

Empires in East Asia**Lesson 1**

Tang and Song China

Key Terms and People

Tang Taizong great emperor of the Tang Dynasty

Wu Zhao Tang ruler and only woman in China ever to assume the title of emperor

movable type wood or metal blocks, each with a single character, that can be arranged to make up a page for printing

gentry powerful upper class

Before You Read

In the last lesson, you read about the Ottoman Empire.

In this lesson, you will read about changes in China during the Tang and Song dynasties.

As You Read

Use a diagram to note changes made by the Tang and Song dynasties.

THE TANG DYNASTY EXPANDS CHINA

What changes occurred during the Tang Dynasty?

Starting in AD 220, China went through a long period of troubles. There were no strong rulers. China was not united. Then in 589, a man named Wendi brought order. He united the northern and southern regions. He also named himself the first emperor of the Sui Dynasty.

The Grand Canal was built during this dynasty. This waterway connected China's two major rivers. The canal was a trade route between northern and southern China.

The Tang Dynasty followed. It lasted for 300 years. **Tang Taizong** was a mighty emperor. He and other Tang rulers made the empire larger. They

gained back lands lost since the fall of the Han Dynasty. **Wu Zhao** was another great Tang leader. She was the only woman ever to rule China as emperor. During her reign, parts of Korea were added to the dynasty.

Early Tang rulers strengthened the government. They extended the network of roads and canals, helping to tie the empire together.

Schools were set up to train people for political jobs. They had to pass tough tests. Only then could people work for the government.

By the mid-700s, the Tang Dynasty had begun to weaken. Rulers charged heavy taxes. The Chinese people faced more hardship. Invaders attacked the empire's lands. Chinese rebels became violent. In 907, they killed the last Tang ruler.

Lesson 1, *continued*

1. How did Tang rulers change China?

THE SONG DYNASTY RESTORES CHINA**What happened during the Song Dynasty?**

The Song Dynasty replaced the Tang Dynasty. The Song Dynasty also lasted about 300 years. Its empire was smaller than the Tang. But China was still strong under Song rule.

This dynasty did have military troubles, though. Song rulers wanted peace with their enemies in the north. Every year, they gave gifts of silver, silk, and tea. This was not enough. Invaders forced the Song to move south.

2. How did the Song emperors try to obtain peace?

AN ERA OF PROSPERITY AND INNOVATION**What advances occurred during the Tang and Song periods?**

During the Tang and Song rule, the Chinese made many advances. They invented useful things. **Movable type** made printing faster. Gunpowder was another important invention. It led to the design of exploding weapons.

The Chinese made progress in farming, too. Rice plants from Vietnam were imported into China. The new plants grew rice two times a year instead of only once a year. Farmers also created terraces, or steps, along hillsides. This allowed them to grow crops even on steep hills.

Trade increased under the Tang and Song emperors. Goods were carried over land along the Silk Roads. Later, ocean trade became important. Ideas, such as religions, were also exchanged with neighboring countries.

The Tang and Song dynasties were creative periods. Great poets wrote about life. Artists made beautiful paintings. They primarily painted landscapes and other things from nature. They mostly used black paint.

3. Name three advances made under Tang and Song rule.

CHANGES IN CHINESE SOCIETY**How did China change under the Tang and Song?**

Chinese society changed during the Tang and Song periods. The old noble families lost power. Key officials in government gained power. They formed a new upper class. This wealthy group was called the **gentry**.

Next came the middle class. They lived in the cities. People such as store owners and traders belonged to this group. Below them were workers, soldiers, and servants. In country areas, peasants made up the largest class.

The position of women became worse during this time. Women were seen as less important than men. Their work was not seen as valuable.

4. How were women viewed during the Tang and Song periods?

Empires in East Asia**Lesson 2**

The Mongols

Key Terms and People

pastoralist person who herds tamed animals

clan large group of people related to a common ancestor

Genghis Khan leader who brought together the Mongol clans

Pax Mongolica "Mongol Peace," a period from the mid-1200s to mid-1300s when Mongols imposed order across much of Eurasia

Kublai Khan Mongol leader and Chinese emperor

Marco Polo traveler from Venice who served Kublai Khan for 17 years

Before You Read

In the last lesson, you read about the Tang and Song dynasties.

In this lesson, you will read about the rise and conquests of the Mongols.

As You Read

List and analyze details about the Mongol rule in China.

NOMADS OF THE ASIAN STEPPE

How did the nomads of the Asian steppe live?

Much of central Asia is covered by dry grassland. Herders lived in this area, called the steppe, during the Song Dynasty. They were **pastoralists**. They moved from place to place. They needed grass for their sheep and goats.

The herders traveled together in **clans**. These large groups were made up of people related to a common ancestor. The nomads were used to simple, hard lives. The wealth of settled communities around them tempted them. Often they traded peacefully. But sometimes the nomads attacked the villages and took what they wanted by force. One group,

called the Mongols, became very powerful.

1. Name three characteristics of the nomads of the steppe.

THE RISE OF THE MONGOLS

Who united the Mongols?

Around 1200, a leader tried to bring the Mongol clans together. In 1206, he took the title **Genghis Khan**. This means "universal ruler."

Genghis Khan was a successful military leader for several reasons. First, he organized his soldiers well. Armies

Lesson 2, continued

had 10,000 men. They were broken into brigades of 1,000 men, companies of 100 men, and squads of 10 men.

Second, he tricked his enemies. He set traps for his opponents. Third, he used cruelty. Many of his enemies surrendered without fighting.

2. How did Genghis Khan organize his soldiers?

THE MONGOL EMPIRE

How did the Mongol Empire spread and divide?

The descendants of Genghis Khan continued to expand the empire in all directions. The Mongols destroyed many things in their invasions. Some towns were completely wiped out. They also destroyed irrigation systems. People could no longer live in some of those areas.

However, the Mongols were good rulers. They brought about a long period of peace, called the **Pax Mongolica**, in Central Asia. This means "Mongol Peace."

3. Why could people no longer live in places the Mongols invaded?

KUBLAI KHAN BECOMES EMPEROR

What did Kublai Khan do as ruler?

Genghis Khan's grandson, **Kublai Khan**, conquered all of China in 1279. He was the first foreigner to rule the whole country.

Kublai Khan became China's new emperor. He began the Yuan Dynasty. It

ruled China for less than 100 years. This era was important. Kublai Khan united China for the first time in 300 years.

The Mongols tried to conquer other lands. Kublai Khan attacked Japan in 1274 and 1281. Both attacks failed.

4. How long did the Yuan Dynasty rule China?

MONGOL RULE IN CHINA

What changes occurred under Mongol rule?

Kublai Khan was a great leader. He restored the Grand Canal. He also increased foreign trade. Western Asia and Europe wanted Chinese goods.

Marco Polo was a trader from Venice, Italy. Polo learned several Asian languages and worked for Kublai Khan for 17 years.

5. How did Kublai Khan help China?

THE END OF MONGOL RULE

How did Mongol rule end?

In the last years of his rule, Kublai Khan ran into trouble. His attacks on Southeast Asia failed. To pay for these wars and other expenses, Khan raised taxes. The Chinese resented the heavy burden these taxes placed on them.

After Khan died, Mongol leaders struggled for power. They fought over control of the empire. In 1368, Chinese rebels took over the government.

6. Why did taxes increase?

Lesson 2, continued

As you read, use the questions to help you summarize information about Mongol rule in China.

1. Who? Who was Kublai Khan? Who was Marco Polo?	
2. When? When did the Mongols gain control of all of China? When did Kublai Khan rule?	
3. Where? Where did Kublai Khan build palaces? Where did Kublai Khan move the capital of his empire?	
4. How? How did the Mongol rulers treat their Chinese subjects? How did Kublai Khan expand foreign trade?	
5. Why? Why did the Mongols give most high government posts to foreigners? Why were the Mongols unable to conquer Japan? Why is the Yuan Dynasty important in Chinese history?	
6. What? What brought about the fall of the Yuan Dynasty?	

Empires in East Asia**Lesson 3**

Korean Dynasties

Key Terms and People

Silla Dynasty dynasty that ruled Korea during the 600s until the 900s

Koryu Dynasty dynasty that ruled Korea from 935 to 1392

Before You Read

In the last lesson you read about the Mongols.

In this lesson, you will learn about smaller kingdoms in east and southeast Asia.

As You Read

Use a chart to note important information on the kingdoms discussed in this lesson.

THE KOREAN PENINSULA**Where did Korean culture begin?**

The early Koreans were nomadic people. They traveled in clans from Northeast Asia. The clans controlled the land until 108 BC.

Korea is located on a peninsula. It is attached to China on the north. Most of the land is covered with mountains. People live along the southern tip of the peninsula. The land has more than 5,000 miles of coastline. Koreans have a long history of building ships.

The Korean peninsula has been ruled by both Chinese and Japanese powers. Their culture was influenced early on by the Chinese. During the 100s until the 500s, the Han Dynasty of China ruled the peninsula. They established colonies in Korea. From China, the Koreans learned about two religions—Buddhism and Confucianism. Koreans also learned

about China's central government and system of writing.

1. Why does Korea share a common history with China and Japan?

SILLA AND KORYO**How did China influence Korea?**

Korean tribes began to gather into groups. One group chased out the Chinese in the 600s and took control of the Korean peninsula. They formed the **Silla Dynasty**.

More than 175,000 families lived in the capital city Kyongju. Culture flourished in the city. The people traded with China and Japan, and the economy strengthened.

Lesson 3, *continued*

The Silla wanted to keep peaceful relations with China. They made Buddhism the official religion. Scholars used Chinese characters to create Korean characters. Having one language helped the Silla control the peninsula.

By the 900s, Silla rule had weakened. The royal families fought one another. The people were unhappy with paying high taxes. A rebel leader named Wang Kon took power and set up the **Koryu Dynasty**. It ruled Korea from 935 to 1392. It had a government similar to China's. Korea used examinations to fill government jobs. But this did not keep wealthy landowners from controlling society. The dynasty, though, produced

great works of art—including celadon pottery, fine poetry, and wood blocks to print the entire Buddhist canon.

Korea fell to the Mongols. It was under the Mongols until the 1350s. The Mongols demanded heavy taxes. The Koreans rebelled. The Mongols lost power. Then a new dynasty, the Choson, took over Korea. It ruled for 518 years.

2. How was the Korean system of writing developed?

Lesson 3, continued

As you read about the kingdoms that prospered in Korea, write notes to fill in the chart.

Dynasty	1. Silla Dynasty	2. Koryu Dynasty
Reason for Rise		
Achievements		
Reason for Falling		

Empires in East Asia**Lesson 4**

Feudal Powers in Japan

Key Terms and People

Shinto Japan's earliest religion, based on respect for nature and worship of ancestors

samurai Japanese warrior who served a lord

Bushido code that samurai lived by—"the way of the warrior"

shogun highest military commander in feudal Japan, ruling in the name of the emperor

Before You Read

In the last lesson, you read about Korea and its early dynasties.

In this lesson, you will learn about the early Japanese and their system of government.

As You Read

Use a chart to analyze the development of Japanese culture from 300 to 1300.

THE GROWTH OF JAPANESE CIVILIZATION**How did geography help shape Japan?**

Japan benefited from its location. It was near China. Chinese culture influenced Japan. However, there was enough distance between these two countries to make Chinese attacks difficult.

Japan is made up of about 4,000 islands. They vary in size. Most people live on the four largest islands. The country has many mountains. There is not much good farmland. The islands have few natural resources, such as coal and oil.

Early Japan was broken up into many small areas. Each was controlled by a clan. These clans believed in their own

gods. Later, all these beliefs became combined. They formed Japan's earliest religion, called **Shinto**. The main ideas of Shinto are respect for nature and the worship of ancestors.

In the 400s, the Yamato clan became the most powerful clan. The Yamato claimed that they were related to a sun goddess. By the 600s, Yamato leaders began to call themselves emperors. Other clans fought and won power over Japan. New rulers did not become emperor. Instead, they controlled the emperor. The emperor remained an important figure in Japan.

1. Describe the Shinto religion.

Lesson 4, continued

JAPANESE CULTURE

How did Chinese culture influence Japanese culture?

By the 400s, contact between China and Japan grew. Korean travelers visited Japan. They introduced Chinese ideas to the Japanese. Japan became more aware of Chinese ways. Buddhism from China reached Japan. It became an important religion in Japan.

Japan's emperor sent people to China to learn about its culture. The Japanese adopted the Chinese system of writing. Japanese artists imitated Chinese paintings. For a while, Japan even used China's government as a model. Yet Japan still held on to its own traditions.

2. Name three parts of Chinese culture that Japan adopted.

LIFE IN THE HEIAN PERIOD

What was life like during the Heian Period?

The years from 794 to 1185 are called the Heian Period. Heian was the new capital of the royal court. Heian is located in present-day Kyoto. Japanese culture thrived there.

The gentleman and ladies of the court lived in splendor. Art and good manners formed the center of their lives. Strict rules dictated many parts of life. Being polite and proper was expected.

The best accounts of Heian society come from the writings of women of the court. A woman in this period wrote the world's first novel, *The Tale of Genji*.

3. What are women known for during the Heian Period?

FEUDALISM ERODES IMPERIAL AUTHORITY

How did feudalism arise in Japan?

Over time, the power of Japan's central government decreased. Wealthy landowners lived away from the capital. They set up their own armies. These soldiers began to terrorize farmers.

In exchange for protection, farmers gave up some of their land to the lords. This is how the feudal system began in Japan. It was similar to the feudal system in Europe during the Middle Ages.

Each lord used a group of trained bodyguards. They were called **samurai**. They protected their lord from attacks by other lords. Samurai followed a strict code of behavior. It was called **Bushido**. This word means "way of the warrior."

After a period of war in the late 1100s, the Minamoto family rose to power. The leader gave his most powerful lord the title of **shogun**. This means "supreme general of the emperor's army." The emperor remained in power in name. But the new shogun ran the country. This pattern continued in Japan from 1192 to 1868.

Shoguns made Japan more stable. They created a system of judges to listen to problems between farmers and landlords. They also kept the military strong. The shoguns stopped invasions by the Mongols.

Shoguns needed money for their wars. They did not have enough money to pay samurai. The samurai became upset and fought back very hard. The shoguns lost power and respect.

4. Who were the samurai?

Lesson 4, *continued*

As you read about the development of Japanese civilization, take notes to answer the questions and fill out the charts.

How did these factors help shape Japanese civilization?

1. Geography

2. Yamato clan

3. Korean travelers

4. Chinese culture

5. Heian period

How did these groups weaken Japan's imperial government?

6. Samurai warriors

7. Shoguns

Empires in East Asia**Lesson 5**

Kingdoms of Southeast Asia

Key Terms and People

Pagan kingdom that is now Myanmar

Khmer Empire empire that ruled what is now Cambodia

Angkor Wat temple complex of the Khmer Empire

Before You Read

In the last lesson, you read about early Japan and the rise of feudalism.

In this lesson, you will learn about smaller kingdoms in east and southeast Asia.

As You Read

Use a chart to note important information on the kingdoms discussed in this section.

INFLUENCES OF SOUTHEAST ASIA**What shaped the culture of southeast Asia?**

The region of southeast Asia lies to the south of China. It includes mainland areas and many islands.

The region has never been united culturally or politically. The landscape makes travel and communication difficult. Rivers and valleys divide the mainland from north to south. Between the valleys are hills and mountains.

Political power in the area has often come from control of trade routes. This is because southeast Asia is on the most direct sea route between the Indian Ocean and the South China Sea.

India had a great influence on southeast Asia. Hindu and Buddhist missionaries brought their faiths to southeast Asia. Kingdoms in the area followed these religions as well as Indian

political ideas. This early Indian influence on southeast Asia is seen today in the region's religions, languages, and art forms.

Muslims from India brought Islam to southeast Asia. Missionaries would travel with traders. They converted the people who lived near the ports. Islam is now practiced by almost 40 percent of the people in southeast Asia.

Chinese ideas spread to the area, too. Sometimes the Chinese ruled over the locals. Other times, they forced local rulers to bow down to them.

1. What has prevented southeast Asia from being more united?

Lesson 5, *continued*

EARLY KINGDOMS AND EMPIRES
Who ruled southeast Asia?

A few small, powerful governments ruled early southeast Asia. The kingdom of **Pagan** was established in the mid-800s. It occupied the area that is now Myanmar. King **Anawrahta** was the first great leader. He was Buddhist. His people, called **Burmans**, built many temples. The area became the center of Buddhist learning. The **Mongols** defeated the Pagan army. After the fight, the Pagan Kingdom lost all its power.

Around the same time, the **Khmer Empire** was the main power. It was located on the mainland of southeast Asia in what is now Cambodia. Growing rice was its main source of wealth. The Khmer used large irrigation works to bring water to their fields. Rulers built huge temples and palaces. One of these is called **Angkor Wat**. It is among the world's greatest achievements in architecture.

Kingdoms were also founded on islands in southeast Asia. A dynasty

called **Srivijaya** arose on Java. Java is an island. This dynasty reached its height from the 600s to the 1200s. Nearby islands fell under its rule. The capital, **Palembang**, was located on Sumatra. Monks studied Buddhism in Palembang.

Vietnam fell under the rule of China. China controlled the area from about 100 BC to AD 900. Vietnam became an independent kingdom, known as **Dai Viet**, in 939.

The Vietnamese borrowed from Chinese culture. For example, Buddhism became important. The Vietnamese, though, kept their own culture. Women in Vietnam, for instance, had more rights than women in China.

2. What kingdoms arose in Southeast Asia?

Lesson 5, continued

As you read about the kingdoms that prospered in southeast Asia, fill in the charts.

How did India and China influence the people of Southeast Asia?

Indian Influence	Chinese Influence

What were the characteristics of the early governments of southeast Asia?

	Pagan Kingdom	Khmer Empire	Srivijaya Dynasty	Dai Viet
Time of Rule				
Location				
Names of Rulers				
Religious Beliefs				
Economy				
Important Details				