

Chapter 7 - China



Section Notes

- 1 [China Reunifies](#)
- 2 [Tang and Song Achievements](#)
- 3 [Confucianism and Government](#)
- 4 [The Yuan and Ming Dynasties](#)



History Close-up

[The Forbidden City](#)



Quick Facts

[Reasons for Buddhism's Spread](#)
[Chinese Inventions](#)
[Chapter 7 Visual Summary](#)



Video

[Chinese Achievements and World History](#)



Maps

[Chinese Dynasties, 589-1279](#)
[Spread of Buddhism](#)
[The Grand Canal](#)
[Mongol Empire, 1294](#)
[The Great Wall](#)



Images

[Growing Rice](#)
[The Voyages of Zheng He](#)
[Empress Wu](#)



China Reunifies



7.3.1

The Big Idea

The Period of Disunion was followed by reunification by rulers of the Sui, Tang, and Song dynasties.

Main Ideas

- The Period of Disunion was a time of war and disorder that followed the end of the Han dynasty.
- China was reunified under the Sui, Tang, and Song dynasties.
- The Age of Buddhism saw major religious changes in China.

Main Idea 1:

The Period of Disunion was a time of war and disorder that followed the end of the Han dynasty.

- When the Han dynasty collapsed, China split into several rival kingdoms.
- This was the Period of Disunion. War was common during this period.
- Some peaceful developments did take place.
 - Nomadic people settled in northern China. Some Chinese adopted their culture, while invaders sometimes adopted the Chinese culture.
 - In southern China, people fleeing from the north shared their culture with the southern Chinese while adopting some of the southern Chinese culture.

Main Idea 2: China was reunified under the Sui, Tang, and Song dynasties.

- Sui dynasty
 - Yang Jian finally ended the Period of Disunion by unifying China and creating the Sui dynasty.
 - Leaders also began the Grand Canal, linking northern and southern China.
- Tang dynasty
 - This was the golden age of Chinese civilization.
 - China grew to include much of Eastern Asia and part of Central Asia.
 - After the Tang dynasty fell, China became divided again.
- Song dynasty
 - China was reunified.

The Tang Dynasty

The Tang dynasty began when a former Sui official overthrew the old government, and lasted for nearly 300 years.

The Tang dynasty was viewed as the golden age of Chinese civilization. Many lands were conquered, the military was reformed, and laws were created. Culture also flourished.

This dynasty included the only woman to rule China. Empress Wu was sometimes vicious, but she was also intelligent and talented.



Main Idea 3: The Age of Buddhism saw major religious changes in China.

Buddhism was spreading quickly throughout the lands. It first came to China during the Han dynasty.



During the troubled time of the Period of Disunion, many turned to Buddhism. They took comfort in the teaching that people can escape suffering and achieve a state of peace.



It influenced many aspects of Chinese culture. Wealthy people donated money to build temples. It also affected art, literature, and architecture.



Buddhism came to an end there when the Tang emperor launched a campaign against it, burning texts and destroying temples.





7.3.2
7.3.5

Tang and Song Achievements

The Big Idea

The Tang and Song dynasties were periods of economic, cultural, and technological accomplishments.

Main Ideas

- Advances in agriculture led to increased trade and population growth.
- Cities and trade grew during the Tang and Song dynasties.
- The Tang and Song dynasties produced fine arts and inventions.

Main Idea 1:

Advances in agriculture led to increased trade and population growth.

- Chinese civilization had always been based on agriculture. They were expert farmers.
- In the north, farmers grew wheat, barley, and other grains. The south was ideal for growing rice.

- During the Song dynasty, improvements were largely due to irrigation techniques.
- Farmers dug underground wells.
- A new kind of pump allowed one person to do the work of many.

- The amount of land under cultivation increased, and farmers learned to grow crops more efficiently.
- Farms were more productive, and food was plentiful. This led to population growth and increased trade.



Main Idea 2: Cities and trade grew during the Tang and Song dynasties.

- China's capital city, Chang'an, was a bustling trade center.
- Trade grew along with the cities, making China richer than ever before.
- The Grand Canal, a series of waterways that linked major cities, carried a huge amount of trade goods.
- During the Tang dynasty, most foreign trade went over land routes to India, Southwest Asia, Korea, and Japan.
- During the Song dynasty, sea trade allowed China to open its Pacific ports to other countries.

Main Idea 3: The Tang and Song dynasties produced fine arts and inventions.

- The artists and writers of the Tang dynasty were some of China's greatest.
- Artists wrote poems, painted, sculpted in clay, and made porcelain items.

- Some of the most important inventions were made during this time as well.
 - Some of these influenced events around the world.



Inventions

- Woodblock printing was invented. Entire pages were carved into a block of wood, covered with ink, and pressed onto paper to create copies.
- Gunpowder and the compass were very important inventions of the Tang dynasty.
 - Gunpowder was used to make fireworks and signals.
 - The compass allowed sailors and merchants to travel vast distances.
- The Song dynasty brought about the inventions of movable type and paper money.

Confucianism and Government



7.3.3

7.3.6

The Big Idea

Confucian thought influenced the Song government.

Main Ideas

- Confucianism underwent changes and influenced Chinese government.
- Scholar-officials ran China's government during the Song dynasty.

Main Idea 1: Confucianism underwent changes and influenced Chinese government.

- The dominant philosophy in China was Confucianism, based on the teachings of Confucius.
- His teachings focused on proper behavior.
- Confucius taught that people should conduct their lives according to two basic principles.
 - One was *ren*, or concern for others.
 - The other was *li*, or appropriate behavior.

Neo-Confucianism

- After his death, Confucius's ideas were spread by his followers, but as Buddhism became more popular, Confucianism lost some influence.
- Buddhism stressed a more spiritual outlook that promised escape from suffering.

- Neo-Confucianism developed due to a desire to improve Chinese government and society.
- It was similar to the older philosophy but emphasized spiritual matters.
- Neo-Confucianism became more influential under the Song, and became official government teaching after the Song dynasty.



Main Idea 2:
Scholar-officials ran China's government during the Song dynasty.

- The Song dynasty improved the system by which people went to work for the government.
- These workers formed a large **bureaucracy**, or a body of unelected government officials.

Civil Service Examinations

- Officials joined the bureaucracy by passing civil service examinations.
- Civil service means service as a government official.

- These were a series of written examinations that tested students' grasp of Confucianism and related ideas.
- The tests were difficult, and students spent years preparing.
- Passing the exam meant life as a scholar-official, an educated member of government.



Scholar-Officials

- Scholar-officials were elite members of society and were widely admired for their knowledge and ethics.
- They performed many important jobs in the government.
- Benefits included being respected and having reduced penalties for breaking the law.
- Many became wealthy from gifts given by people seeking their aid.
- This system helped the stability of the Song government.



The Yuan and Ming Dynasties

The Big Idea

The Chinese were ruled by foreigners during the Yuan dynasty, but they threw off Mongol rule and prospered during the Ming dynasty.

Main Ideas

The Mongol Empire included China, and the Mongols ruled China as the Yuan dynasty.

- The Ming dynasty was a time of stability and prosperity.
- China under the Ming saw great changes in its government and relations with other countries.

Main Idea 1:

The Mongol Empire included China, and the Mongols ruled China as the Yuan dynasty.

- Genghis Khan organized the Mongols into a powerful army and led them on bloody expeditions of conquest, including China.
- By the time of his death, all of northern China was under his control.

- Kublai Khan became ruler of the Mongol Empire and completed the conquest of China.
- He declared himself emperor of China in 1279, which began the Yuan dynasty.



Yuan Dynasty

The Chinese resented being ruled by foreigners who spoke a different language, worshipped different gods, and had different customs.

- Although Khan made sure to keep control of the Chinese, he did not force them to accept Mongol ways of life.
- Some Mongols adopted Chinese culture.

- Tax money went for public-works projects that required the labor of many Chinese.
- Trade routes were kept safe by Mongol soldiers.
- The Yuan dynasty ended when a rebel army defeated the Mongols in 1368.



Main Idea 2: The Ming dynasty was a time of stability and prosperity.

- Zhu Yuanzhang defeated the Mongols and started the Ming dynasty.
- During this dynasty, the Chinese improved their ship and sailing skills thanks to the greatest sailor of the time, Zheng He.
- Zheng He boasted about his country during his travels and brought back gifts.

- The Ming were known for their grand building projects.
- The Forbidden City in Beijing is one example of their skill. Within some buildings were 9,000 rooms.



Great Building Projects

- The Ming were also known for their grand building projects, such as the Forbidden City.
- It was a symbol of China's glory, and the common people were not allowed to enter.
- Ming rulers also directed the restoration of the Great Wall of China.
- This kept the Chinese people safer against northern invasions.

Main Idea 3:

China under in Ming saw great changes in its government and relations with other countries.

- The Ming emperors were powerful and abolished the offices of some powerful officials.
- The Ming appointed censors. They were officials who would judge the behavior of local leaders and inspect the schools and other institutions.
- The Ming emperors tried to eliminate all foreign influences.
- China entered a period of **isolationism**, a policy of avoiding contact with other countries.
- Due to a lack of progress during this period, China grew weak. The Western world had made huge technological progress and was then able to gain influence in Chinese affairs by the late 1800s.

History Close-up

The Forbidden City

The Forbidden City is not actually a city. It's a huge complex of almost 1,000 buildings in the heart of China's capital. The Forbidden City was built for the emperor, his family, his court, and his servants, and ordinary people were forbidden from entering.

The Forbidden City's main buildings were built of wood and featured gold-colored tile roofs that could only be used for the emperor's buildings.

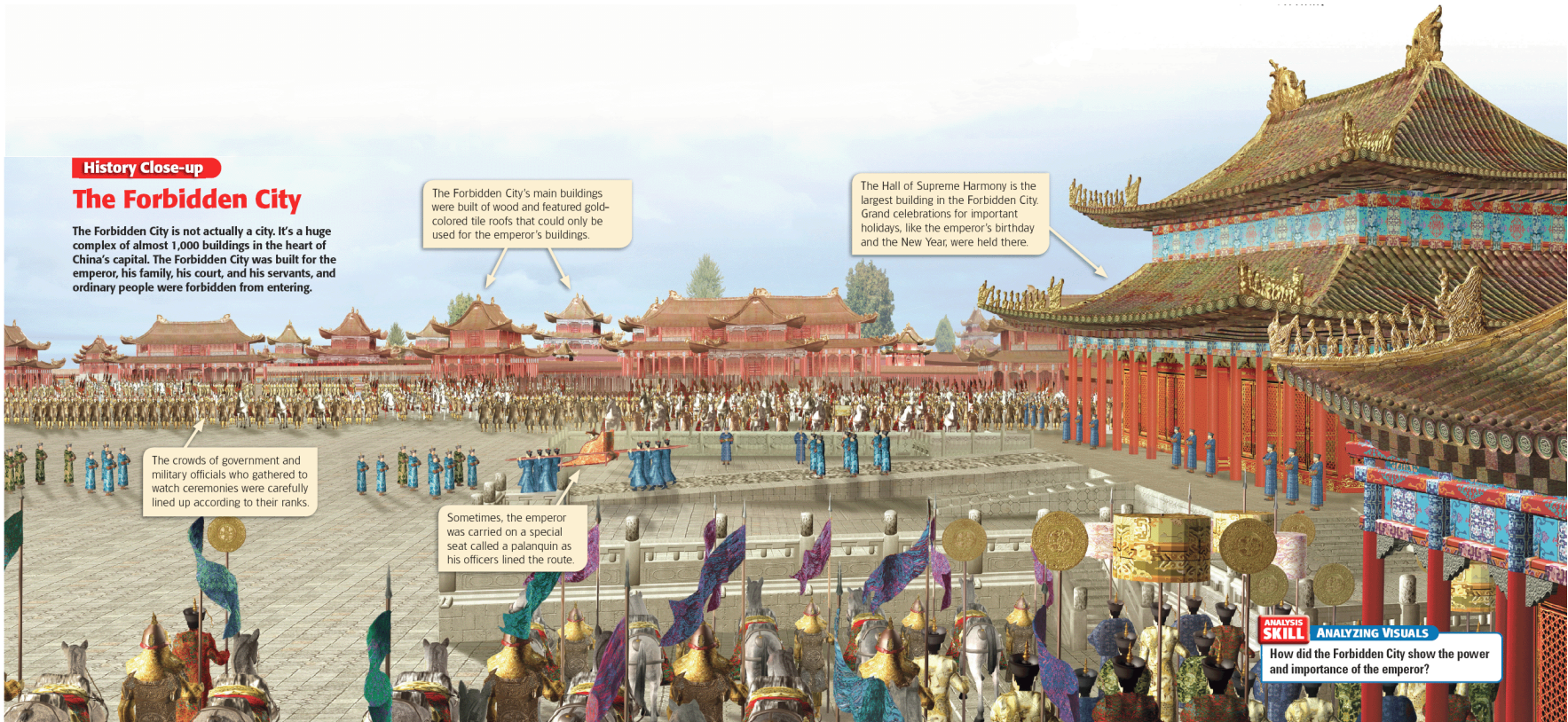
The Hall of Supreme Harmony is the largest building in the Forbidden City. Grand celebrations for important holidays, like the emperor's birthday and the New Year, were held there.

The crowds of government and military officials who gathered to watch ceremonies were carefully lined up according to their ranks.

Sometimes, the emperor was carried on a special seat called a palanquin as his officers lined the route.

ANALYSIS SKILL ANALYZING VISUALS

How did the Forbidden City show the power and importance of the emperor?



Growing Rice

Rice has long been a vital crop in southern China, where the warm, wet climate is perfect for rice growing.

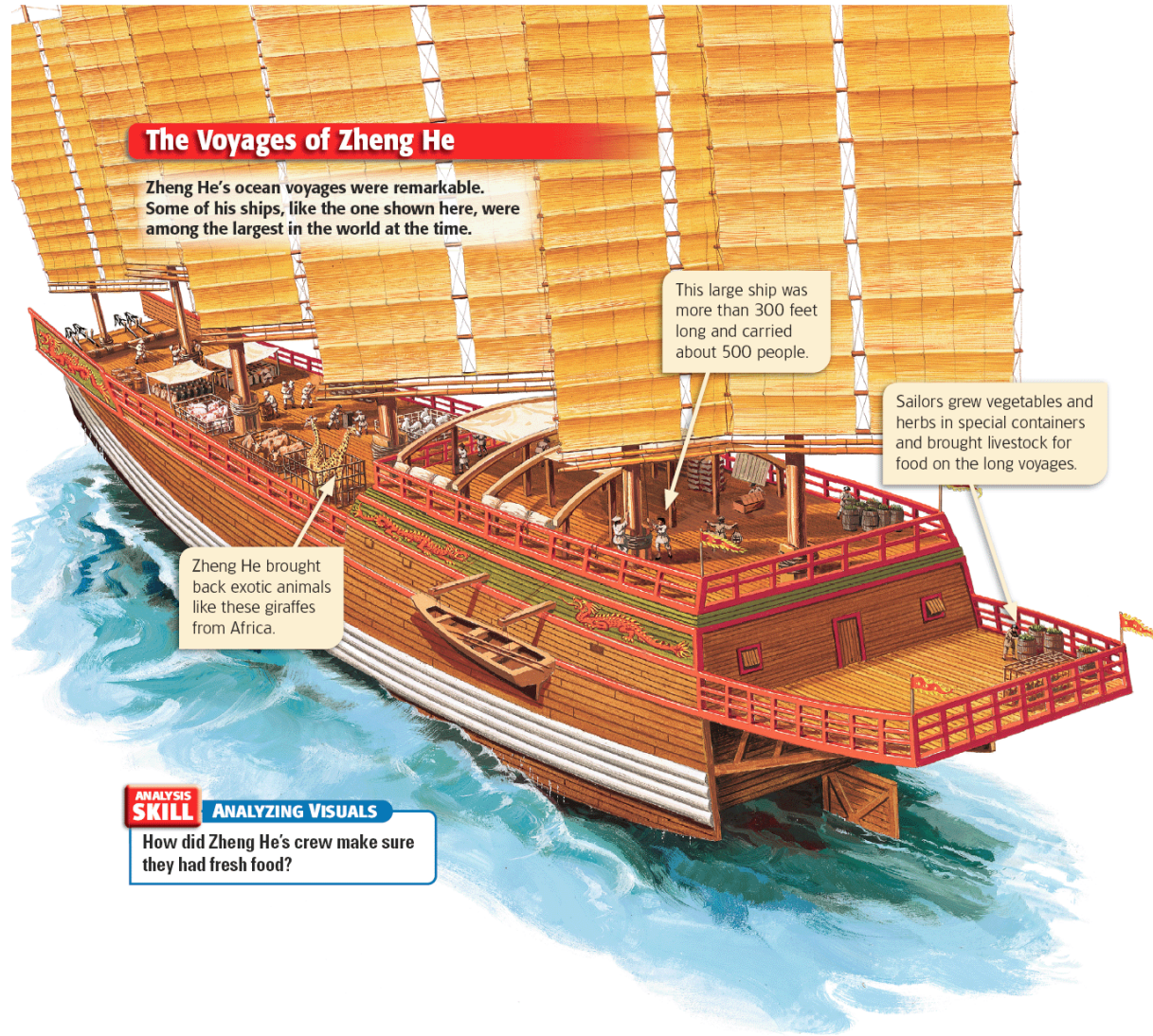


At harvest time, farmers remove rice kernels from the rest of the plant.

Sometimes farmers build terraces to create level land for rice farming.

Rice seedlings are planted in flooded fields.





The Voyages of Zheng He

Zheng He's ocean voyages were remarkable. Some of his ships, like the one shown here, were among the largest in the world at the time.

This large ship was more than 300 feet long and carried about 500 people.

Sailors grew vegetables and herbs in special containers and brought livestock for food on the long voyages.

Zheng He brought back exotic animals like these giraffes from Africa.

ANALYSIS SKILL ANALYZING VISUALS

How did Zheng He's crew make sure they had fresh food?



BIOGRAPHY

Empress Wu

625–705

Married to a sickly emperor, Empress Wu became the virtual ruler of China in 655. After her husband died, Wu decided her sons were not worthy of ruling. She kept power for herself, and ruled with an iron fist. Those who threatened her power risked death. Unlike many earlier rulers, she chose advisors based on their abilities rather than their ranks. Although she was not well liked, Wu was respected for bringing stability and prosperity to China.

Drawing Conclusions Why do you think Empress Wu was never very popular?

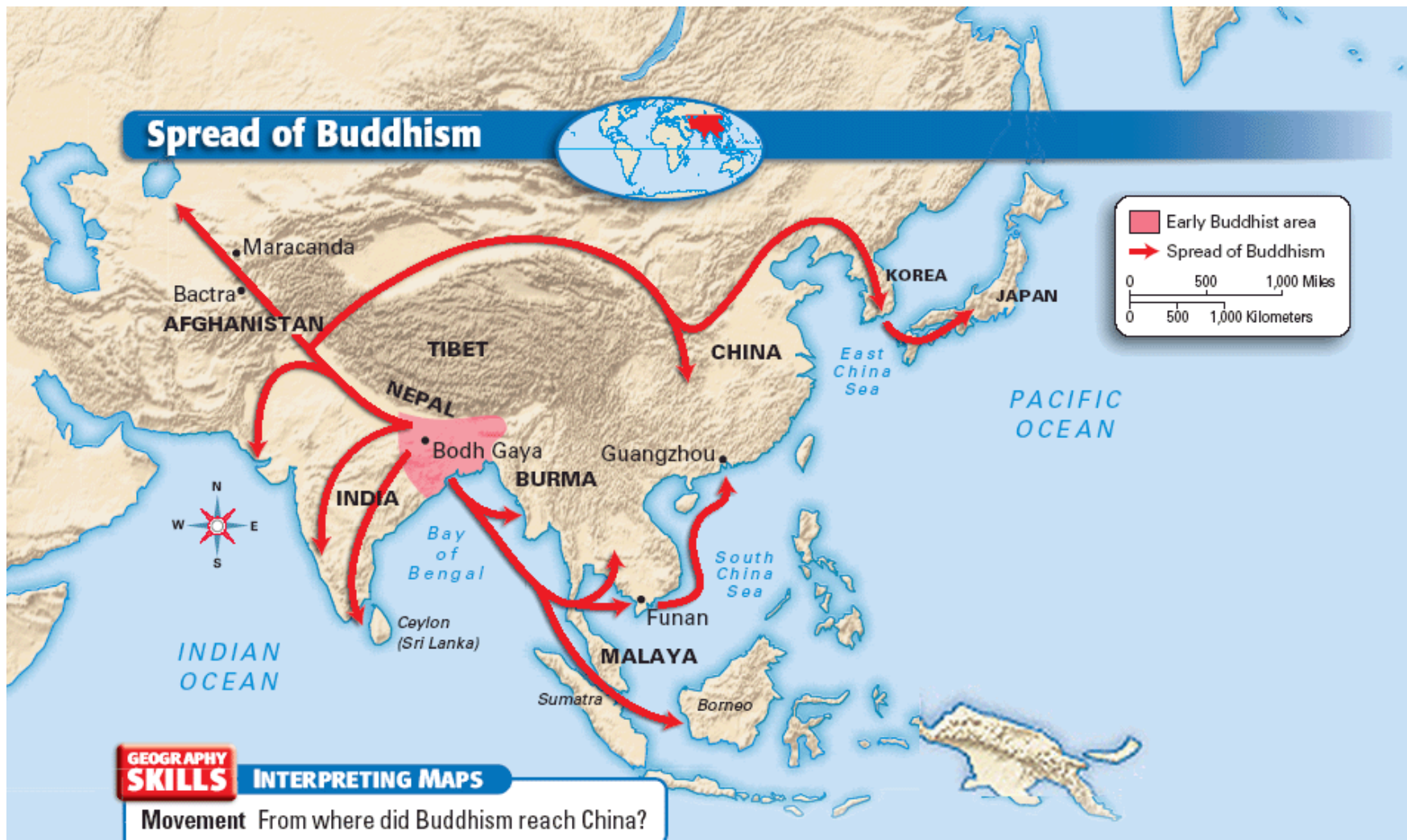
Chinese Dynasties, 589–1279



GEOGRAPHY SKILLS INTERPRETING MAPS

Region Which dynasty controlled the largest area?

Spread of Buddhism



GEOGRAPHY SKILLS

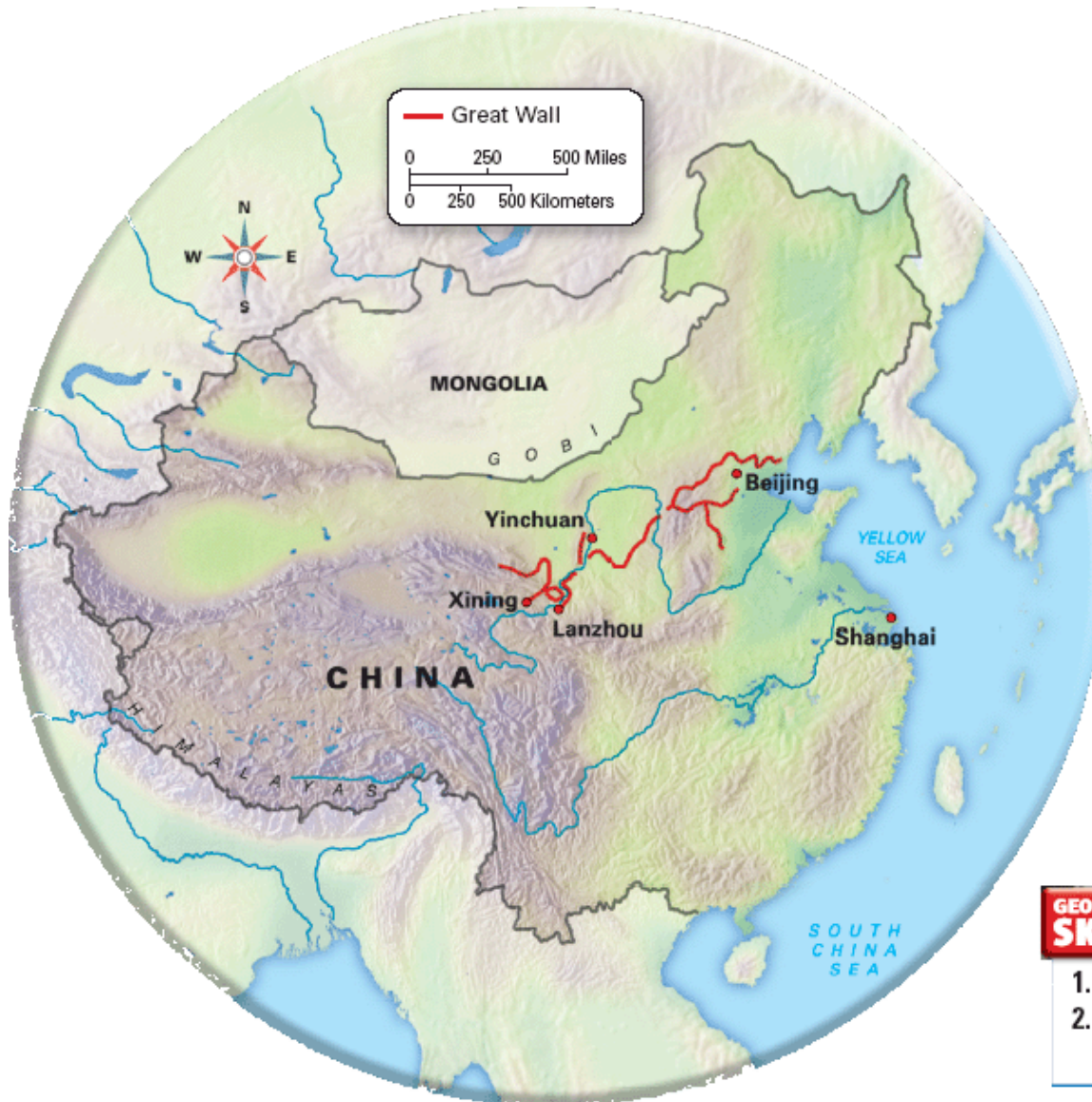
INTERPRETING MAPS

Movement From where did Buddhism reach China?



Mongol Empire, 1294





GEOGRAPHY
SKILLS INTERPRETING MAPS

1. **Movement** Why was the Great Wall built?
2. **Region** From what area to the north of China did many invaders come?

Reasons for Buddhism's Spread

**QUICK
FACTS**

- Buddhist missionaries spread the religion.
- People took comfort from Buddhist teachings during the Period of Disunion.

Chinese Inventions

QUICK
FACTS

Paper

Invented during the Han dynasty around 105, paper was one of the greatest of all Chinese inventions. It gave the Chinese a cheap and easy way of keeping records and made printing possible.

Porcelain

Porcelain was first made during the Tang dynasty, but it wasn't perfected for many centuries. Chinese artists were famous for their work with this fragile material.



Woodblock printing

The Chinese invented printing during the Tang dynasty, centuries before it was known in Europe. Printers could copy drawings or texts quickly, much faster than they could be copied by hand.

Gunpowder

Invented during the late Tang or early Song dynasty, gunpowder was used to make fireworks and signals. The Chinese did not generally use it as a weapon.



Movable type

Inventors of the Song dynasty created movable type, which made printing much faster. Carved letters could be rearranged and reused to print many different messages.

Magnetic compass

Invented no later than the Han period, the compass was greatly improved by the Tang. The new compass allowed sailors and merchants to travel vast distances.



Paper money

The world's first paper money was invented by the Song. Lighter and easier to handle than coins, paper money helped the Chinese manage their growing wealth.

Visual Summary

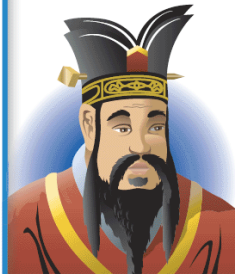
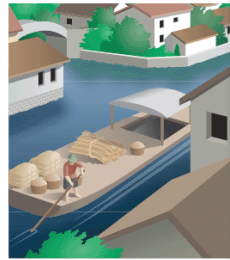
Use the visual summary below to help you review the main ideas of the chapter.

**QUICK
FACTS**



China was reunified, and Buddhism spread during the Sui and Tang dynasties.

Farming and trade grew under the Tang and Song dynasties.



Confucian thought influenced Chinese government and education.

The powerful Yuan and Ming dynasties strengthened China and expanded trade, but then China became isolated.



