

SOL 3.5 Ancient China

3.5a - Where Was Ancient China?

a) locate ancient China on a map of the world



Ancient China was located in **East Asia**, along the **Huang He River** (also called the Yellow River).

- The Huang He provided **fertile soil**, but it also **flooded**, so people had to learn how to control it.
- Over time, the **boundaries** of China changed as leaders gained or lost land.



Important geographic features:

- 🌊 **Huang He River** – helped farming and trade
- 🏔️ **Himalaya Mountains** – some of the tallest mountains in the world
- 🏜️ **Gobi Desert** – a huge desert that made travel difficult



3.5b - Geography and the Economy

b) connect the geography of ancient China and its economy

Ancient Chinese people:

- 👨🌾 **Farmed** in fertile soil along rivers
- 🐟 **Fished** in rivers and seas
- ⚒️ **Mined** for natural resources

🏺 Made pottery and traded goods like **silk cloth**

The **Silk Road** became an **important trade route** that connected China to other civilizations.



Traders along the Silk Road

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💡 **Think About It:**

- How did trade help China's economy?
- What goods from China were valuable to other countries?

3.5c - Government

c) identify and explain the government

Ancient China was ruled by **emperors**.

- An **emperor** was the most powerful leader in the land.
- China's government was organized into **dynasties** (a series of rulers from the same family).



3.5d – Arts and Innovations

d) describe the arts and innovations

Ancient China is known for its **beautiful art** and **useful inventions**.

Arts included:

- 🏺 **Pottery**
- 🖌️ **Paintings and calligraphy** (writing with characters and symbols)

Important **innovations**:

- 🪁 **Kite** – used for fun and for the military
- 🧭 **Compass** – helped sailors find direction
- 🧵 **Silk cloth** – a valuable trade good
- 🎆 **Fireworks** – created from early gunpowder

💬 **Think About It:**

- How do Chinese inventions like the compass still help us today?

3.5e – Architecture and Its Influence

e) identify and explain the architecture and its influence in the world today

The most famous structure is the **Great Wall of China**.



- Built to **protect** against invaders
- Stretches thousands of miles across China
- Workers used **simple machines** like ramps and levers to move heavy stones
- Architecture from ancient China **continues to inspire buildings** and designs today.

💬 **Think About It:**

- What features of the Great Wall made it so strong?
- How might people have built such a large wall without modern machines?

