

Terms, People, and Places

Tang Dynasty:

Tang Taizong:

Song Dynasty:

Grand Canal:

Tributary State:

Land Reform:

Gentry:

Pagoda:

Lesson Objectives

- Explain how the Tang dynasty ensure reunified China.
- Explain how the Song dynasty grew rich and powerful despite military setbacks.
- Understand how China created an ordered society.
- Describe the cultural achievements of Tang and Song dynasties.

Summary

“Two Golden Ages in China”

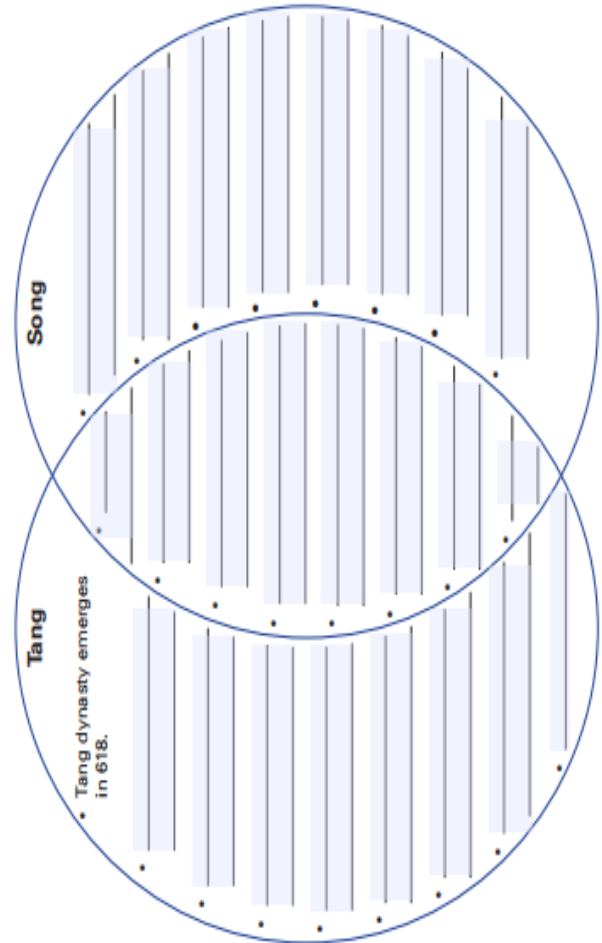
After 400 years of fragmentation, China reemerged as a united empire and the most powerful force in East Asia. China’s civilization developed under a series of strong dynasties with occasional periods of weekend control between the dynasties. The powerful Tang and Song dynasties helped China restore its culture, expand, and prosper.

CHAPTER
12
 SECTION 1

Note Taking Study Guide
 TWO GOLDEN AGES OF CHINA

Focus Question: Describe the political, economic, and cultural achievements of the Tang and Song dynasties.

As you read this section, complete the Venn diagram below to compare and contrast the Tang and Song dynasties. Use the overlapping portion of the circles for information that applies to both dynasties.



CHAPTER
12
SECTION 1**Section Summary**

TWO GOLDEN AGES OF CHINA

READING CHECK

What are tributary states?

VOCABULARY STRATEGY

What does the word *compelled* mean in the underlined sentence? Note that Li Shimin compelled his father to step down and then took the throne himself. Use this context clue to help you understand the meaning of the word *compelled*.

READING SKILL

Compare and Contrast Compare and contrast the social classes in Tang and Song China.

After the Han dynasty collapsed, China broke apart. During the Sui dynasty (589–618), the emperor Sui Wendi reunited north and south. In 618, the general Li Yuan and his son Li Shimin led a revolt and established the Tang dynasty. Eight years later, Li Shimin compelled his aging father to step down. Li Shimin then took the throne under the name Tang Taizong. Later Tang rulers conquered many territories and forced Vietnam, Tibet, and Korea to become tributary states, or self-governing states that sent tribute. Other Tang rulers, such as Empress Wu Zhao, restored the Han system of uniform government. Tang emperors also undertook land reform in which they redistributed land to peasants. However, the Tang eventually weakened. In 907, the last Tang emperor was overthrown.

In 960, Zhao Kuangyin founded the Song dynasty. The Song ruled for 319 years. They faced the constant threat of invaders from the north. Nonetheless, the Song period was a time of great achievement. A new type of faster-growing rice was imported from Southeast Asia. The rise in productivity created food surpluses, freeing more people to pursue commerce, learning, or the arts.

Under the Tang and Song, China was a well-ordered society. At its head was the emperor. Scholar-officials had the highest social status. Most of them came from the gentry, or wealthy, landowning class. The vast majority of Chinese were poor peasant farmers. Merchants had the lowest status because their riches came from the labor of others. Women had higher status during this period than they did later. However, when a woman married, she could not keep her dowry, the payment that a woman brings to a marriage. She could also never remarry.

The Tang and Song developed a rich culture. Song landscape painting was influenced by Daoist beliefs. Buddhist themes influenced Chinese sculpture and architecture. The Indian stupa evolved into the Chinese pagoda. The Chinese also perfected the making of porcelain. Among the gentry, poetry was the most respected form of literature. Probably the greatest Tang poet was Li Bo, who wrote some 2,000 poems.

Review Questions

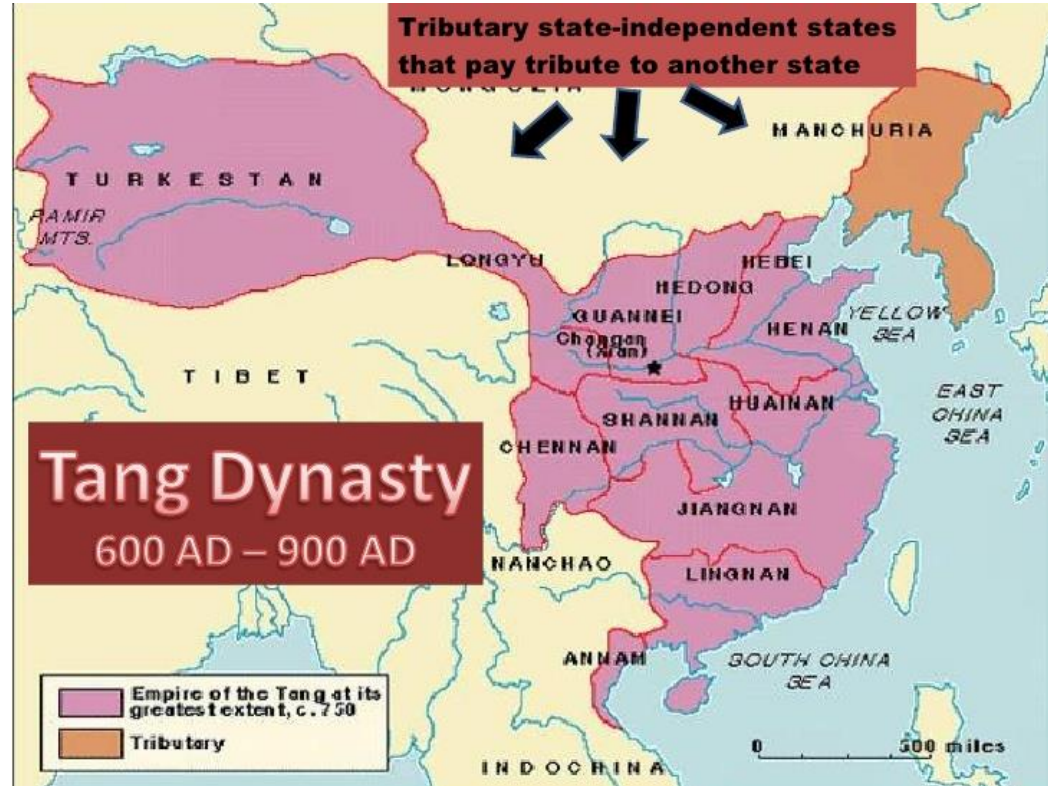
1. What effect did the introduction of a new, faster-growing rice have on Chinese society?

2. What religious beliefs influenced Song landscape painting?

Aim #13: How did China experience two golden ages?



Tang Dynasty Reunifies China (618-907)





Checkpoint

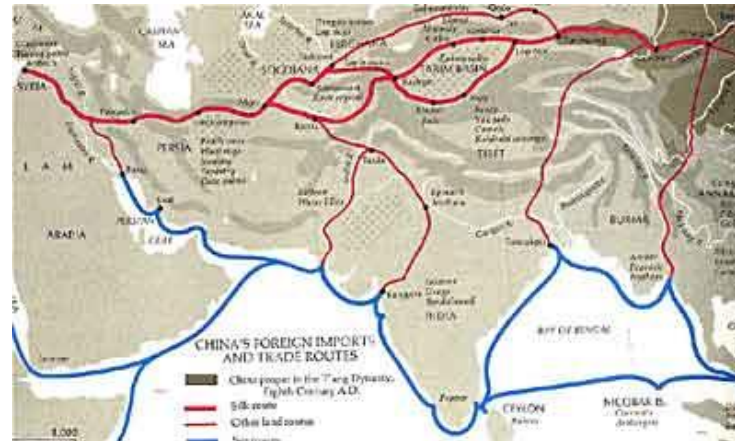
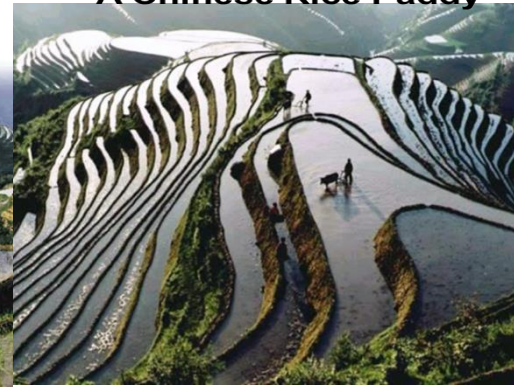
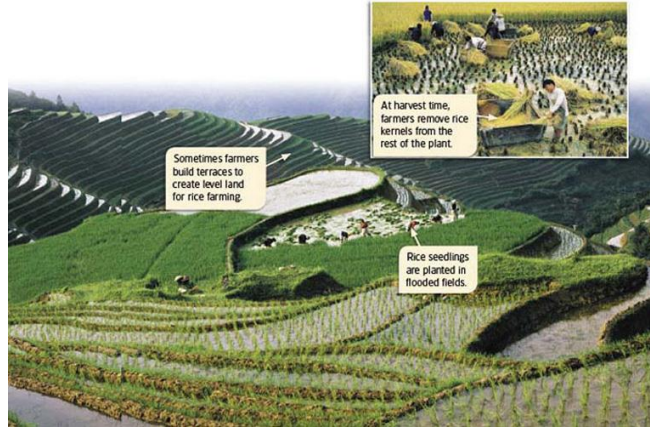
How did Tang rulers ensure Chinese unity and prosperity?

Song Dynasty (960-1279)



Song Economy Thrives

A Chinese Rice Paddy

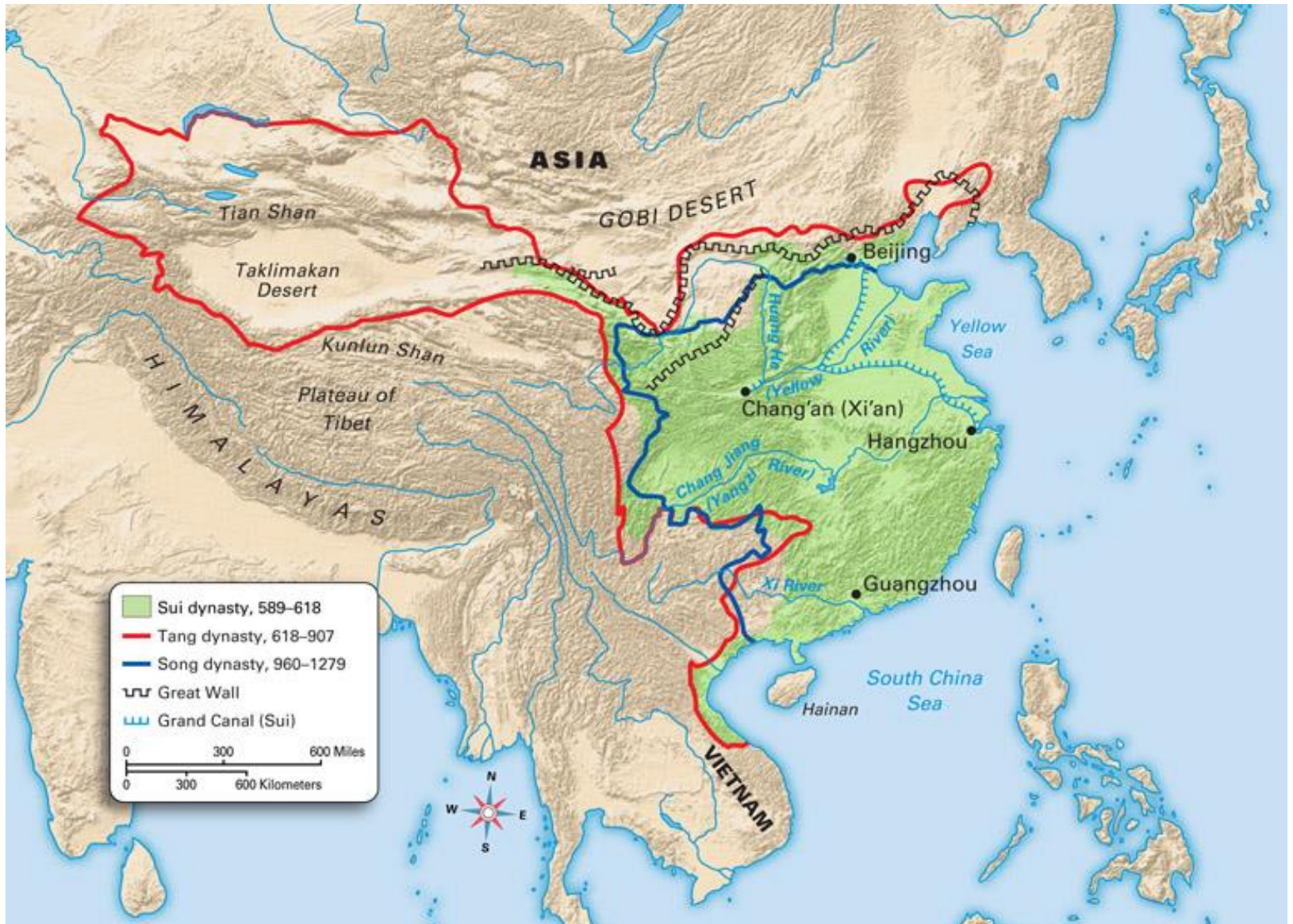


The Beijing - Hangzhou Grand Canal



- Construction of the Grand Canal, then called Han Gou, started in the late Spring and Autumn Period (770-476 BC). Fu Chai, duke of Wu (now Suzhou), wanted a channel to transport troops so he could conquer kingdoms in the north.
- The canal was first cut near Yangzhou, Jiangsu province, to guide the waters of the Yangtze River north.
- It was lengthened during the Sui (AD 581-618) and Yuan (1271-1368) dynasties.
- It eventually connected the Haihe River, Yellow River, Huaihe River, Qiantang River and Yangtze River.
- The canal is today navigable between Hangzhou, Zhejiang province, and Jining, Shandong province.
- Stretching 1,794 km, it is the world's longest canal. It is about 16 times longer than the Suez Canal in Egypt and 33 times the size of the Panama Canal, the world's second and third largest canals.

Grand Canal





Checkpoint

How did Song rulers ensure Chinese unity and prosperity despite military setbacks?

China's Ordered Society



Status of Women

Ancient Chinese foot binding

The custom of binding feet was said to have been adopted by courtesans after a Tang Dynasty emperor 1,000 years ago fell for a concubine who wrapped her tiny feet in silk when she danced

Facts:

- ▶ In ancient Chinese culture, bound foot is known as **symbol of identity and status**
- ▶ Purpose is to **restrict growth of foot** (ideal length is between 2-4 inches)
- ▶ Painful process begins when a girl is between **3-11 years old**

Known process:

- 1 Foot is soaked in warm water and massaged, toenails are trimmed
- 2 Four smaller toes are cracked then bent toward ball of foot
Big toe is not bent to provide balance
- 3 Bandage (10 ft x 2 in) is wrapped around bent toes, pulled tightly to heel
- 4 Every two days, bandage is removed and rebound; goes on for 2-3 years
Feet binding could result in infections, blood poisoning and even death



Normal foot



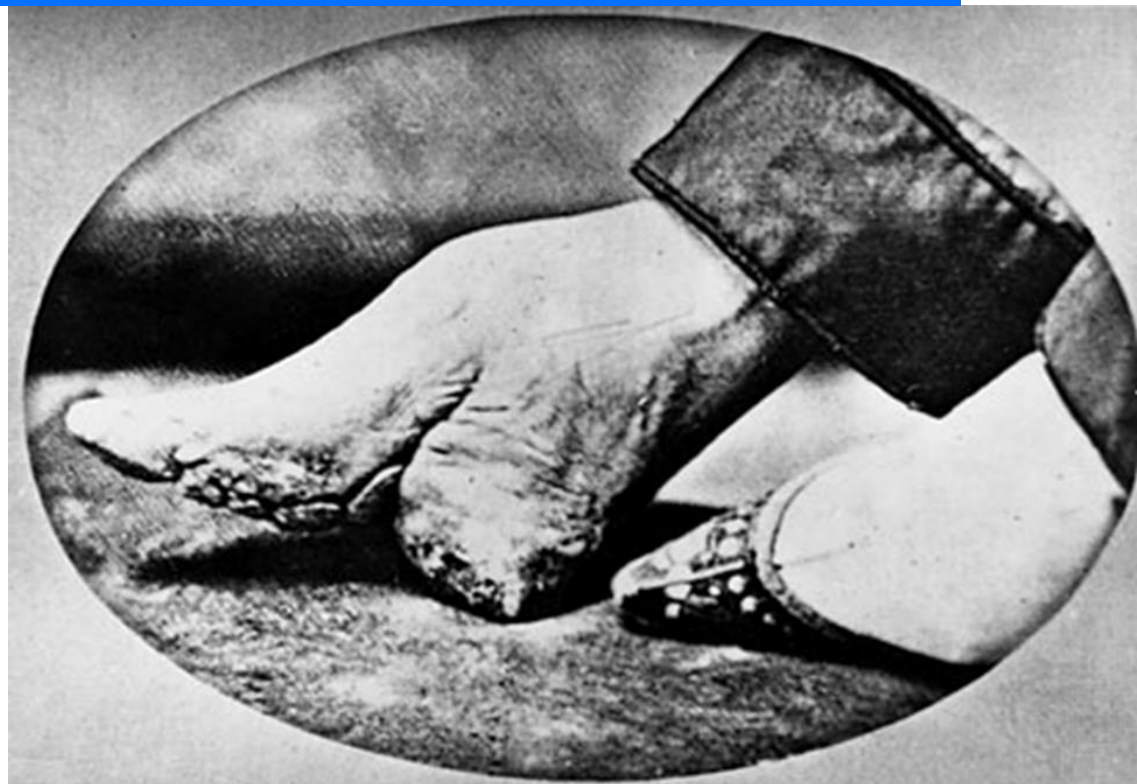
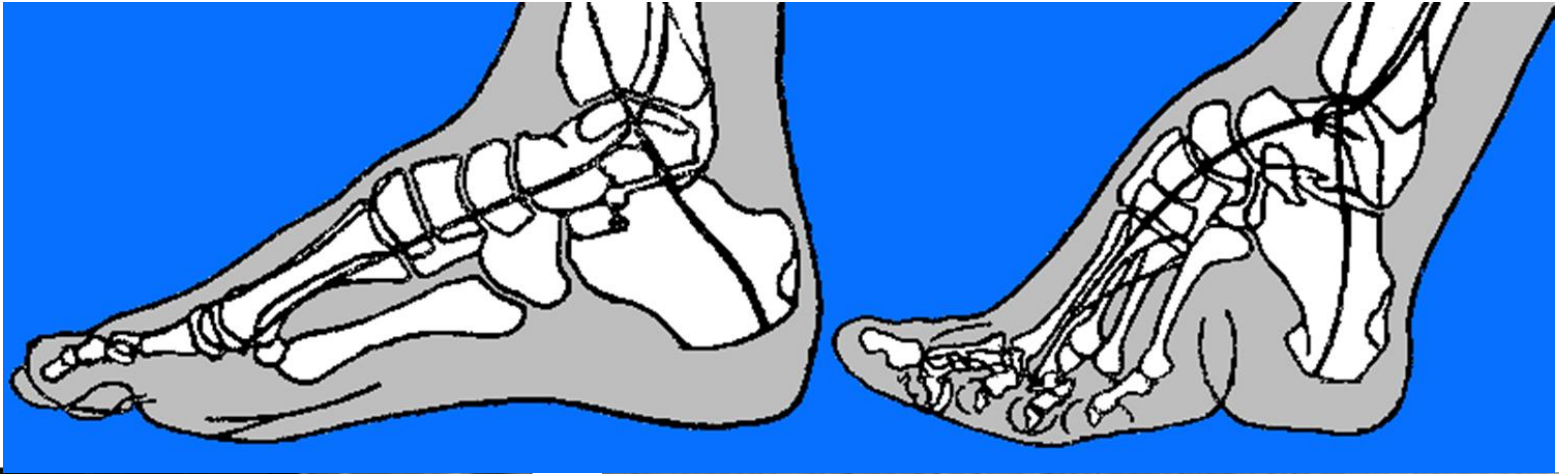
Bound foot



Girls with bound feet walk on **Lotus shoes** (Usually 3 inches long)



Chinese Foot Binding



Foot Binding



(2) A high caste Lady's dainty "Lily Feet"—as they really are—China.
Copyright 1906 by Underwood & Underwood.



Checkpoint

How did Chinese society reflect Confucian traditions and create an ordered society?

Rich Culture Under Tang & Song

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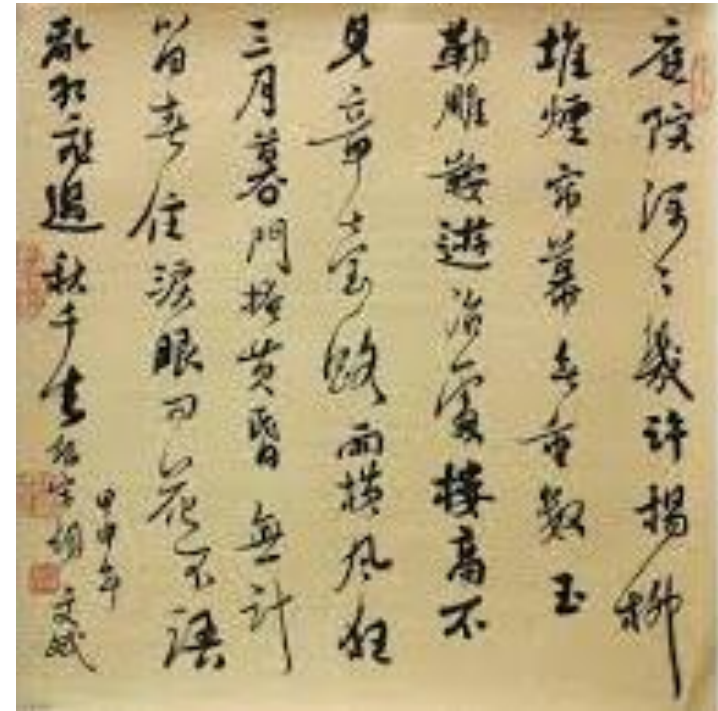


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Literature

- produced works on philosophy, history, & religion
- Poetry, most respected literature among gentry
- Wrote on Daoist, Buddhist, & social themes
- Li Bo, greatest Tang poet wrote 2,000 poems about harmony & nature; very romantic
- Du Fu wrote about reality describing horrors of war & lavishness of court life
- Li Qingzhao wrote about women's lives during wars & invasions



Technological Innovations

Inventions of Tang and Song China

	Date	Description	Impact
Porcelain	Late 700s	Bone-hard, white ceramic made of a special clay and a mineral found only in China	Became a valuable export—so associated with Chinese culture that it is now called “china”; technology remained a Chinese secret for centuries
Mechanical clock	700s	Clock in which machinery (driven by running water) regulated the movements	Early Chinese clocks short-lived; idea for mechanical clock carried by traders to medieval Europe
Printing	Block printing: 700s Movable type: 1040	Block printing: one block on which a whole page is cut; movable type: individual characters arranged in frames, used over and over	Printing technology spread to Korea and Japan; movable type also developed later in Europe
Gunpowder	800s	Explosive powder made from mixture of saltpeter, sulfur, and charcoal	First used for fireworks, then weapons; technology spread west within 300 years
Paper money	1020s	Paper currency issued by Song government to replace cumbersome strings of metal cash used by merchants	Contributed to development of large-scale commercial economy in China
Magnetic compass (for navigation)	1100s	Floating magnetized needle that always points north-south; device had existed in China for centuries before it was adapted by sailors for use at sea	Helped China become a sea power; technology quickly spread west



Checkpoint

What were the cultural & technological achievements of Tang and Song dynasties?



I don't get it...



I get it!

EXIT CARD
Please jot down what you
have gotten from today's
lesson and what you still
have questions on.