

# Dynasties of China

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

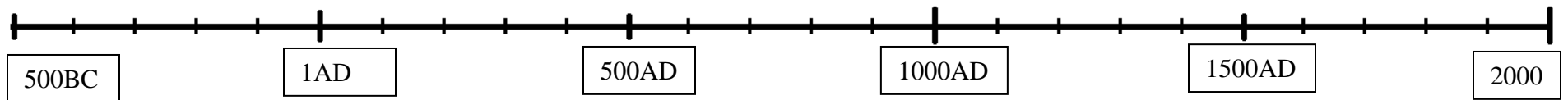
<p><b>Before the Empire:</b> Several powerful kingdoms ruled most of what is now the Central China Plains before there was ever an Emperor or Empire. A number of prominent dynasties existed before the Empire: The Xia, Shang, and Zhou. However, all are poorly understood and the Xia and Shang are mostly mythical. In 476 BC, the power of the Zhou collapsed and the Warring States Period began. For 200 years, China was a battleground between different powerful lords who had emerged from the ashes of the Zhou.</p>	<p><b>Name the 3 kingdoms that predate the Chinese Empire:</b></p> <p><b>What was the Warring States Period?</b></p>
<p><b>Qin Dynasty (221-207 BC):</b> the shortest of the major imperial dynasties, the Qin is still one of the most important. The general Qin Shi Huang united the warring states and became the first emperor of all China. The name China actually comes from his name, Qin. Qin Shi Huang was a brutal leader and harshly silenced his critics—burning books, murdering scholars, and destroying any who revolted. His reign was deeply unpopular but his harsh measures did serve to unify China. Qin Shi Huang also developed much of what would define the Chinese Empire: a strong centralized government, a unified legal code, the Chinese writing system, administrators who had to pass the imperial examinations, and even the early Great Wall. He died pursuing immortality and the Terracotta Army was built to watch over his tomb.</p>	<p><b>What did Qin Shi Huang do to unite China?</b></p> <p><b>What major contributions did the Qin make to China?</b></p>
<p><b>Han Dynasty (207 BC – 220 AD):</b> The first great golden age began with the second dynasty. Shortly after Qin Shi Huang’s death, Liu Bang won the ensuing Civil War and the Han Dynasty was established. The Han backed down from Qin Shi Huang’s brutal methods and introduced Confucianism as the default philosophy over Legalism. This meant a China that was much more moderate. The Han dynasty oversaw China’s first flowering as a world center of trade, science, culture, and art. It established trade with the Roman Empire and built the first intercontinental trade route in the Silk Road. While there were periods of struggle, the Han Dynasty is generally viewed as a period of peace, prosperity, and stability after the violence of the Qin and Warring States.</p>	<p><b>What changes did the Han make to the Qin method of ruling?</b></p> <p><b>What were the accomplishments of the Han?</b></p>
<p><b>Division (220-589 AD):</b> the Han Dynasty collapsed in 220. What followed was a period of division and war. This division is split into several sub-periods, the Three Kingdoms (220-280), the weak Jin Dynasty (266-420), and the Northern and Southern Dynasties (420-589). However, the period can be viewed as one long period in which power was no longer centralized in China.</p>	<p><b>What are the 3 periods of the division?</b></p>
<p><b>Sui Dynasty (581-618 AD):</b> the Sui dynasty began when Emperor Wen reunified China. The Sui, like the Qin, was a very short-lived dynasty but it created many traditions for later dynasties and can be seen as the beginning of the Middle Imperial Period. The Sui created the modern Imperial Examinations, which would define the Chinese Empires for the next 1,000 years. The Sui also built the Great Canal and vastly expanded the Great Wall. Along with the exams, the Sui’s greatest contribution was the revision of the Chinese agricultural system, which began a period of incredible population growth in China.</p>	<p><b>What 4 things did the Sui do?</b></p>
<p><b>Tang Dynasty (618-907):</b> the Tang Dynasty took over during a series of revolts against the Sui. The Tang saw China at perhaps its height of power, especially military. It dominated many of its neighbors during this time and solidified many of the policies of the Sui dynasty. During the Tang Dynasty, China flourished. The population grew, the empire enjoyed economic prosperity, and China made many technological innovations such as the magnetic compass and gunpowder. While the Tang Dynasty was very successful, it suffered a horrible disaster known as the An Lushan Rebellion in 755. This civil war resulted in the death of millions and weakened the Tang dynasty for the remainder of its reign.</p>	<p><b>In what ways was the Tang Dynasty particularly successful?</b></p>
<p><b>Song Dynasty (960-1279 AD):</b> After the fall of the Tang Dynasty, several decades of chaos followed known as the Five Dynasties and Ten Kingdoms Period. In 960, the Song Dynasty managed to finally reunify</p>	

<p>most of China. But unlike the Tang Dynasty, the Song Dynasty was constantly under military threat from its neighbors. In many ways, the Song Dynasty was one of the weakest dynasties. It never reunified all of China, its military was repeatedly defeated, and it eventually saw China conquered by a foreign power (the Mongols). However, it is also perhaps the high point of the Chinese Empire. Its economy was the most prosperous in all of pre-industrial history. Even commoners lived pretty good lives in the Song Dynasty. There was also a great number of scientific and technological achievements including wood block printing, cannons, and rockets. The Song was under constant assault from its neighbors. Half of the empire was lost in 1127 to the Jurchens. Then, starting around 1200, the Mongols emerged north of China. The Mongols conquered the Jurchens and in 1259, turned their attention on China. The Song held them off for 20 years but were eventually conquered.</p>	<p><b>In what ways was a Song Dynasty weak?</b></p> <p><b>In what ways was the Song Dynasty strong?</b></p>
<p><b>Yuan Dynasty (1271-1368 AD):</b> the Yuan Dynasty was not ruled by Chinese but by Mongols. In 1271, the Mongol Great Khan, Kublai Khan, assumed the title Emperor of China. After successfully defeating the last remnants of the Song army, he ruled all of China. The Yuan Dynasty was the largest of the Chinese Dynasties and indirectly ruled much of Asia. This was a period of greatly accelerated trade and diffusion to and from Europe and the Middle East. However, it was also a period of humiliation for the ethnic Chinese. The Mongols treated the Chinese as second-class citizens in their own country. The Mongols preferred Muslims and imported Muslim administrators from other parts of the empire. The Mongols were always disliked by the people and starting around 1340, a series of natural disasters such as a Black Death prompted resistance and eventually an entire overthrow of the Yuan Dynasty.</p>	<p><b>Which nationality were the rulers of the Yuan Dynasty?</b></p> <p><b>What was Yuan like for China?</b></p>
<p><b>Ming Dynasty (1368-1664 AD):</b> considered by many to be the height of Chinese Imperial civilization, the Ming Dynasty saw China at a level of great power. The Ming reunified all of China under ethnically Chinese emperors. Ming China was militarily strong and economically powerful. However, this was also the beginning of China's conservative period. China began to turn away from trade, began to become protective both of its culture and its intellectual legacy. By the end of the Ming Dynasty, China was stagnating in terms of scientific discovery. China was repeatedly approached by Portuguese explorers in the 1500 but denied them access to China and managed to fight them off. In 1500, China was still supreme in East Asia but the signs of trouble were already there. Eventually, the Ming entered an economic crisis started because of the expense of fighting wars in Korea and Manchuria. The people of Manchuria, the Manchus, rose up against China, established their own dynasty, and managed to conquer the Ming. Thus ended the last ethnically Chinese dynasty</p>	<p><b>In what ways was the Ming Dynasty successful?</b></p> <p><b>What problems emerged during the Ming?</b></p>
<p><b>Qing Dynasty (1664-1912 AD):</b> The Manchus of the Great Qing continued and expanded the conservative policies of the Ming Dynasty. They protected local industry, focused on agriculture, kept taxes low, and rejected foreign influence. In this period of scientific stagnation, Europe caught up to China for the first time in 2,000 years, and then greatly exceeded China. The Industrial Revolution accelerated advantages that Europe had been developing since 1500. By 1840, China was woefully behind European powers. This led to the Century of Humiliation. The Qing suffered defeats in the Opium Wars, the Boxer Rebellion, and First Sino-Japanese War. Meanwhile, they struggled against a series of devastating revolts from within, most notably the Taiping Rebellion (1850 AD), in which 20 million people died. The Qing continued to defend their conservative values against the rising demand for western reforms to combat China's decline. Eventually the Qing were overthrown, the Republic of China was formed, and the Empire came to an end.</p>	<p><b>What was the Qing Dynasty like?</b></p> <p><b>What were the Qing Dynasty's failures?</b></p>

Complete attached sheet as well.

## Dynasties Timeline

Complete the following timeline with each of the Dynasties and Periods listed below.



Qin	Han	Sui	Tang	Song	Yuan
Ming	Qing	Jin	Northern and Southern	Three Kingdoms	Warring States

**Compare the Qin dynasty to the Sui dynasty. How are they similar or different?**

**Compare the Han dynasty to the Tang dynasty. How are they similar or different?**

# Dynasties List

---

Which of the Dynasties do you think was the most important? Which is the least important? Why? Put them in a list of descending importance here.

## Dynasties

<b>Qin</b>	<b>Han</b>	<b>Sui</b>	<b>Tang</b>
<b>Song</b>	<b>Yuan</b>	<b>Ming</b>	<b>Qing</b>

Dynasty	Reason for position on list
<b>1</b> Dynasty:	
<b>2</b> Dynasty:	
<b>3</b> Dynasty:	
<b>4</b> Dynasty:	
<b>5</b> Dynasty:	
<b>6</b> Dynasty:	
<b>7</b> Dynasty:	
<b>8</b> Dynasty:	