

Ancient China

A dynasty is a long period of time one family rules a country. Different dynasties have ruled in China over the last 4,000 years. Between about 1766 BC and 206 BC, the Shang dynasty, the Zhou dynasty, and the Qin dynasty ruled.

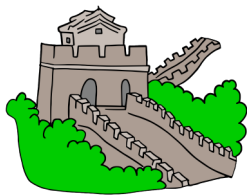
Silk was a very important resource during the Shang dynasty. Special plantations raised silkworms that spun beautiful cocoons out of silk thread. The thread was woven into material that was some of the most valuable in the world. People also created beautiful things out of bronze during the Shang dynasty, developed a way to write their language, and had war chariots drawn by horses, which was something not everyone had at that time.

As the Shang family's power started to weaken, the Zhou dynasty took over. The Zhou also made beautiful objects out of bronze, and they made weapons and farm tools out of iron. The oldest book of Chinese poetry ever found was written during the Zhou dynasty.

After the Zhou, many groups fought for control of China. The Qin finally won in 221 BC. They only ruled for about 15 years, but they did amazing things for the country. They brought China and all the warring groups together under one government. The Qin also brought many walls together that the Zhou had built, and these walls became the Great Wall of China. Some of the Great Wall is still standing today!

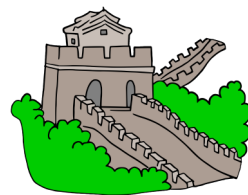
Emperor Shi Huangdi, the first person who ruled the Qin, has a very famous tomb. He ordered that thousands of statues of soldiers, horses, and other animals and objects be made out of baked clay and buried with him. These beautiful carvings were forgotten for over 2,000 years until they were discovered in the 1970s. There is always something new to be learned or discovered about ancient China.

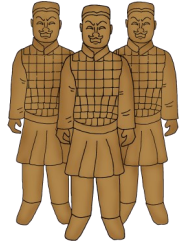
This image shows a blank sheet of white paper with horizontal ruling lines. The lines are evenly spaced and run across the width of the page. There are no margins, text, or other markings on the paper.



Writing Prompt #7

A group of men have just arrived in your village. They are here to build a wall, and they order all the men in the village to help, including your father. You know your father is not feeling well today, so you go with him to try to help. Describe your first day on the job.

[illegible]

[illegible]