

Chapter Summary

Imperial China

Lesson 1 *China Reunites*

- After the end of the Han dynasty, China had no central government.
- The Sui dynasty restored order. Work began on the Grand Canal, and the economy began to grow.
- In A.D. 618, the Tang dynasty took over China and carried out many economic and civil reforms. China had its first and most powerful female ruler, Empress Wu.
- Later, China prospered under the Song dynasty.
- Many Chinese adopted Buddhism during the Tang Dynasty. The government began to fear the religion's influence and destroyed Buddhist monasteries.
- The Tang and Song dynasties backed a new understanding of Confucianism, called neo-Confucianism. It taught that people should be concerned about this world as well as the next.
- Confucianism absorbed some Buddhist and other beliefs, and taught people to live in harmony with nature and to find peace of mind.
- Tang and Song rulers used civil service examinations to hire government officials. The examination system soon created a new class of leaders called the scholar-officials.

Lesson 2 *Chinese Society*

- During the Tang dynasty, Chinese farmers improved their irrigation systems and developed new kinds of rice, which led to greater crop yields and population growth.
- New roads and waterways built during the Tang dynasty also improved conditions for travel and trade. The Silk Road reopened and trade thrived.
- During the Tang and Song dynasties, the use of coal to make steel improved the quality of life for many Chinese. They used steel products to build, farm, and defend China's borders.

Chapter Summary *Cont.*

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- The Chinese developed a way to manufacture paper and to print books using wooden blocks and ink. Later, Chinese printers developed movable type, which allowed them to print books more efficiently.
- Gunpowder provided the Chinese with effective weapons, and improvements in shipbuilding and navigation tools allowed the Chinese to travel and trade far from home.
- The Tang and Song dynasties were a golden age for Chinese culture. Poets celebrated nature and the shortness of life in their writings.
- Landscape paintings portrayed nature as a great unknowable force. Painters often wrote poems in calligraphy on their artworks.
- During the Tang dynasty, Chinese artisans became skilled at making porcelain, a light, fine pottery that became prized around the world.

Lesson 3 *The Mongols in China*

- The Mongols became the first non-native rulers of China. They were skilled warriors and horsemen who used terror to defeat their enemies.
- Genghis Khan united the Mongols and led them to conquer northern China.
- The Mongols proved to be effective and peaceful rulers. Since many trade routes were now under Mongol control, people could trade in peace and grow rich.
- By A.D. 1279, Kublai Khan finished conquering China and established the Yuan dynasty. He set up the capital city in Khanbaliq (now Beijing).
- The Mongols were culturally different from the Chinese and lived separately from them, but they were tolerant of China's religions.
- China prospered from trading overland and overseas. Goods came by ship from all over the world. European travelers, such as Marco Polo, began to explore China's vast empire.

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Lesson 4 *The Ming Dynasty*

- The Mongol-ruled empire went into decline at the end of the thirteenth century. In A.D.. 1368, a military officer established the Ming dynasty.
- Ming rulers restored the civil service examinations that Mongol rulers had suspended. They also rebuilt roads, canals, and farmlands. China's economy and population grew.
- Under the Ming, the arts flourished in China. Chinese writers produced novels as well as dramatic plays.
- Ming emperors sent out fleets of ships to travel the world, spread China's influence, and bring back information and technology. When the voyages stopped, China's foreign trade and shipbuilding skills declined.
- Despite efforts to cut off China from the outside world, European traders and missionaries still traveled to China. They had little influence on the Chinese.
- By A.D.1644, the Ming dynasty collapsed and China was taken over by the Manchus.