

Ancient China Trivia: Questions, Answers, and Facts Printable Trivia Pack

Ancient China trivia opens a window onto millennia of history shaped by powerful dynasties, major inventions, and enduring cultural traditions. This page offers a concise, family-friendly way to explore how ancient Chinese rulers, thinkers, and innovations influenced East Asia and the wider world.

HARD ANCIENT CHINA TRIVIA

1. Which battle in 202 BCE is closely tied to Liu Bang finally securing victory over Xiang Yu?

Answer: The Battle of Gaixia

2. What anti-Han uprising broke out in 154 BCE, pitting regional kings against the Han court?

Answer: The Rebellion of the Seven States

3. Near the end of the Han dynasty, which famous battle was fought in 208 CE?

Answer: The Battle of Red Cliffs

4. Name the trio of states that defined the Three Kingdoms period.?

Answer: Wei, Shu, and Wu

5. Which dynasty both promoted Buddhism and moved its capital to Luoyang in 494 CE?

Answer: The Northern Wei dynasty

6. What land-allocation system assigned fields by household under several medieval Chinese dynasties?

Answer: The Equal-Field System

7. Which Tang-era upheaval began in 755 CE and became one of the dynasty's defining crises?

Answer: The An Lushan Rebellion

8. Which 9th-century rebellion severely weakened the late Tang dynasty?

Answer: The Huang Chao Rebellion

9. Which dynasty ruled parts of northern China at the same time as the Song?

Answer: The Khitan Liao dynasty

10. Which dynasty captured Northern Song Kaifeng in 1127?

Answer: The Jurchen Jin dynasty

11. What successor polity continued after the fall of the Northern Song in 1127?

Answer: The Southern Song

12. Which 11th-century scholar is credited here with describing magnetic declination?

Answer: Shen Kuo

13. Which mathematical classic is noted for shaping traditional Chinese mathematics?

Answer: The Nine Chapters on the Mathematical Art

14. Whose 5th-century work is remembered for giving a remarkably accurate value of pi?

Answer: Zu Chongzhi

FUNNY ANCIENT CHINA TRIVIA

1. Which thing did Qin standardization famously make one-size-fits-empire so carts would stop arguing with the road ruts?

Answer: The width of cart axles.

2. In ancient China, what weapon part was often cast in bronze so the clicky part could be both strong and precise?

Answer: Crossbow triggers were often cast in bronze.

3. Which Han-era tomb site became famous for preserving a corpse so well that soft tissue survived for more than two thousand years?

Answer: Mawangdui.

4. True or false: Under the Qin legal code, trouble could spread from one person to family members or groups through collective punishment.?

Answer: True

5. If a Han tomb occupant wanted a tiny afterlife farm, what little companions might archaeologists find waiting there?

Answer: Miniature pigs, dogs, and farmyards in tomb figurines.

6. Before selfies got out of hand, what ancient Chinese object was polished enough to work as an actual reflective surface?

Answer: Bronze mirrors.

7. Which horseback sport from Central Asia entertained some Tang nobles who apparently preferred their ball games at full gallop?

Answer: Polo.

8. What major Tang capital was arranged on a strict grid with walled wards and curfews, basically an ancient city saying 'everyone home on time'?

Answer: Chang'an.

9. Which famous Han marquis went to burial inside nested lacquered coffins, as if one coffin simply wasn't making the point strongly enough?

Answer: Lady Dai.

10. The south-pointing chariot showed direction by what method: magnetism or a mechanical system?

Answer: A mechanical system rather than magnetism.

11. Which humble load-hauler was already in use in China by at least the early imperial

period, saving many backs before ergonomic seminars existed?

Answer: The wheelbarrow.

12. What invention from ancient China took to the skies for signaling and measurement long before it became a picnic villain?

Answer: Kites.

13. Along Han frontier routes, what tall structures helped send messages by beacon signal when texting was tragically unavailable?

Answer: Watchtowers, often called beacon towers.

FUN ANCIENT CHINA TRIVIA

1. Which underground force was buried like an eternal security team for Qin Shi Huang's tomb?

Answer: The Terracotta Army was buried to guard the tomb of Qin Shi Huang.

2. If you wanted to read the earliest known form of Chinese writing, what would you look for?

Answer: Oracle bone inscriptions from the Shang are the earliest known form of Chinese writing.

3. Ancient China's Bronze Age is especially famous for making what kind of impressive objects?

Answer: Ritual bronze vessels of the Shang and Zhou eras.

4. During the later Shang period, what city served as the dynasty's capital near modern Anyang?

Answer: Yin was the capital of the Shang dynasty during its later period.

5. What idea did the Zhou use as their cosmic receipt for replacing the Shang?

Answer: The Mandate of Heaven was used by the Zhou to justify replacing the Shang.

6. Which famous thinker first entered the world in 551 BCE in the state of Lu?

Answer: Confucius was born in the state of Lu in 551 BCE.

7. Who is traditionally credited as the author of the Tao Te Ching?

Answer: Laozi is the traditional author of the Tao Te Ching.

8. True or false: The Warring States period ended when Qin unified China.?

Answer: True

9. The Great Wall didn't pop up all at once. Under which dynasty were its earliest large linked defenses built?

Answer: The earliest large linked defenses of the Great Wall were built under the Qin dynasty.

10. Which system became especially influential under the Tang and Song, turning test-taking into a major path to office?

Answer: The civil service examination system became especially influential under the Tang and Song dynasties.

11. Before movable type had its moment, what printing method was already in use by the Tang dynasty?

Answer: Woodblock printing was already in use in China by the Tang dynasty.

12. Who gets credit for developing movable type printing in the Northern Song?

Answer: Bi Sheng is credited with developing movable type printing in the Northern Song.

13. Which explosive invention was already around in China by the Tang period?

Answer: Gunpowder was invented in China by the Tang period.

ANCIENT CHINA FAMILY TRIVIA

1. What name is another way to refer to the First Qin Emperor?

Answer: Qin Shi Huang

2. Which Eastern Han woman is remembered as a prominent scholar?

Answer: Ban Zhao

3. Which Han ruler is known for greatly expanding Han China's territory?

Answer: Emperor Wu

4. Whose journeys helped open contacts between Han China and Central Asia?

Answer: Zhang Qian

5. The Book of Changes is widely known by what shorter name?

Answer: I Ching

6. In Chinese thought, what word is often translated as 'the Way'?

Answer: Dao

7. Which thinker argued that human nature is fundamentally good?

Answer: Mencius

8. What is the name of a major text of Legalist political thought?

Answer: Han Feizi

9. Which huge waterway network linked northern and southern China?

Answer: Grand Canal

10. What celebrated structure once shone as one of Nanjing's most famous landmarks?

Answer: Porcelain Tower

11. Which bridge is one of the world's oldest surviving segmental arch bridges?

Answer: Zhaozhou Bridge

12. What is the name of the ancient irrigation system in Sichuan?

Answer: Dujiangyan

EASY ANCIENT CHINA TRIVIA

1. Which dynasty unified China in 221 BCE?

Answer: The Qin dynasty

2. Who founded the Han dynasty after the fall of Qin?

Answer: Liu Bang

3. Which dynasty began in 618 CE?

Answer: The Tang dynasty

4. What dynasty started in 960 CE?

Answer: The Song dynasty

5. China was reunified in 589 CE under which dynasty?

Answer: The Sui dynasty

6. What is the modern city on the site of ancient Chang'an?

Answer: Xi'an

7. Which city served as the capital of the Eastern Han dynasty?

Answer: Luoyang

8. The mausoleum near modern Xi'an belongs to which ruler?

Answer: The First Qin Emperor

9. Who is traditionally credited as the author of The Art of War?

Answer: Sun Tzu

10. Which classic text is a foundational work of Daoist thought?

Answer: The Tao Te Ching

11. Who compiled Records of the Grand Historian?

Answer: Sima Qian

12. Who is traditionally linked to improvements in papermaking during the Eastern Han?

Answer: Cai Lun

13. What trade route connected Han China with regions of Central Asia?

Answer: The Silk Road

Source: <https://triviagong.com/themes/ancient-china>