autumn period	770-476BC	Confucius /Mencius lived during this time First sage-philosopher (551-479 BC)	Period of disunity and multiple kingdoms Creativity & diversity of thought
Warring States period	476-221 BC		Competing kingdoms, war, strife
Qin Dynasty	221-207 BC	Qin Shi Huangdi First Emperor	Enhanced trade: Standardized written language Standardized weights & measures United China (China became China):
Han Dynasty	207BC - 220AD	Han Wudi, greatest Han emperor	Opened Silk Road for trade with West Great stability & cultural flowering Chinese people began to call themselves "People of Han" Period of economic prosperity Government nationalized salt, iron & liquor industries Developed papermaking, minted coins Trade with Europe: silk to Europe, glassware to China Territories extended down to Hong Kong & Vietnam areas Math: negative #s, decimal fractions, square/cube roots
Three Kingdoms	220-280 AD		Periods of disunity
Jin Dynasty	280 -420 AD		
Northern & Southern Dynasties	420 - 581 AD		
Sui Dynasty	581 -618 AD		Power consolidation Built north and south canal system infrastructural improvement enhanced trade. Short reign.
Tang Dynasty	618 - 907 AD	Li Bai, poet, liked liquor! Du Fu, poet, melancholy	Stability & flowering of literature Famous for Tang Dynasty Poetry Three colored porcelains, "SanCai"
Five Dynasties	907-960 AD		
Song Dynasty	980 - 1279 AD		Stability & flowering of literature; novel developed. Wood block printing developed. Elegance & refinement of culture Abundant food supply due to technological advances Life enjoyment, parties! Ladies played polo.
Yuan Dynasty	1279 - 1368 AD	Genghis Kahn (1162-1227 CE)	Mongols invade and spread & spread empire thru China Asia, India, Middle East, even to Europe Technological advantage, swift riders, expert bowmen, Rule by merit rather than family ties; politically astute.
Ming Dynasty	1368 - 1644 AD	Zheng He	Eunuch who explored & opened trade with southeast Asia and Africa, well before Columbus Built Forbidden City Rise of the scholar official
Qing Dynasty	1644 - 1911 AD	Cixi, Empress Dowager	Manchurians invade and set up court in Beijing, mimicking Chinese customs & culture Final Chinese dynasty
Republic of China	1911 - 1949	Sun Yat Sen	Founder of Chinese Republic
People's Republic of China	1949- present	Mao Zedong	Founder of PRC

