Huang He River Civilization
&
Ancient China

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Huang He River Civilization

• Also known as Yellow River Civilization.
• Began around 4,000 BC.
Huang He River

- The Huang He River stretches across China for more than 2,900 miles.
- The river carries its rich yellow silt all the way from Mongolia to the Pacific Ocean.
- The Huang He River and Yangtze River both create a great food-producing area.

Huang He River Civilization

- Ruled by kings.
- First kings were called Shang Kings.
- The Huang He River Civilization was divided into different territories that were ruled by aristocratic warlords.
- Although the warlords were leaders of their land the King had the power to add and remove them whenever he chooses.
Huang He River Civilization
Written Language

• The Chinese written language is not based on an alphabet.
• The Chinese languages use symbols or characters that represent whole words.
• Writing did not develop in the Huang He River Civilization for the first few hundred years.

Huang He River Civilization
Trading

• The Huang He River Civilization primarily focused on day to day agriculture.
• Used Iron for making weapons and tools.
• The Silk Road was a major part of the economy. The Silk Road brought contact with other civilizations and both idea’s and goods were traded along this route.
Four Great Inventions of China

• The Four Great Inventions of China where:
  – Gunpowder
  – Paper
  – Woodblock Printing
  – Compass

Seismograph

• Another invention of Ancient China was the Seismograph.
• Seismograph - an instrument used to detect and record earthquakes.
Seismograph

- The seismograph is decorated with tortoises, birds, dragons, toads and other animal images, which makes it unique and highly enjoyable. If there is an earthquake, the copper ball inside the seismograph will drop out from the mouth of one dragon and fall right into the mouth of the toad below. (There are eight dragons representing eight directions.) From the falling direction of the ball, we can judge where an earthquake may happen. From http://history.cultural-china.com/en/50H159H617.html

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Trade

- The Chinese government support of trade resulted in the building of roads and waterways and stimulated trade beyond China’s borders, particularly along the Silk Road.
- This took place during a period of peace and stability during the Shang though Ming Dynasty’s.
Silk Road

- A trade route that connected China to the Mediterranean Sea in the Middle East.
- Travel via the Silk Road was costly due to length and dangers from bandits (robbers) and harsh terrain.
- The Silk Road lead to China becoming a powerful nation due to the demand for Chinese goods.
Silk Road

- Silk Road has been used for over a millennium to connect the cultures, empires, and economies of the Mediterranean, Central Asia, and China and to foster the flow of goods and ideas from one region to another.
- Silk was the primary good that was traded by the Chinese along the Silk Road.

Tang and Song Dynasties Art

- Artistic expression was a key element of Chinese civilization that took place during the Tang and Song Dynasties.
- This type of artistic expression took form primarily in:
  - poetry,
  - porcelain (pottery)
  - painting
  - calligraphy (Chinese writing)
Tang and Song Dynasty’s Art & Poetry

- Common themes of Tang and Song Dynasty art and poetry were:
  - Good Friends
  - Beauty of Nature
  - Changing Seasons

Marco Polo

- One of the first Europeans to travel the Silk Road and visit China.
- Marco Polo was born in Venice, Italy and travel with his family to China in 1271 AD and returned to Italy 21 years later.
**Marco Polo**

- On his return to Italy he wrote a book, *The Travels of Marco Polo*, that opened the mysteries of the East to the West and sparked an Age of Exploration by European nations.

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**Genghis Khan**

- A Mongolian leader who conquered large amounts of territory in China and Central Asia.
- He died while in battle but his empire was expanded by his descendants that stretched from the Pacific Ocean to East Europe.