



# Unit

# 4

# The Middle Ages

## Why It's Important

Each civilization that you will study in this unit made important contributions to history.

- The Chinese first produced gunpowder, the compass, and printed books.
- Africans south of the Sahara developed new forms of music and dance.
- The Japanese developed a constitution and new forms of art and poetry.
- The Europeans took the first steps toward representative government.

A.D. 300

A.D. 450

A.D. 600

A.D. 750

A.D. 900

China in the Middle Ages

Chapter 12



Chinese figurines

c. A.D. 590

Grand Canal links northern and southern China

A.D. 683

Empress Wu begins rule

Medieval Africa

Chapter 13

A.D. 330

Axum's king Ezana accepts Christianity

c. A.D. 700

The Shona establish the Zimbabwe kingdom

c. A.D. 900s

Islam spreads in Africa

Medieval Japan

Chapter 14

c. A.D. 400

Yamato clan controls Japan

A.D. 631

Prince Shotoku writes constitution



Horyuji temple

Medieval Europe

Chapter 15



Medieval manuscript

A.D. 496

King Clovis becomes a Catholic



Statue of Charlemagne on horseback

A.D. 800

Pope crowns Charlemagne emperor

# Where in the World?



**A.D. 1050**

**c. A.D. 1000s**  
Chinese invent movable type



Mosque in Mali ▶

**A.D. 1200**

**A.D. 1206**  
Genghis Khan becomes Mongol leader



◀ Mongol warrior

**A.D. 1350**

**A.D. 1312**  
Mansa Musa becomes Mali's king



Bronze head of queen, West Africa ▶

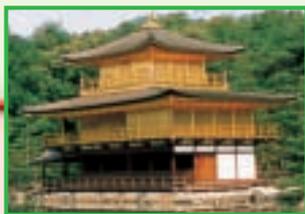


**A.D. 1500**

**A.D. 1405**  
Zheng He begins first of seven overseas voyages

**c. A.D. 1000**  
Lady Murasaki Shikibu composes *The Tale of Genji*

▼ Japanese temple in Kyoto



**A.D. 1281**  
Mongols attempt second invasion of Japan

**c. A.D. 1450**  
Civil war divides Japan

◀ Suit of armor worn by samurai warrior

**c. A.D. 1000**  
Vikings reach North America

**A.D. 1215**  
England's King John signs Magna Carta



**A.D. 1492**  
Ferdinand and Isabella of Spain defeat Moors

◀ Medieval woman spinning wool

# Unit

# 4

# Places to Locate

1

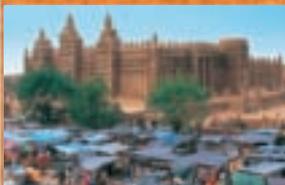
Buddha statue



See China in the Middle Ages  
Chapter 12

2

Djenne mosque



See Medieval Africa  
Chapter 13

4

5

EUROPE

2

AFRICA

Atlantic Ocean

# People to Meet



Prince  
Shotoku

A.D. 573–621  
Japanese leader  
Chapter 14, p. 489



Charlemagne

A.D. 742–814  
Frankish ruler  
Chapter 15, p. 517



Murasaki  
Shikibu

c. A.D. 973–1025  
Japanese writer  
Chapter 14, p. 502



Genghis  
Khan

c. A.D. 1167–1227  
Mongol conqueror  
Chapter 12, p. 427

# ASIA

**3** Todaiji temple



See Medieval Japan  
Chapter 14

**4** Caerphilly Castle



See Medieval Europe  
Chapter 15

**5** Mont St. Michel



See Medieval Europe  
Chapter 15

1

3

Pacific  
Ocean



**Thomas Aquinas**

A.D. 1225–1274  
Christian thinker  
Chapter 15, p. 551



**Mansa Musa**

Ruled A.D. 1312–1337  
King of Mali  
Chapter 13, p. 466



**Zheng He**

A.D. 1371–1433  
Chinese admiral  
Chapter 12, p. 434



**Joan Of Arc**

A.D. 1412–1431  
French heroine  
Chapter 15, p. 556



# Chapter

# 12

404-405 CORBIS

# China in the Middle Ages



▼ Imperial Palace at the Forbidden City

NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC

## When & Who?



A.D. 600

A.D. 900

1200

1500

**A.D. 581**  
Wendi  
founds Sui  
dynasty

**A.D. 868**  
Chinese  
print world's  
first book

**1206**  
Genghis Khan  
unites the  
Mongols

**1405**  
Zheng He be-  
gins overseas  
voyage



# Chapter Preview

Like the Arabs, the Chinese were interested in science and technology. Read this chapter to learn about Chinese inventions and how they influence your life today.



View the Chapter 12 video in the *World History: Journey Across Time* Video Program.

## Section

### 1

## China Reunites

During the Middle Ages, Chinese rulers brought peace, order, and growth to China. Buddhism became a major religion in China, but the Chinese government supported Confucian ideas.

## Section

### 2

## Chinese Society

Farming and trade brought wealth to China. The Chinese developed new technology and enjoyed a golden age of art and writing.

## Section

### 3

## The Mongols in China

Led by Genghis Khan, the Mongols built a vast empire. Under his son, Kublai Khan, they went on to conquer China as well.

## Section

### 4

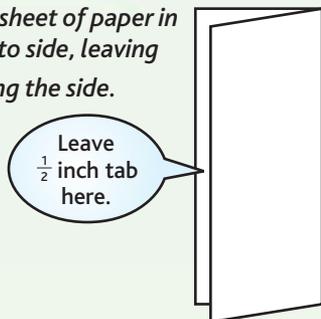
## The Ming Dynasty

China's Ming rulers strengthened government and brought peace and prosperity. They supported trading voyages to other parts of Asia and to East Africa.

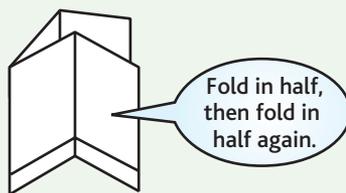
## FOLDABLES™ Study Organizer

**Categorizing Information** Make this foldable to help you organize your notes about China in the Middle Ages.

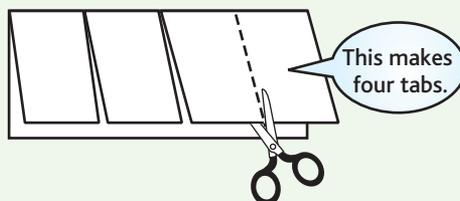
**Step 1** Fold a sheet of paper in half from side to side, leaving  $\frac{1}{2}$  inch tab along the side.



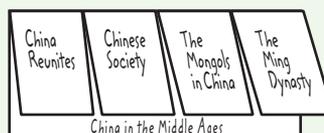
**Step 2** Turn the paper and fold it into fourths.



**Step 3** Unfold and cut along the top three fold lines.



**Step 4** Label as shown.



- **Reading and Writing**
- As you read the chapter, identify the main ideas in the chapter. Write these under the appropriate tab.



# Reading Social Studies

**Reading Skill**  
**Inferences**

## 1 Learn It!

### Reading Between the Lines

To infer means to evaluate information and arrive at a conclusion. When you make inferences, you “read between the lines,” or draw conclusions that are not stated directly in the text. We naturally make inferences about things we read, see, and hear every day.

Read this paragraph from Section 3.

Genghis Khan gathered an army of more than **100,000 warriors**. He placed his soldiers into well-trained groups. Commanding them were officers chosen for their abilities, not for their family ties. These changes made the Mongols the most skilled fighting force in the world at that time.

*—from page 425*

**Reading Tip**

Sometimes you make inferences by asking yourself questions or making predictions about what is going to come next.

Use this Think-Through chart to help you make inferences.

Text	Question	Inference
Genghis Khan	Who was he?	A powerful leader?
The army had 100,000 warriors	Why did he need so many warriors?	To take over another country or to defend his own?
Officers not chosen for family ties	Why did Genghis Khan want officers without strong family ties?	So they would not worry about their families to better concentrate on battle?
Mongols	Who were they?	Genghis Khan's countrymen? People from Mongolia?

## 2 Practice It!

# Making Inferences

Read the next paragraph, also about Genghis Khan's warriors, and pay attention to highlighted words as you make inferences.

Genghis Khan began building his empire by conquering **other people** on the steppes. These victories brought him **wealth** and new soldiers to fill the army. Soon the Mongols were strong enough to attack major civilizations. In 1211 Mongol forces **turned east and invaded China**. Within three years, they had taken all of northern China. They then moved west and struck at the **cities and kingdoms that controlled parts of the Silk Road**.

—from pages 425–426



### Read to Write .....

Read the text under the heading **Scholar-Officials** in Section 1, page 414. Pay attention to the paragraph about how important it was for students to pass tests. Write about any experiences with tests you have had to help you understand the fears and hopes of Chinese students during the Middle Ages.

Create your own Think-Through Chart to help you make further inferences about Genghis Khan's army. You might want to use the highlighted words in your first column and label it **Text**. Your second and third columns can be labeled **Questions** and **Inference**. Read the rest of page 426 to see if your inferences were correct.

## 3 Apply It!

We also make inferences about other types of text, such as poetry. Read the poems on pages 420–421, and create a Think-Through chart to help understand the poems.

# Section

# 1

# China Reunites

## Get Ready to Read!

### What's the Connection?

Earlier you read that the Han dynasty of China collapsed and China plunged into civil war. As you will read, China eventually reunited. The new dynasties took Chinese civilization to even higher levels.

### Focusing on the **Main Ideas**

- The Sui and Tang dynasties reunited and rebuilt China after years of war. (page 409)
- Buddhism became popular in China and spread to Korea and Japan. (page 412)
- The Tang dynasty returned to the ideas of Confucius and created a new class of scholar-officials. (page 413)

### Locating Places

**Korea** (kuh•REE•uh)  
**Japan** (juh•PAN)

### Meeting People

**Wendi** (WHEHN•DEE)  
**Empress Wu** (WOO)

### Building Your Vocabulary

**warlord**  
**economy** (ih•KAH•nuh•mee)  
**reform**  
**monastery** (MAH•nuh•STEHR•ee)

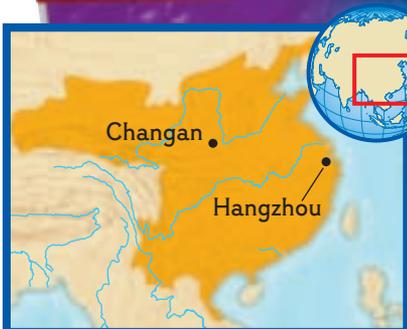
### Reading Strategy

**Categorizing Information** Complete a table like the one below to show the time periods, the most important rulers, and the reasons for the decline of the Sui and Tang dynasties.

	Sui	Tang
Time Period		
Important Rulers		
Reasons for Decline		

NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC

## When & Where?



A.D. 500

A.D. 581  
 Wendi founds Sui dynasty

A.D. 900

A.D. 907  
 Tang dynasty falls

1300

1279  
 Mongols end Song rule



# Rebuilding China's Empire

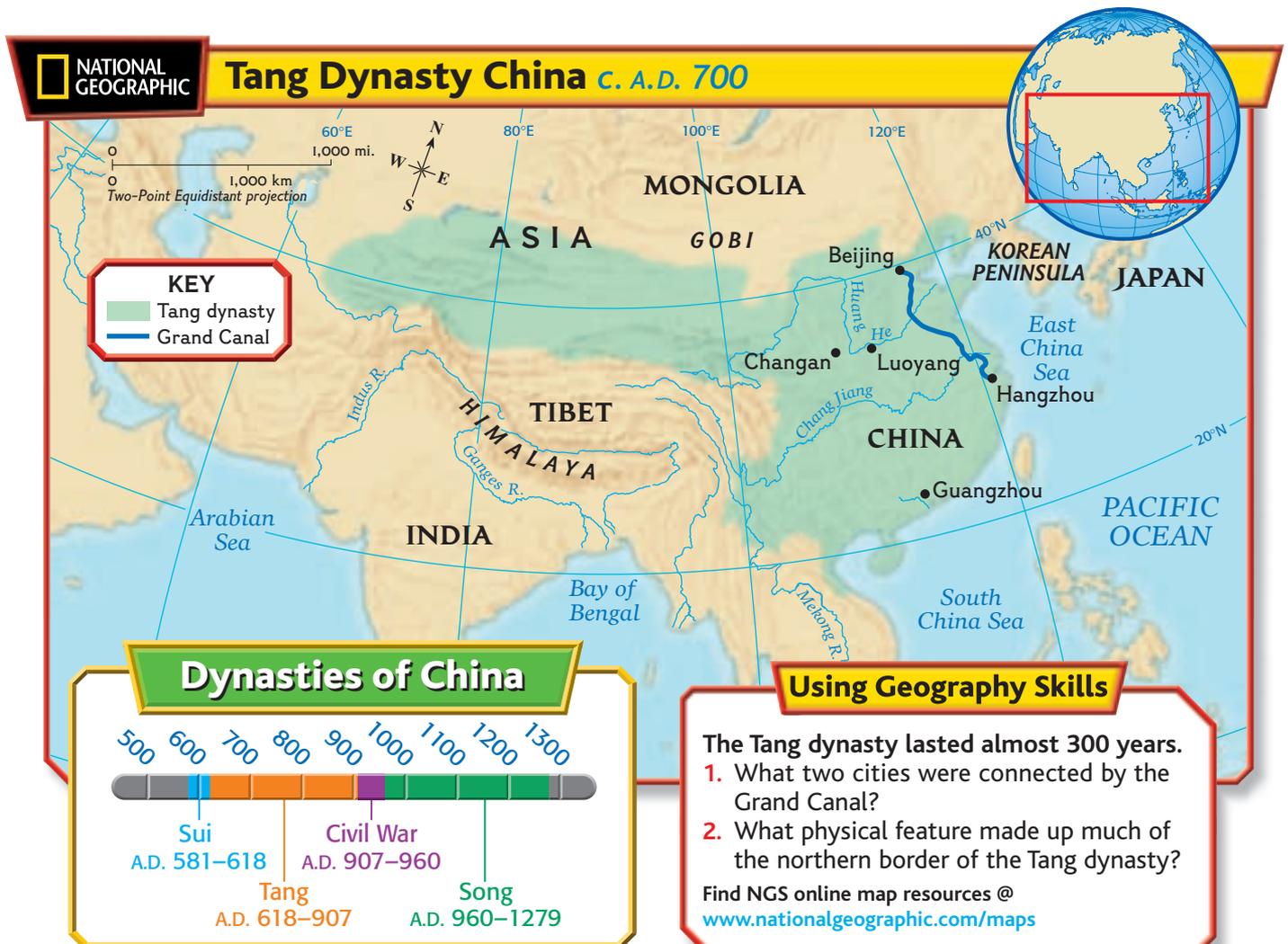
**Main Idea** The Sui and Tang dynasties reunited and rebuilt China after years of war.

**Reading Focus** Have you ever thought about how the economy in your town or city works? How do goods get to your local stores? Who makes sure roads are paved? Read to learn how China dealt with these issues.

Earlier you read that China's Han empire ended in A.D. 220. For the next 300 years, China had no central government. It broke into 17 kingdoms. War and poverty were everywhere. Chinese **warlords**—military leaders who run a government—fought with each other while nomads conquered parts of northern China.

While China was absorbed in its own problems, it lost control of some of the groups it had conquered. One of these groups was the people of **Korea** (kuh•REE•uh). They lived on the Korean Peninsula to the northeast of China. The Koreans decided to end Chinese rule of their country. They broke away and built their own separate civilization.

**The Sui Dynasty Reunites China** China finally reunited in A.D. 581. In that year, a general who called himself **Wendi** (WHEHN•DEE) declared himself emperor. Wendi won battle after battle and finally reunited China. He then founded a new dynasty called the Sui (SWEE).





After Wendi died, his son Yangdi (YAHNG•DEE) took the Chinese throne. Yangdi wanted to expand China's territory. He sent an army to fight the neighboring Koreans, but the Chinese were badly defeated. At home, Yangdi took on many ambitious building projects. For example, the Great Wall had fallen into ruins, and Yangdi had it rebuilt.

Yangdi's greatest effort went into building the Grand Canal. This system of waterways linked the Chang Jiang (Yangtze River) and Huang He (Yellow River). The Grand

## History online

**Web Activity** Visit [jat.glencoe.com](http://jat.glencoe.com) and click on *Chapter 12—Student Web Activity* to learn more about China.

Canal became an important route for shipping products between northern and southern China. It helped unite China's economy. An **economy** (ih•KAH•nuh•mee) is an organized way in which people produce, sell, and buy things.

# Linking Past & Present

## Grand Canal and Three Gorges Dam Project

The Three Gorges Dam under construction

**THEN** Opening the Grand Canal boosted Imperial China's economy and made it much cheaper and faster to ship food and goods north and south. It also cost many laborers their lives. In addition, the canal system often flooded, drowning many people and animals and destroying crops.



**NOW** In 1994 China began building the Three Gorges Dam on the Chang Jiang. The dam will control flooding and produce electricity. Building it, however, requires many areas to be flooded. Millions of people have had to move, and much farmland will be lost. **What have construction projects changed in your state?**

▲ The Grand Canal



Yangdi rebuilt China, but he did it by placing hardships on the Chinese people. Farmers were forced to work on the Great Wall and the Grand Canal. They also had to pay high taxes to the government for these projects. Finally, the farmers became so angry that they revolted. The army took control and killed Yangdi. With Yangdi gone, the Sui dynasty came to an end.

**The Tang Dynasty** In A.D. 618 one of Yangdi's generals took over China. He made himself emperor and set up a new dynasty called the Tang (TAHNG). Unlike the short-lived Sui, the Tang dynasty was in power for about 300 years—from A.D. 618 to A.D. 907. The Tang capital at Changan became a magnificent city, with about one million people living there.

Tang rulers worked to strengthen China's government. They carried out a number of **reforms**, or changes that brought improvements. The most powerful Tang emperor was named Taizong (TY•ZAWNG). He restored the civil service exam system. Government officials were once again hired based on how well they did on exams rather than on their family connections. Taizong also gave land to farmers and brought order to the countryside.

During the late A.D. 600s, a woman named Wu ruled China as empress. She was the only woman in Chinese history to rule the country on her own. A forceful leader, **Empress Wu** (WOO) added more officials to the government. She also strengthened China's military forces.

Under the Tang, China regained much of its power in Asia and expanded the areas under its control. Tang armies pushed west into central Asia, invaded Tibet, and took control of the Silk Road. They marched into Korea and forced the Korean kingdoms to



pay tribute, a special kind of tax that one country pays to another to be left alone. The Tang also moved south and took control of northern Vietnam.

By the mid-A.D. 700s, however, the Tang dynasty began to have problems. A new group of nomads—the Turks that you read about earlier—drove the Tang armies out of central Asia and took control of the Silk Road. This damaged China's economy. Revolts in Tibet and among Chinese farmers at home further weakened the Tang. In A.D. 907 all of this disorder brought down the Tang dynasty.

**The Song Dynasty** For about 50 years after the fall of the Tang, military leaders ruled China. Then, in A.D. 960, one of the generals declared himself emperor and set up the Song (SOONG) dynasty.



The Song dynasty ruled from A.D. 960 to 1279. This period was a time of prosperity and cultural achievement for China. From the start, however, the Song faced problems that threatened their hold on China. Song rulers did not have enough soldiers to control their large empire. Tibet broke away, and nomads took over much of northern China. For safety, the Song moved their capital farther south to the city of Hangzhou (HAHNG • JOH). Hangzhou was on the coast near the Chang Jiang delta.



▲ **Statue of the Buddha**, carved about A.D. 460 in the Yun-Kang caves in China.

✔ **Reading Check Explain** How did Wendi unite China?

## Buddhism Spreads to China

**Main Idea** Buddhism became popular in China and spread to Korea and Japan.

**Reading Focus** Where do you turn when you are having problems? Read to learn why many Chinese turned to Buddhism when China was in trouble.

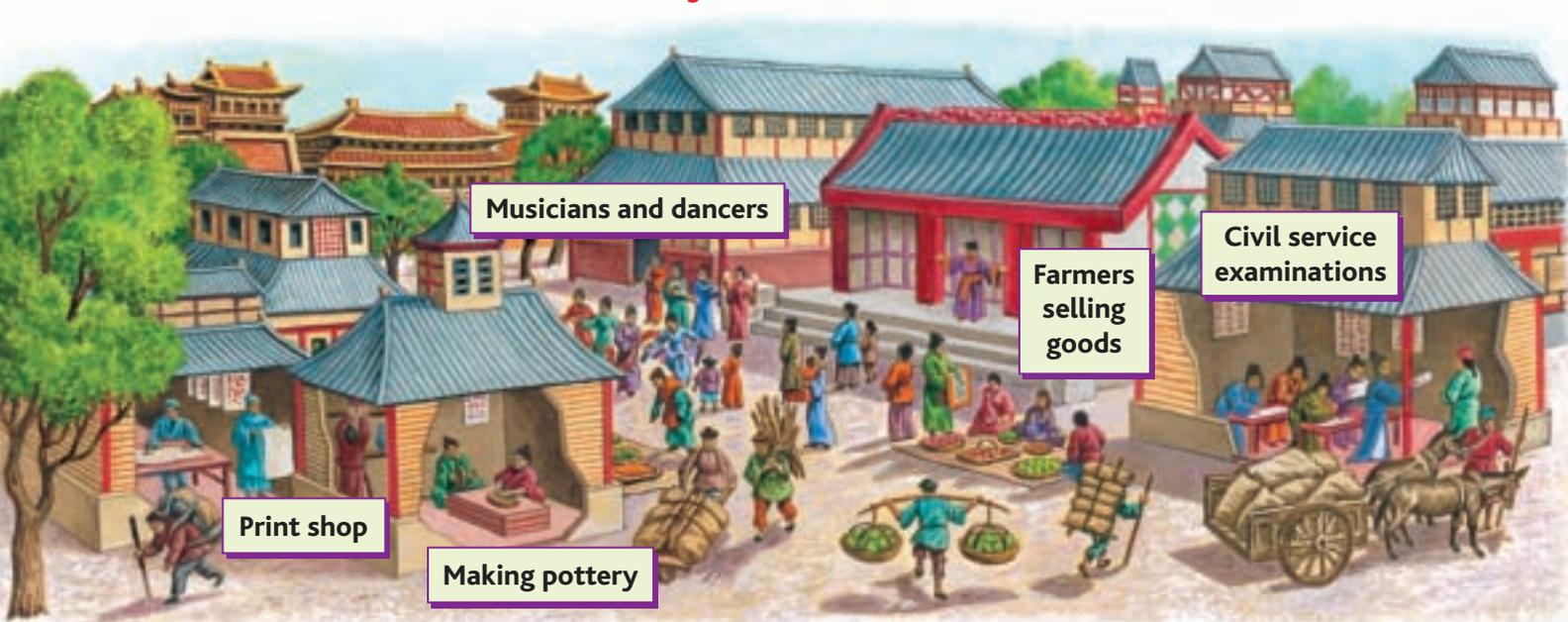
Earlier you learned that traders and missionaries from India brought Buddhism to China in about A.D. 150. At the time, the Han dynasty was already weak. Soon afterward, China collapsed into civil war. People everywhere were dying from war and a lack of food and shelter. It was a time of great suffering. Because Buddhism taught that people could escape their suffering, many Chinese seeking peace and comfort became Buddhists.

**Chinese Buddhism** Early Tang rulers were not Buddhists, but they allowed Buddhism to be practiced in China. They even

Ira Kirschenbaum/Stock Boston

## City Life in Tang China

Under the Tang, China grew and was prosperous. Tang cities could be large, with many activities occurring within the city's walls. A city contained many shops and temples. The homes of rich families often had two or three floors. **When did the Tang rule China?**





supported the building of Buddhist temples. Many Chinese Buddhists became monks and nuns. They lived in places called **monasteries** (MAH • nuh • STEHR • eez), where they meditated and worshiped.

Buddhist temples and monasteries provided services for people. They ran schools and provided rooms and food for travelers. Buddhist monks served as bankers and provided medical care.

Not all Chinese people liked Buddhism, however. Many thought that it was wrong for the Buddhist temples and monasteries to accept donations. Others believed that monks and nuns weakened respect for family life because they were not allowed to marry.

In the early A.D. 800s, Tang officials feared Buddhism's growing power. They saw Buddhism as an enemy of China's traditions. In A.D. 845 the Tang had many Buddhist monasteries and temples destroyed. Buddhism in China never fully recovered.

**Chinese Buddhism Spreads East** As you read earlier, Korea broke free of China when the Han dynasty fell in A.D. 220. For several hundred years after, Korea was divided into three independent kingdoms.

In the A.D. 300s, Chinese Buddhists brought their religion to Korea. About A.D. 660, the Koreans united to form one country. After that, with government support, Buddhism grew even stronger in Korea.

Buddhism later spread to the nearby islands of **Japan** (juh • PAN). According to legend, one of Korea's kings wrote to Japan's emperor. The letter contained a statue of the Buddha and Buddhist writings. "This religion is the most excellent of all teachings," the king wrote. As time passed, Buddhism won many followers in Japan as well.

**Reading Check Explain** Why did some Chinese people dislike Buddhism?

## New Confucian Ideas

**Main Idea** The Tang dynasty returned to the ideas of Confucius and created a new class of scholar-officials.

**Reading Focus** Have you ever seen someone get a reward that he or she did not earn? Read to learn how China's rulers tried to avoid this problem when hiring government officials.

You have already read about Confucius and his teachings. Confucius and his followers believed that a good government depended on having wise leaders. The civil service examinations introduced by Han

### Primary Source Defending Confucianism

Han Yü (A.D. 768 to A.D. 824) encouraged the Chinese people to remain faithful to Confucianism.

"What were the teachings of our ancient kings? Universal love is called humanity. To practice this in the proper manner is called righteousness. To proceed according to these is called the Way. . . . They offered sacrifices to Heaven and the gods came to receive them. . . . What Way is this? I say: This is what I call the Way, and not what the Taoists [Daoists] and the Buddhists called the Way. . . ."



▲ Han Yü

—Han Yü, "An Inquiry on The Way" (Tao)

### DBQ Document-Based Question

Why does Han Yü think Confucianism should be followed?



# The Way It Was

## Focus on Everyday Life

**Civil Service Exams** Proficiency tests and final exams today take a lot of preparation, but they are not as difficult as China's civil service examinations given during the Tang dynasty. Men of almost all ranks tried to pass the exams so they could hold government jobs and become wealthy. Thousands attempted the tests, but only a few hundred people qualified for the important positions.

Chinese boys began preparing for the exams in primary school. After many years of learning to read and write more than 400,000 words and sayings, the boys—now men in their twenties or early thirties—would take the first of three levels of exams.

Students traveled to huge testing sites to take the tests. Food and beds were not provided, so they had to bring their own. Many men became sick or insane because of the stress of the tests and the poor conditions under which they were tested.



▲ Students taking civil service exams

### Connecting to the Past

1. How old were the Chinese when they took the tests?
2. Why do you think taking the tests was so stressful for these men?

rulers were a product of Confucian ideas. They were supposed to recruit talented government officials.

After the fall of the Han dynasty, no national government existed to give civil service examinations. Confucianism lost much support, and Buddhism with its spiritual message won many followers. Tang and Song rulers, however, brought Confucianism back into favor.

**What Is Neo-Confucianism?** The Tang dynasty gave its support to a new kind of Confucianism called neo-Confucianism. This new Confucianism was created, in part, to reduce Buddhism's popularity. It taught that life in this world was just as important as the afterlife. Followers were expected to take part in life and help others.

Although it criticized Buddhist ideas, this new form of Confucianism also picked up some Buddhist and Daoist beliefs. For many Chinese, Confucianism became more than a system of rules for being good. It became a religion with beliefs about the spiritual world. Confucian thinkers taught that if people followed Confucius's teachings, they would find peace of mind and live in harmony with nature.

The Song dynasty, which followed the Tang, also supported neo-Confucianism. The Song even adopted it as their official philosophy, or belief system.

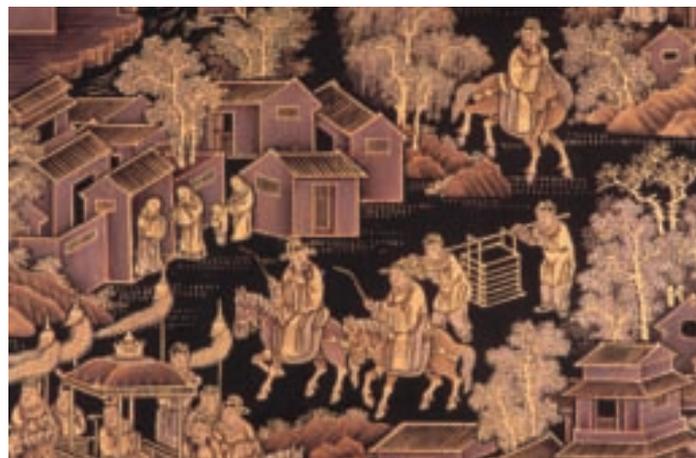
**Scholar-Officials** Neo-Confucianism also became a way to strengthen the government. Both Tang and Song rulers used civil service examinations to hire officials. In doing so, they based the bureaucracy on a merit system. Under a merit system, people are accepted for what they can do and not on their riches or personal contacts.



The examinations tested job seekers on their knowledge of Confucian writings. To pass, it was necessary to write with style as well as understanding. The tests were supposed to be fair, but only men were allowed to take the tests. Also, only rich people had the money that was needed to help their sons study for the tests.

Passing the tests was very difficult. However, parents did all they could to prepare their sons. At the age of four, boys started learning to write the characters of the Chinese language. Later, students had to memorize all of Confucius's writings. If a student recited the passages poorly, he could expect to be hit by his teacher.

After many years of study, the boys took their examinations. Despite all the preparation, only one in five passed. Those who failed usually found jobs helping officials or teaching others. However, they would never be given a government job.



▲ Chinese scholar-officials on horseback

Over the years, the examination system created a new wealthy class in China. This group was made up of scholar-officials. Strict rules set the scholar-officials apart from society. One rule was that they could not do physical work. Students preparing for the tests were taught never to use their hands except for painting or writing.

**Reading Check Describe** How did Confucianism change in China?

## Section 1 Review

History online

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### Reading Summary

#### Review the Main Ideas

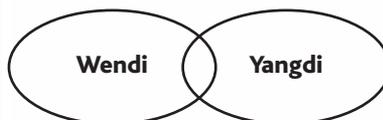
- While the Sui dynasty was short-lived, the Tang and Song dynasties lasted for hundreds of years and returned power and prosperity to China.
- Buddhism became popular in China and also spread to Korea and Japan.
- A new kind of Confucianism developed in China during the Tang and Song dynasties, and the government used civil service tests to improve itself.

### What Did You Learn?

1. What made Buddhism so popular in China?
2. How was neo-Confucianism a response to Buddhism's popularity, and what did it teach?

#### Critical Thinking

3. **Compare and Contrast** Create a diagram to show how the reigns of Wendi and Yangdi were similar and how they were different.



4. **Cause and Effect** What events led to the fall of the Tang dynasty?
5. **Sequencing Information** Describe the history of Buddhism during the Tang dynasty.
6. **Analyze** Why had Confucianism fallen out of favor in China before the Tang and Song dynasties?
7. **Drawing Conclusions** Do you think China's civil service system truly brought the most talented individuals into the government? How would you make the system fairer?

# Chinese Society

## Get Ready to Read!

### What's the Connection?

In the last section, you learned about the rise and fall of the Sui, Tang, and Song dynasties. During those dynasties, China's economy began to grow again. Chinese inventors developed many new technologies, and Chinese artists and writers produced new works that are still admired today.

### Focusing on the **Main Ideas**

- The Tang dynasty strengthened China's economy by supporting farming and trade. (page 417)
- The Chinese developed new technologies, such as steelmaking and printing. (page 418)
- During the Tang and the Song dynasties, China enjoyed a golden age of art and literature. (page 420)

### Locating Places

**Changan** (CHAHNG•AHN)

### Meeting People

**Li Bo** (LEE BOH)

**Du Fu** (DOO FOO)

### Building Your Vocabulary

**porcelain** (POHR•suh•luhn)

**calligraphy** (kuh•LIH•gruh•fee)

### Reading Strategy

**Organizing Information** Complete a chart like the one below describing the new technologies developed in China during the Middle Ages.



## When & Where?



A.D. 600

**A.D. 618**  
Tang dynasty takes power

A.D. 900

**A.D. 868**  
Chinese print world's first complete book

1200

**c. 1150**  
Chinese sailors are the first to use compass



## A Growing Economy

**Main Idea** The Tang dynasty strengthened China's economy by supporting farming and trade.

**Reading Focus** Do you know anyone who drinks tea or wears silk clothing? Both of these goods were first produced in China. Read to learn how farming changed under the Tang dynasty.

When the Han dynasty in China collapsed in the A.D. 200s, it was a disaster for China's economy. As fighting began, cities were damaged and farms were burned. Artisans made fewer goods, farmers grew fewer crops, and merchants had less to trade. Under the Tang dynasty, these problems were solved.

**Why Did Farming Improve?** When the Tang rulers took power in A.D. 618, they brought peace to the countryside and gave more land to farmers. As a result, farmers were able to make many advances. They improved

irrigation and introduced new ways of growing their crops. Farmers also developed new kinds of rice, which grew well in poor soil, produced more per acre, grew faster, and were resistant to disease.

These changes helped farmers grow more and more rice. China's farmers also began to grow tea, which became a popular drink. They made improvements in other crops as well. With more food available, the number of people in China greatly increased. At the same time, more people moved southward, where rice grew abundantly in the Chang Jiang valley. This led to the rise of new cities.

**China's Trade Grows** Tang rulers also had roads and waterways built. These changes made travel within and outside of China much easier. Chinese merchants were able to increase trade with people in other parts of Asia. The Silk Road, now under Tang control, once again bustled with activity.



▲ A worker holds a tray of silkworms eating mulberry leaves. Eventually the worms will spin cocoons. Workers then collect and unravel the cocoons to make silk thread. **Why do you think silk is still expensive today?**

▼ Silk, shown here being harvested, remained an important trade item for the Chinese. **How did Tang rulers help increase trade?**





One of the items traded by the Chinese was silk fabric. This product gave the road its name and was popular in markets to the west of China. In addition, China traded tea, steel, paper, and porcelain. **Porcelain** (POHR•suh•luhn) is made of fine clay and baked at high temperatures. In return, other countries sent China products such as gold, silver, precious stones, and fine woods.

Other trade routes were also established. Roads linked China to central Asia, India, and southwest Asia. In addition, the Tang opened new ports along China's coast to boost trade.

**Reading Check Cause and Effect** How did the new kinds of rice developed in China help its population grow?

## New Technology

**Main Idea** The Chinese developed new technologies, such as steelmaking and printing.

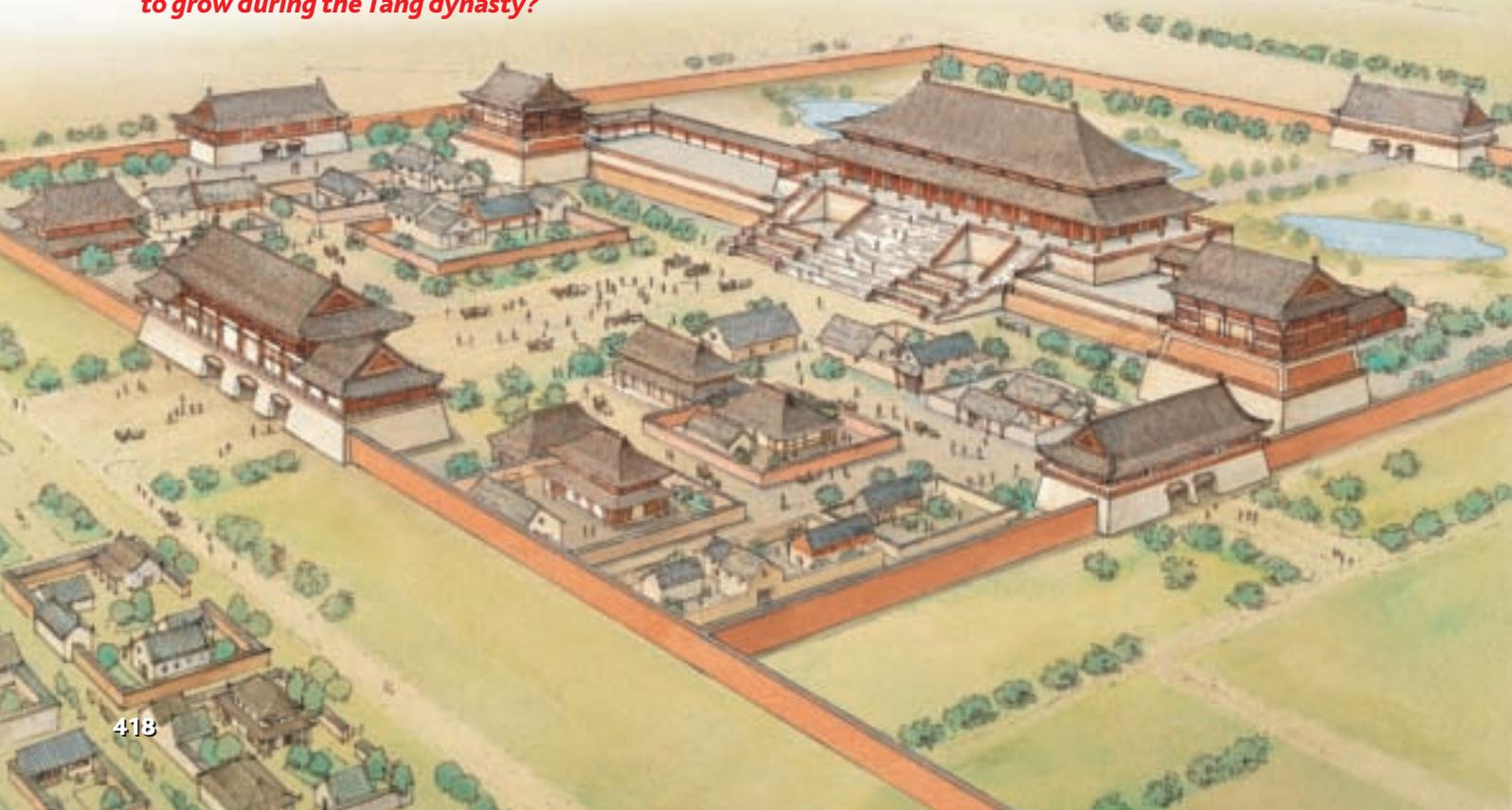
**Reading Focus** This book is made of paper with letters printed on the paper by a machine. Read to learn how printing was first invented during the Tang dynasty.

During the Tang and Song dynasties, new inventions changed China's society. In time, these discoveries spread to other parts of the world.

**China Discovers Coal and Steel** For most of China's history, people burned wood to heat their homes and cook their food. By the time of the Tang dynasty, wood was

## Changan's Royal Palace

The Tang capital city of Changan may have had a population of one million people at its peak. The city had large blocks that included houses, businesses, and temples set along straight streets. Its layout inspired the design of many later cities. The area containing the royal palace, shown below, was bordered by parklands. **What improvements to agriculture allowed China's population to grow during the Tang dynasty?**





Werner Forman/Art Resource, NY

becoming scarce in China. However, the Chinese had discovered that coal could be used to heat things, and soon a coal-mining industry developed.

The Chinese used coal to heat furnaces to high temperatures, which led to another discovery. When iron was produced in hot furnaces heated by coal, the molten iron mixed with carbon from the coal. This created a new, stronger metal known today as steel.

The Chinese used steel to make many things. They made armor, swords, and helmets for their army, but they also made stoves, farm tools, drills, steel chain, and even steel nails and sewing needles.

**The Printing Process** Paper had been invented under the Han dynasty. Under the Tang, the mass production of paper led to another important Chinese innovation: a method for printing books. Before printing, books were copied by hand and were very expensive. The Chinese began printing in the A.D. 600s. They used blocks of wood on which they cut the characters of an entire page. Ink was placed over the wooden block. Then paper was laid on the block to make a print. Cutting the block took a long time, but the woodblocks could be used again and again to make many copies.

The Chinese soon began printing books. The earliest known printed book dates from about A.D. 868. It is a Buddhist book called the *Diamond Sutra*. The invention of printing was very important. It helped to spread ideas more rapidly.

In the A.D. 1000s, a Chinese printer named Pi Sheng (BEE SHUHNG) invented movable type for printing. With movable type, each character is a separate piece. The pieces can be moved around to make sentences and used again and again. Printing also led to the invention of paper currency. In 1024, during the Song dynasty, the

## Science and Inventions

**Printing** When the Chinese invented movable type, they improved the art of printing. A Chinese author described the work of Pi Sheng:

“He took sticky clay and cut in it characters as thin as the edge of a copper coin. Each character formed as it were a single type. He baked them in the fire to make them hard. He had previously prepared an iron plate and he had covered this plate with a mixture of pine resin, wax, and paper ashes. When he wished to print, he took an iron frame and set it on the iron plate. In this he placed the type, set close together. When the frame was full, the whole made one solid block of type.”

—Shên Kua, *Dream Pool Jottings*



◀ The *Diamond Sutra* is the earliest known printed book.



▲ Movable type block



▲ Composing stick

### Connecting to the Past

1. Why do you think Pi Sheng used clay to make his characters?
2. In what instance would woodblock printing have been a better method to use than movable type?

Chinese printed the world's first paper money as a way to help merchants. Paper money helped the economy to expand and cities to grow.

**Other Chinese Inventions** The Chinese made gunpowder for use in explosives. One weapon was the fire lance, an ancestor of the gun. It used gunpowder and helped make the Chinese army a strong force. The Chinese also used gunpowder to make fireworks. The Chinese also built large ships with rudders and sails. About 1150, Chinese sailors began using the compass to help them find their way. This let ships sail farther from land.

**Reading Check Analyze** Why was the invention of printing so important?

## Art and Literature

**Main Idea** During the Tang and the Song dynasties, China enjoyed a golden age of art and literature.

**Reading Focus** If you were to choose one poem to read to the class, which poem would it be? Below, you will read a poem that is a Chinese favorite.

The Tang and Song eras were a golden age for Chinese culture. The invention of printing helped to spread Chinese ideas and artwork. Chinese rulers actively supported art and literature, and invited artists and poets to live and work in the capital city of **Changan** (CHAHNG • AHN).

**What Was Tang Poetry Like?** Chinese writers best expressed themselves in poems. In fact, the Tang dynasty is viewed as the great age of poetry in China. Some Tang poems celebrated the beauty of nature, the thrill of seasons changing, and the joy of having a good friend. Other Tang poems expressed sadness for the shortness of life and mourned the cruelty of friends parting.

**Li Bo** (LEE BOH) was one of the most popular poets of the Tang era. His poems often centered on nature. The poem below by Li Bo is probably the best-known poem in China. For centuries, Chinese schoolchildren have had to memorize it. Its title is "Still Night Thoughts."

“Moonlight in front of my bed—  
I took it for frost on the ground!  
I lift my eyes to watch the  
mountain moon,  
lower them and dream of home.”

—Li Bo,  
"Still Night Thoughts"

Another favorite poet of that time was **Du Fu** (DOO FOO). He was a poor civil servant who had a hard life. Civil war swept

## Primary Source

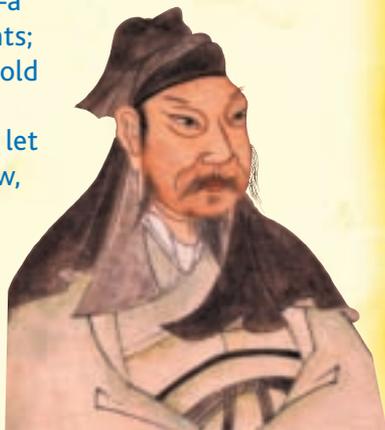
### Li Bo

In the following poem, Li Bo writes about parting from a friend.

"Green hills sloping from the northern wall,  
white water rounding the eastern city: once  
parted from this place the lone weed  
tumbles ten thousand miles.

Drifting clouds—a  
traveler's thoughts;  
setting sun—an old  
friend's heart.  
Wave hands and let  
us take leave now,  
*hsiao-hsiao* our  
hesitant horses  
neighing."

—Li Bo,  
"Seeing a  
Friend Off"



▲ Li Bo

## DBQ Document-Based Question

How are drifting clouds like a traveler's thoughts?



▲ This Chinese landscape was painted in the 1100s. *How were Daoist beliefs depicted in landscapes painted during the Song dynasty?*

▼ Chinese calligraphy



▲ Ink and watercolor drawing on silk

China, and food was hard to find. Du Fu nearly died of starvation. His problems opened his eyes to the sufferings of the common people.

As a result, Du Fu’s poems often were very serious. They frequently dealt with issues such as social injustice and the problems of the poor. Du Fu wrote the poem below after a rebellion left the capital city in ruins. It is called “Spring Landscape.”

“Rivers and mountains survive broken countries.  
Spring returns. The city grows lush again.  
Blossoms scatter tears thinking of us, and this  
Separation in a bird’s cry startles the heart.  
  
Beacon-fires have burned through three months.  
By now, letters are worth ten thousand in gold.

. . . . . ”  
—Du Fu,  
“Spring Landscape”

**Painting in Song China** The painting of landscapes became widespread during the Song dynasty. However, Chinese artists did not try to make exact pictures of the landscapes they were painting. Instead, they wished to portray the “idea” of the mountains, lakes, and other features of their landscapes. Also, empty spaces were left in the paintings on purpose. This is because of the Daoist belief that a person cannot know the whole truth about something.

Daoist beliefs also can be seen in the way people are portrayed. They are tiny figures, fishing in small boats or wandering up a hillside trail. In other words, the people are living in, but not controlling, nature. They are only a part of the harmony of the natural setting.

Chinese painters often wrote poetry on their works. They used a brush and ink to write beautiful characters called **calligraphy** (kuh•LIH•gruh•fee).

**Chinese Porcelain** During the Tang period, Chinese artisans perfected the making of porcelain. Because porcelain later came from



◀ Ceramic figures from Tang dynasty tomb

These porcelain figures from the Tang dynasty show travelers on horseback. **What is porcelain sometimes called today?**



▲ Tang dynasty bottle

China to the West, people today sometimes call porcelain by the name “china.”

Porcelain can be made into plates, cups, figurines, and vases. In A.D. 851 an Arab traveler described the quality of Tang porcelain: “There is in China a very fine clay from which are made vases. . . . Water in these

vases is visible through them, and yet they are made of clay.”

The technology for making porcelain spread to other parts of the world. It finally reached Europe in the 1700s.

**Reading Check Identify** What did Du Fu often write about?

## Section 2 Review

History online

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### Reading Summary

#### Review the Main Ideas

- During the Tang dynasty, both farming and trade flourished, and the empire grew much larger than ever before.
- Many important inventions were developed in China during the Tang and Song dynasties, including steel, printing, and gunpowder.
- Chinese literature and arts, including poetry, landscape painting, and porcelain making, reached new heights during the Tang and Song dynasties.

### What Did You Learn?

1. What products were traded by China along the Silk Road?
2. What were some of the subjects of Tang poetry?
4. **Summarize** Describe the changes to Chinese agriculture during the Tang dynasty.
5. **Contrast** How do the two forms of printing invented by the Chinese differ?

#### Critical Thinking

3. **Organizing Information** Draw a chart to describe the new technologies developed in China.
6. **Evaluate** Which invention of the Tang and Song dynasties do you think has been most important? Explain.

Metalworking	
Printing	
Weapons	
Sailing	

7. **Creative Writing** Read the poem “Still Night Thoughts” by Li Bo again. Then write a short, four-stanza poem similar to Li Bo’s about the view from your bedroom or kitchen window.

## Section

# 3

# The Mongols in China

## Get Ready to Read!

### What's the Connection?

As a complex culture developed in China, a northern enemy waited to attack.

### Focusing on the **Main Ideas**

- Genghis Khan and his sons built the Mongol Empire, which stretched from the Pacific Ocean to Eastern Europe. (page 424)
- The Mongols conquered China and created a new dynasty that tried to conquer Japan and began trading with the rest of Asia. (page 428)

### Locating Places

**Mongolia** (mahn•GOH•lee•uh)

**Gobi** (GOH•bee)

**Karakorum** (KAHR•uh•KOHR•uhm)

**Khanbaliq** (KAHN•buh•LEEK)

**Beijing** (BAY•JIHNG)

### Meeting People

**Genghis Khan**

(GEHNG•guhs KAHN)

**Kublai Khan** (KOO•BLUH KAHN)

**Marco Polo**

(MAHR•koh POH•loh)

### Building Your Vocabulary

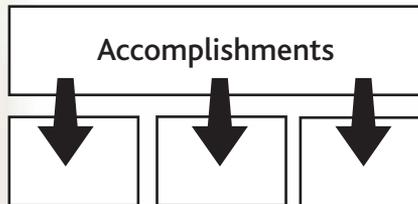
**tribe**

**steppe** (STEHP)

**terror** (TEHR•uhr)

### Reading Strategy

**Organizing Information** Use a diagram like the one below to show the accomplishments of Genghis Khan's reign.



NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC

## When & Where?



1200

1206

Genghis Khan unites Mongols

1300

1271

Kublai Khan becomes China's emperor

1400

1368

Yuan (Mongol) dynasty falls

# The Mongols

**Main Idea** Genghis Khan and his sons built the Mongol Empire, which stretched from the Pacific Ocean to Eastern Europe.

**Reading Focus** Have you ever had the chance to ride a horse? For thousands of years, the horse was the most important form of transportation in the world. Read to learn how one people used their skills as horse riders to build a vast empire.

The Mongols lived in an area north of China called **Mongolia** (mahn•GOH•lee•uh). They were made up of **tribes**, or groups of related families, loosely joined together. The Mongols raised cattle, goats, sheep, and

horses. They followed their herds as the animals grazed Mongolia's great **steppes** (STEHPHS). Steppes are wide, rolling, grassy plains that stretch from the Black Sea to northern China.

From an early period in their history, the Mongols were known for two things. One was their ability to ride horses well. Mongols practically lived on horseback, learning to ride at age four or five.

The other skill for which the Mongols were known was the ability to wage war. They could fire arrows at enemies from a distance while charging at them. Then they would attack with spears and swords.

(National Museum of Taipei, (b). Bertrand/Photo Researchers

**NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC**

## Mongol Empire Under Genghis Khan 1227

**In Motion**

**KEY**

- Genghis Khan's empire, 1227
- Mongol homeland
- Campaign under Genghis Khan

Mongol warrior ▼

### Using Geography Skills

Under the reign of Genghis Khan, the Mongols conquered kingdoms across central Asia.

1. In what direction from Mongolia did Genghis Khan first strike? In what year?
2. What physical features may have prevented Genghis Khan from capturing more territory to the south?

Mongolian nomads today ▶



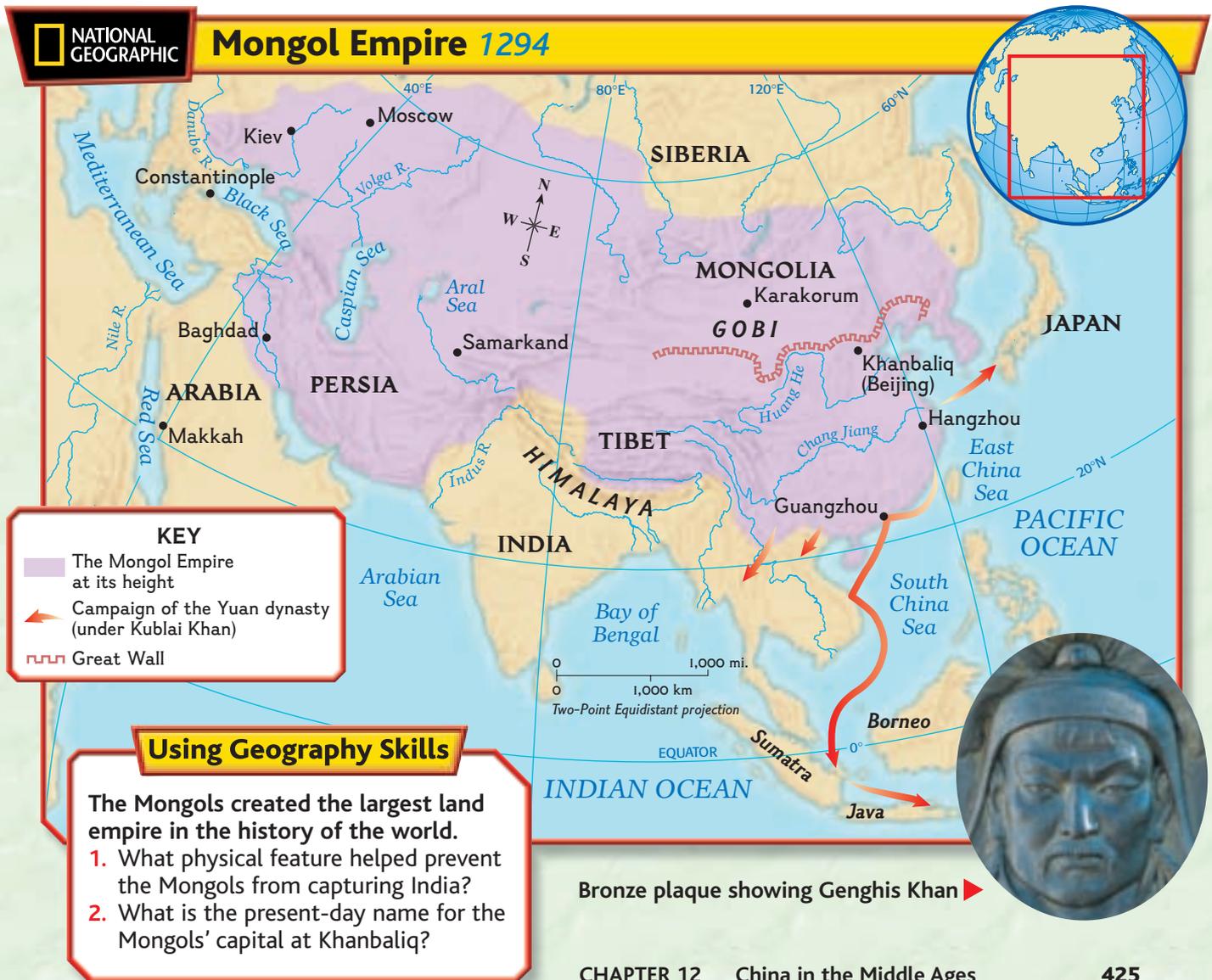
**Who Was Genghis Khan?** The man who would unite the Mongols was born in the 1160s. He was named Temujin (teh•MOO•juhn), which means “blacksmith.” Temujin showed his leadership skills early. He was still a young man when he began to unite the Mongol tribes.

In 1206 a meeting of Mongol leaders took place somewhere in the **Gobi** (GOH•bee), a vast desert that covers parts of Mongolia and China. At that meeting, Temujin was elected **Genghis Khan** (GEHNG•guhs KAHN), which means “strong ruler.” Genghis Khan brought together Mongol laws in a new code. He also created a group

of tribal chiefs to help him plan military campaigns. From the time of his election until the end of his life, Genghis Khan fought to conquer the lands beyond Mongolia.

Genghis Khan gathered an army of more than 100,000 warriors. He placed his soldiers into well-trained groups. Commanding them were officers chosen for their abilities, not for their family ties. These changes made the Mongols the most skilled fighting force in the world at that time.

Genghis Khan began building his empire by conquering other people on the steppes. These victories brought him wealth and new soldiers to fill the army.





▲ In the battle scene shown here, Mongol troops storm across the Chang Jiang on a bridge made of boats. **After conquering northern China, what areas did the Mongols attack?**

Soon the Mongols were strong enough to attack major civilizations. In 1211 Mongol forces turned east and invaded China. Within three years, they had taken all of northern China. They then moved west and struck at the cities and kingdoms that controlled parts of the Silk Road.

Genghis Khan and his Mongol warriors became known for their cruelty and use of **terror** (TEHR•uhr). Terror refers to violent actions that are meant to scare people into surrendering, or giving up. Mongol warriors attacked, robbed, and burned cities. Within a short time, the Mongols became known for their fierce ways, and many people surrendered to them without fighting.

**The Mongol Empire** Genghis Khan died in 1227. His large empire was divided among his four sons. Under their leadership, the

empire continued to expand. The Mongols swept into parts of eastern and central Europe. They also conquered much of southwest Asia. In 1258 the famous Muslim city of Baghdad fell to the Mongols. Mongol armies then pushed through Syria and Palestine to Egypt. They were finally stopped by the Muslim rulers of Egypt in 1260.

The Mongols united all of these different territories under their rule. Their empire reached from the Pacific Ocean in the east to Eastern Europe in the west and from Siberia in the north to the Himalaya in the south. It was the largest land empire the world had ever known.

Despite widespread destruction, the Mongols eventually brought peace to the lands they ruled. Peace encouraged trade, which helped the Mongols. Many of Asia's trade routes now lay in Mongol hands. The Mongols taxed the products traded over these roads and, as a result, grew wealthy.

The Mongols felt great respect for the advanced cultures they conquered. Sometimes they even adopted some of the beliefs and customs they encountered. For example, the Mongols in southwest Asia accepted Islam and adopted Arab, Persian, and Turkish ways.

The Mongols also learned many things from the Chinese. As they battled Chinese troops, they learned about gunpowder and its use as an explosive. They also saw the Chinese use the fire lance, a weapon that used gunpowder. Quickly, the Mongols adopted both gunpowder and the fire lance for use in battle. These new weapons made Mongol armies even more frightening to their enemies.

**Reading Check Analyze** What military and economic reasons explain why the Mongols were able to build an empire so quickly?

# Biography

## GENGHIS KHAN

c. A.D. 1167–1227

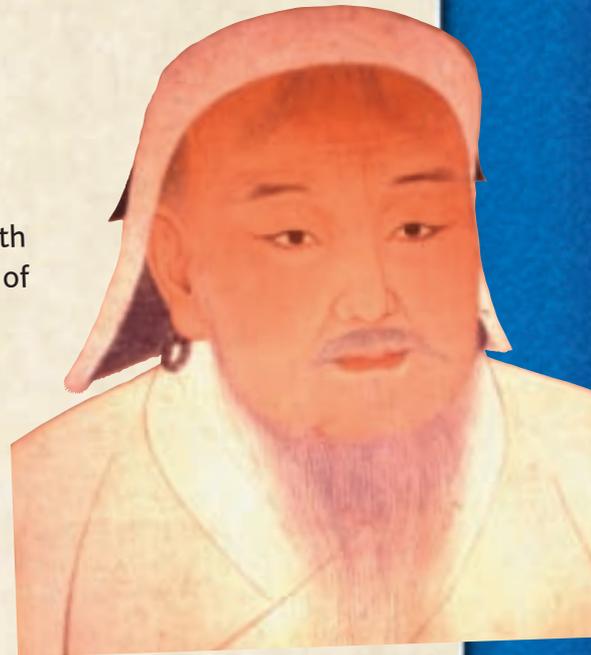
### Mongol Leader

Was Genghis Khan a ruthless warrior who enjoyed causing death and destruction, or was he a skilled leader who improved the lives of those in his empire, or both? Genghis Khan built a huge empire across Asia using loyal, strong, and well-trained warriors. Although the wars he and his sons fought were brutal and bloody, they eventually brought peace and prosperity to most of Asia.

Genghis Khan was named Temujin by his father, the Mongol chief Yisugei. Folklore says Temujin had a large blood clot in his right hand, which meant he was destined to become a great warrior. Temujin grew up in his father's camp along the Onon River in Mongolia.

Temujin's father arranged a marriage for his nine-year-old son. His wife came from another tribe, and the marriage helped bring wealth to his family. Borte, his wife at age ten, was beautiful. Temujin and Borte had four sons when they both became older.

Years later, when his father was killed by the Tartars and his loyal warriors left the tribe, Temujin lost his wealth. His poverty and the disloyalty of his father's soldiers angered him so much that he decided to become a great warrior. Over time, Temujin became Ghengis Khan.



▲ Genghis Khan

**“Life is short, I could not conquer the world.”**

—attributed to Genghis Khan



▲ Genghis Khan's camp

### Then and Now

In Mongolia today, Genghis Khan is considered a national hero. What do you think? Was Genghis Khan a villain or a hero?

## Mongol Rule in China

**Main Idea** The Mongols conquered China and created a new dynasty that tried to conquer Japan and began trading with the rest of Asia.

**Reading Focus** What does it mean to be tolerant? Read to find out how the Mongols used tolerance to rule the Chinese.

In 1260 the Mongols named Genghis Khan's grandson, Kublai, to be the new khan, or ruler. **Kublai Khan** (KOO•BLUH KAHN) continued the Mongol conquest of China that his father had begun. In 1264 Kublai moved his capital from **Karakorum**

in Mongolia to **Khanbaliq** in northern China. Today the modern city of **Beijing** (BAY•JIHNG) stands on the site of the Mongols' Chinese capital.

**What Did the Mongols Do in China?** In 1271 Kublai Khan decided to become China's next emperor. Within 10 years, the Mongols had conquered southern China and put an end to the Song dynasty. Kublai Khan started the Yuan (YOO•AHN) dynasty. *Yuan* means "beginning," and its name showed that the Mongols wanted to rule China for a long time. But the Yuan dynasty would last only about 100 years. Kublai would rule for 30 of those years.

Kublai Khan gave Mongol leaders the top jobs in China's government, but he knew he needed Chinese scholar-officials to run the government. So he let many of the Chinese keep their government jobs.

The Mongols were different from the Chinese in many ways. They had their own language, laws, and customs. This kept them separate from Chinese society. The Mongols were rulers at the top of Chinese society, but they did not mix with the Chinese people.

Like many Chinese, the Mongols were Buddhists. They were tolerant, however, of other religions. For example, Kublai Khan invited Christians, Muslims, and Hindus from outside China to practice their faiths and to win converts.

Under Mongol rule, China reached the height of its wealth and power. Its splendor drew foreigners who came to China over the Silk Road. Khanbaliq, the capital, became known for its wide streets, beautiful palaces, and fine homes.

One of the most famous European travelers to reach China was **Marco Polo** (MAHR•koh POH•loh). He came from the city of Venice in Italy. Kublai Khan was

### Primary Source

#### Kublai Khan's Park

Marco Polo recorded a description of the luxury in which Kublai Khan lived.

"[The palace wall] encloses and encircles fully sixteen miles of parkland well watered with springs and

streams . . . Into this park there is no entry except by way of the palace. Here the Great Khan keeps game animals of all sorts . . . to provide food for the gerfalcons [large, arctic falcons] and other falcons which he has in here in mew [an enclosure]."

—Marco Polo, "Kublai Khan's Park, c. 1275"



▲ Kublai Khan presents golden tablets to Marco Polo

### DBQ Document-Based Question

Why did Kublai Khan keep game animals—ones hunted for sport or food—in his park?



fascinated by Marco Polo's stories about his travels. For about 16 years, Kublai sent Polo on many fact-finding trips. When Polo finally returned to Europe, he wrote a book about his adventures. His accounts of the wonders of China amazed Europeans.

**Trade and Conquest** The Mongols ruled a large empire that stretched from China to eastern Europe. As a result, China prospered from increased trade with other areas. Goods such as silver, spices, carpets, and cotton flowed in from Europe and other parts of Asia. In return, China shipped out tea, silk, and porcelain. Europeans and Muslims also brought Chinese discoveries, such as steel, gunpowder, and the compass, back to their homelands.

The Mongols enlarged China's empire and conquered Vietnam and northern Korea. The rulers of Korea, called the Koryo, remained in power because they accepted



▲ This drawing from a historic map shows Marco Polo's journey along the Silk Road. **From what European city did Marco Polo travel?**

Mongol control. The Mongols forced thousands of Koreans to build warships. These ships were used by the Mongols to invade Japan. You will read about the Mongol invasions of Japan in a later chapter.

**Reading Check Identify** Who founded the Yuan dynasty?

## Section 3 Review

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### Reading Summary

#### Review the Main Ideas

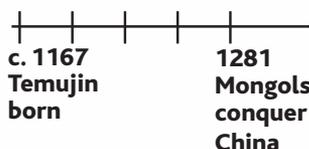
- Under leaders such as Genghis Khan and his sons, the Mongol Empire expanded until it stretched from the Pacific Ocean to Eastern Europe, and from Siberia south to the Himalaya.
- Kublai Khan conquered China, which led to increased trade between China and other parts of the world.

### What Did You Learn?

1. Who was Marco Polo?
2. What areas did the Mongols conquer?

#### Critical Thinking

3. **Sequencing Information**  
 Draw a time line like the one below. Fill in details to show the Mongols' rise to power in China.



4. **Analyze** How did the Mongols use terror in their conquests?
5. **Summarize** How did the Mongols benefit from their contact with the Chinese?
6. **Descriptive Writing** Imagine you are Marco Polo visiting Kublai Khan in Khanbaliq. Write a journal entry describing some of the things you are learning about the Mongol Empire under Kublai Khan.

# Section

# 4

# The Ming Dynasty

## Get Ready to Read!

### What's the Connection?

In Section 3, you read about the Mongol conquest. Eventually, the Chinese drove the Mongols out, and a new dynasty arose.

### Focusing on the Main Ideas

- Ming rulers strengthened China's government and brought back peace and prosperity. (page 431)
- During the Ming dynasty, China sent a fleet to explore Asia and East Africa. (page 433)

### Locating Places

Nanjing (NAHN • JIHNG)  
Portugal (POHR • chih • guhl)

### Meeting People

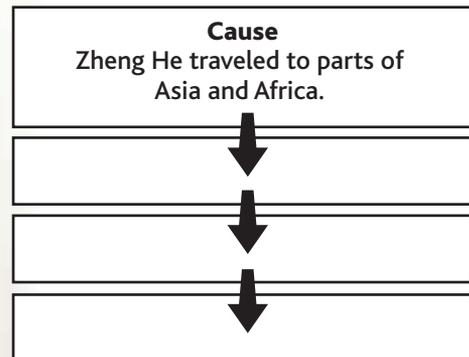
Zhu Yuanzhang  
(JOO YOO • AHN • JAHNG)  
Yong Le (YUNG LEE)  
Zheng He (JUNG HUH)

### Building Your Vocabulary

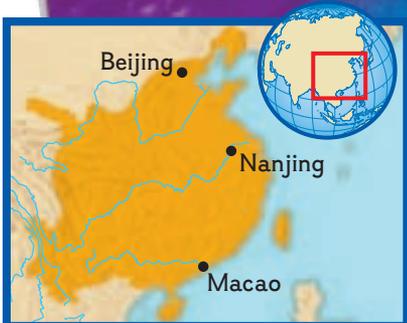
treason (TREE • zuhn)  
census (SEHN • suhs)  
novel (NAH • vuhl)  
barbarian (bahr • BEHR • ee • uhn)

### Reading Strategy

**Cause and Effect** Use a chart like the one below to show cause-and-effect links in China's early trade voyages.



## When & Where?



1400

1405

Zheng He begins first overseas voyage

1500

1514

Portuguese ships arrive in China

1600

1644

Ming dynasty falls



Christie's Images/CORBIS

# The Rise of the Ming

**Main Idea** Ming rulers strengthened China's government and brought back peace and prosperity.

**Reading Focus** Think about all the different things the government does for people. Imagine if you were running the government and had to rebuild the country after a war. What would you do? Read to learn how the Ming rulers in China rebuilt their country after the Mongols left.

Kublai Khan died in 1294. A series of weak rulers followed him, and Mongol power began to decline. During the 1300s, problems mounted for the Yuan dynasty. Mongol groups in Mongolia to the north broke away. At the same time, many Chinese resented Mongol controls and wanted their own dynasty.

**How Did the Ming Dynasty Begin?** A series of rebellions finally drove out the Mongols. In 1368 a rebel leader named **Zhu Yuanzhang** (JOO YOO•AHN•JAHNG) became emperor. Zhu reunited the country and set up his capital at **Nanjing** (NAHN•JIHNG) in southern China. There, he founded the Ming, or "Brilliant," dynasty.

As emperor, Zhu took the name Hong Wu, or the "Military Emperor." He brought back order, but he also proved to be a cruel leader. Hong Wu trusted no one and killed officials he suspected of **treason** (TREE•zuhn), or disloyalty to the government. Hong Wu ruled China for 30 years. When he died in 1398, his son became emperor and took the name of **Yong Le** (YUNG LEE).

**NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC Ming Dynasty China 1368–1644**

**KEY**  
 Ming dynasty  
 Great Wall

**Using Geography Skills**

During the Ming dynasty, the Chinese capital moved to Beijing.

1. What feature made up the northern border of the Ming empire?
2. How far away was Guangzhou from Beijing?

A bronze Buddha from the Ming dynasty



▲ This image, from a Ming dynasty vase, shows Chinese farmworkers collecting tea.

Yong Le worked hard to show that he was a powerful emperor. In 1421 he moved the capital north to Beijing. There, he built a large area of palaces and government buildings known as the Imperial City. The very center of the Imperial City was known as the Forbidden City. Only top officials could enter the Forbidden City because it was home to China's emperors.

The Forbidden City had beautiful gardens and many palaces with thousands of rooms. The emperor and his court lived there in luxury for more than 500 years. The buildings of the Forbidden City still exist. You can visit them if you travel to China.

**How Did the Ming Reform China?** Ming emperors made all the decisions, but they still needed officials to carry out their orders. They restored the civil service examinations and made the tests even

harder. From time to time, Ming officials carried out a **census** (SEHN•suh), or a count of the number of people. This helped them collect taxes more accurately.

With the strong government of the early Ming emperors providing peace and security, China's economy began to grow. Hong Wu ordered many of the canals and farms destroyed by the Mongols to be rebuilt and ordered people to move to the new farms. He also ordered new forests to be planted and new roads to be paved.

Agriculture thrived as farmers worked on the new lands and grew more crops. Ming rulers repaired and expanded the Grand Canal so that rice and

other goods could again be shipped from southern to northern China. They imported new types of rice from southeast Asia that grew faster. This helped feed the growing number of people living in cities. The Ming also supported the silk industry and encouraged farmers to start growing cotton and weaving cloth. For the first time, cotton became the cloth worn by most Chinese.

**Chinese Culture** Chinese culture also advanced under the Ming. As merchants and artisans grew wealthier, they wanted to learn more and be entertained. During the Ming period, Chinese writers produced many **novels** (NAH•vuhls), or long fictional stories. The Chinese also enjoyed seeing dramas on stage. These works combined spoken words and songs with dances, costumes, and symbolic gestures.

**Reading Check** **Identify** What was the Forbidden City?



# China Explores the World

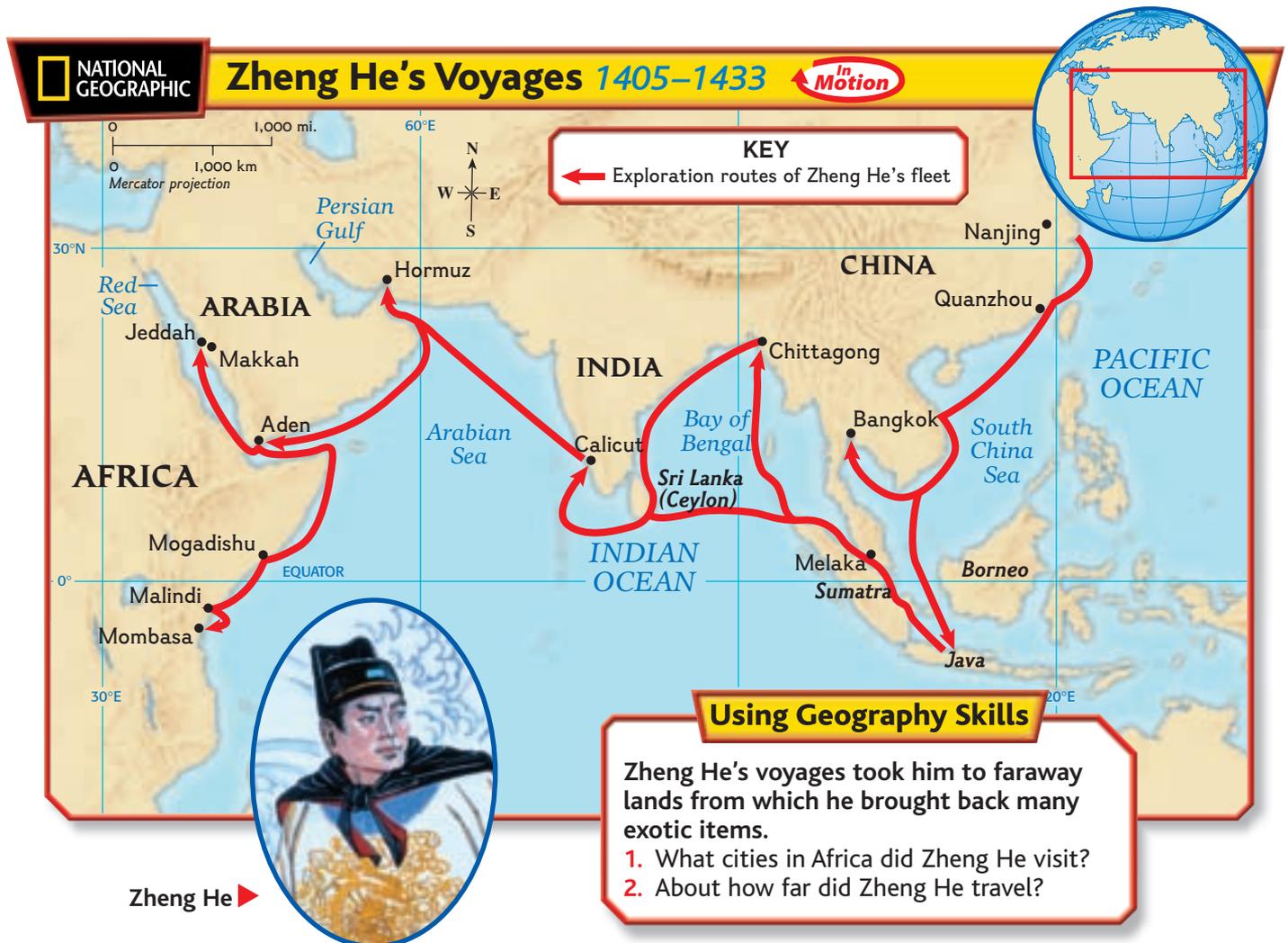
**Main Idea** During the Ming dynasty, China sent a fleet to explore Asia and East Africa.

**Reading Focus** You probably have heard of Christopher Columbus and his trip to America. Imagine if China had sent ships to America first. Read to learn about Chinese explorations of Asia and East Africa.

Early Ming emperors were curious about the world outside of China. They also wanted to increase China's influence abroad. To reach these goals, Ming emperors built a large fleet of ships. The new ships usually traveled along China's coast. However, they could also sail in the open sea.

**Who Was Zheng He?** From 1405 to 1431, Emperor Yong Le sent the fleet on seven overseas voyages. The emperor wanted to trade with other kingdoms, show off China's power, and demand that weaker kingdoms pay tribute to China.

The leader of these journeys was a Chinese Muslim and court official named **Zheng He** (JUNG HUH). Zheng He's voyages were quite impressive. His first fleet had 62 large ships, 250 smaller ships, and almost 28,000 men. The largest ship was over 440 feet (134 m) long. That made it more than *five times* as long as the *Santa María* that Christopher Columbus sailed almost 90 years later!



# Biography

## ZHENG HE

1371–1433

Zheng He ▶

### Chinese Navigator

The famous Chinese navigator Zheng He was born in Kunyang in southwest China in 1371. His birth name was Ma He, and he was from a poor Chinese Muslim family. Scholars say that his father and grandfather were honored hajjis—people who successfully made the pilgrimage to Makkah in Arabia. Little did Ma He know that his life would also involve travel. His seven missions across the oceans earned him heroic honors.

His father died when Ma He was little. As a child, Ma He was taken prisoner by the Chinese army. To overcome his sad life, Ma He turned to education. He learned different languages, including Arabic, and studied philosophy and geography. With his language skills and knowledge of the outside world, 10-year-old Ma He became a valuable imperial aide to Chinese officials.

By age 12, he was an assistant to a young prince named Zhu Di. Ma He accompanied the prince on several military missions. The prince, who later became the Emperor Yong Le, became a friend of Ma He. The emperor changed Ma He's name to the honored surname Zheng. Soon after, Zheng He was assigned to lead a fleet of Chinese ships across the Indian Ocean, beginning the career that would make him famous. Zheng He's voyages to new lands opened the door for trade among China, India, and Africa. Many of the Chinese moved abroad to sell Chinese goods. Those who learned and spoke more than one language, like Zheng He, prospered.



**“We have set eyes  
on barbarian regions  
far away.”**

**—Zheng He, as quoted  
in *Chinese Portraits***

### Then and Now

What “Made in China” products do you use on a daily basis? Do research to find out what percentage of goods imported to the United States are from China.



**Where Did Zheng He Travel?** Zheng He took his first fleet to southeast Asia. In later voyages, he reached India, sailed up the Persian Gulf to Arabia, and even landed in East Africa. In these areas, Zheng He traded Chinese goods, such as silk, paper, and porcelain. He brought back silver, spices, wood, and other goods. From Africa, Zheng He returned home with giraffes and other animals for the emperor's zoo.

As a result of Zheng He's voyages, Chinese merchants settled in Southeast Asia and India. There, they not only traded goods but also spread Chinese culture. Chinese merchants at home and abroad grew rich from the trade of the voyages and added to China's wealth.

Despite these benefits, Chinese officials complained that the trips cost too much. They also said that trips were bad for China's way of life because they brought in new ideas from the outside world and helped merchants become rich.

Confucius had taught that people should place loyalty to society ahead of their own desires. To the officials, China's merchants were disobeying this teaching by working to gain money for themselves.

After Zheng He's death, the Confucian officials persuaded the emperor to stop the voyages. The boats were dismantled, and no more ships capable of long distance ocean travel were allowed to be built. As a result, China's trade with other countries sharply declined. Within 50 years, the ship-building technology was forgotten.

**The Europeans Arrive in China** Chinese officials were not able to cut off all of China's contacts with the outside world. In 1514 a fleet from the European country of **Portugal** (POHR•chih•guh) arrived off the coast of China. It was the first time Europeans had ever sailed to China and the first direct



▲ Italian missionary Matteo Ricci (left) was one of the most famous Europeans to visit China. He helped in the development of math and science in China during the late 1500s.

contact between China and Europe since the journeys of Marco Polo.

The Portuguese wanted China to trade with their country. They also wanted to convince the Chinese to become Christians. At the time, the Ming government was not impressed by the Portuguese. China was at the height of its power and did not feel threatened by outsiders. The Chinese thought the Europeans were **barbarians** (bahr•BEHR•ee•uhns), or uncivilized people.

At first, the Chinese refused to trade with the Portuguese, but by 1600, they had allowed Portugal to set up a trading post at the port of Macao (muh•KOW) in southern China. Goods were carried on European ships between Macao and Japan. Still, trade between China and Europe remained limited.

Despite restrictions, ideas from Europe did reach China. Christian missionaries traveled to China on European ships. Many of these missionaries were Jesuits, a special group of Roman Catholic priests. They



▲ This porcelain bowl is from the Ming dynasty. *Where in China did the Portuguese set up a trading post?*

were highly educated, and their scientific knowledge impressed the Chinese. To get China to accept European ideas, the Jesuits brought with them clocks, eyeglasses, and scientific instruments. Although they tried, the Jesuits did not convert many Chinese to Christianity.

**Why Did the Ming Dynasty Fall?** After a long era of prosperity and growth, the Ming dynasty began to decline. Ming emperors had gathered too much power into their own hands. With the emperor having so much control, officials had little desire to make improvements. As time passed, Ming rulers themselves became weak. Greedy officials who lived in luxury took over the country. They placed heavy taxes on the peasants, who began to revolt.

As law and order disappeared, a people called the Manchus attacked China's northern border. The Manchus lived to the northeast of the Great Wall in an area known today as Manchuria. The Manchus defeated Chinese armies and captured Beijing. In 1644 they set up a new dynasty.

**Reading Check Cause and Effect** What caused the Ming dynasty to decline and fall?

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## Section 4 Review

### Reading Summary

#### Review the Main Ideas

- The Ming dynasty rebuilt and reformed China after the Mongols were driven out. Their dynasty restored peace and prosperity to China.
- During the Ming dynasty, China's contacts with the outside world increased as Zheng He led fleets to faraway lands and European ships began arriving in China.

### What Did You Learn?

1. What was the purpose of the Forbidden City and where was it located?
2. How did the Chinese react to the arrival of Portuguese traders in 1514?
3. **Organizing Information** Draw a diagram like the one below. Fill in details about the achievements of the Ming dynasty.
4. **Cause and Effect** Why did Ming rulers repair and expand the Grand Canal?
5. **Summarize** Why did the Emperor Yong Le send Zheng He on his voyages? How did Zheng He's voyages benefit China?

#### Critical Thinking

#### 3. Organizing Information

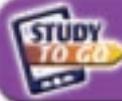
Draw a diagram like the one below. Fill in details about the achievements of the Ming dynasty.



6. **Persuasive Writing** Imagine you are living in China at the time of Zheng He's voyages. Write a newspaper editorial either for or against the voyages. Describe why you think the voyages are aiding or hurting the country as a whole.
7. **Predict** What do you think happened after China tried to limit trade?

# Chapter 12

# Reading Review



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## Section 1 China Reunites

**Vocabulary**  
warlord  
economy  
reform  
monastery

### Focusing on the Main Ideas

- The Sui and Tang dynasties reunited and rebuilt China after years of war. (page 409)
- Buddhism became popular in China and spread to Korea and Japan. (page 412)
- The Tang dynasty returned to the ideas of Confucius and created a new class of scholar-officials. (page 413)

## Section 2 Chinese Society

**Vocabulary**  
porcelain  
calligraphy

### Focusing on the Main Ideas

- The Tang dynasty strengthened China's economy by supporting farming and trade. (page 417)
- The Chinese developed new technologies, such as steelmaking and printing. (page 418)
- During the Tang and the Song dynasties, China enjoyed a golden age of art and literature. (page 420)



▲ Porcelain figures from the Tang dynasty

## Section 3 The Mongols in China

**Vocabulary**  
tribe  
steppe  
terror

### Focusing on the Main Ideas

- Genghis Khan and his sons built the Mongol Empire, which stretched from the Pacific Ocean to Eastern Europe. (page 424)
- The Mongols conquered China and created a new dynasty that tried to conquer Japan and began trading with the rest of Asia. (page 428)

## Section 4 The Ming Dynasty

**Vocabulary**  
treason  
census  
novel  
barbarian

### Focusing on the Main Ideas

- Ming rulers strengthened China's government and brought back peace and prosperity. (page 431)
- During the Ming dynasty, China sent a fleet to explore Asia and East Africa. (page 433)

# Assessment and Activities

## Review Vocabulary

Match the word in the first column with its definition in the second column.

- |                |   |
|----------------|---|
| ___ 1. treason | a. groups of related families loosely joined together |
| ___ 2. warlord | b. change that brings improvement                     |
| ___ 3. terror  | c. disloyalty to the government                       |
| ___ 4. economy | d. military leader who also runs a government         |
| ___ 5. reform  | e. a count of the number of people                    |
| ___ 6. steppe  | f. violent actions meant to scare others              |
| ___ 7. tribe   | g. organized way to buy, sell, and produce            |
| ___ 8. census  | h. wide grassy plain                                  |

## Review Main Ideas

### Section 1 • China Reunites

9. What did the Sui and Tang dynasties do to improve China?
10. How did the Tang rulers change China?

### Section 2 • Chinese Society

11. How did Tang rulers strengthen China's economy?
12. What kind of technologies did the Chinese develop?

### Section 3 • The Mongols in China

13. Why were the Mongols able to build a huge empire?
14. How did the Mongols rule China?

### Section 4 • The Ming Dynasty

15. How did the Ming rulers affect China?
16. Why did the Portuguese want to explore Africa and Asia?

## Critical Thinking

17. **Analyze** How did civil service exams help China develop a strong government?
18. **Explain** How did Confucianism change during the Tang dynasty?
19. **Predict** How do you think China would be different today if Tang rulers had not cracked down on Buddhism in A.D. 845?
20. **Hypothesize** The Mongols conquered a vast amount of land, but their Yuan dynasty lasted only about 100 years. Create a hypothesis that might explain this situation.

Review

Reading Skill

Inferences

## Reading Between the Lines

21. Poet Du Fu's poem "Spring Landscape," on page 421, described what it was like in the capital after a rebellion left the city in ruins. One of the lines from his poem appears here. What can you infer from this line of poetry?

"By now, letters are worth ten thousand in gold."

To review this skill, see pages 406–407.

## Geography Skills

Study the map below and answer the following questions.

22. **Location** What was the length of the Grand Canal?
23. **Human/Environment Interaction** What part of Asia did the Tang control that helped China's trade?
24. **Region** What geographic features do you think helped the Tang dynasty expand?



## Read to Write

25. **Persuasive Writing** Imagine you are a Portuguese merchant. You have just traveled to China to persuade the Chinese people to trade with your country. Work with a small group to create a script detailing the dialogue that would take place between the Portuguese merchant and a representative of the Chinese government. (Suppose someone is acting as a translator, but do not incorporate the translator into your dialogue.)
26. **Using Your FOLDABLES™** On your foldable, add details to the main headings in Section 2. Think about how the changes and arts described there might have had an impact on people's lives. Then write three journal

entries that tell how these things have affected your family's life in China in the Middle Ages. Illustrate your entries.

## Using Technology

27. **Building a Database** Use the Internet to gather more information about Genghis Khan. Use the information to create a database for your classmates. Include text, images, and perhaps a time line. Your database should contain information about Genghis Khan as a person and as a ruler.

## Linking Past and Present

28. **Expository Writing** Write a short report that describes similarities and differences between the Imperial City of the Ming dynasty and the United States capital, Washington, D.C.

## Primary Source Analyze

John of Plano Carpini, a friar, explained why the Mongols were such skilled warriors.

"Their children begin as soon as they are two or three years old to ride and manage horses and to gallop on them, and they are given bows to suit their stature [size] and are taught to shoot; they are extremely agile [move quickly and easily] and also intrepid [fearless]."

—John of Plano Carpini,  
*History of the Mongols*

## DBQ Document-Based Questions

29. Why did each Mongol warrior shoot so well with a bow and arrows?
30. What other qualities made the Mongols excellent warriors?