

Chinese Dynasties WebQuest  
**An Internet WebQuest on Chinese Dynasties**

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## **Introduction**

The Chinese civilization is one of the oldest continuous civilizations in the world. For thousands of years the life and culture of the Chinese people has been preserved because of the geographic isolation of the area. To understand the history of China better, historians have divided the major time periods into dynasties. (A dynasty is series of rulers from the same family.) You have been introduced to four major dynasties from Ancient China - the Shang, Zhou, Qin, and Han.

In this research project, you will be working with a small group in order to better understand one of these major dynasties and create a museum display that will highlight the people, events, and culture of the dynasty. When viewing the completed displays, you should be able to compare the dynasties and explain the contributions of each dynasty to Chinese civilization and world civilization.

Each of you will be researching one dynasty and you will take a specific role to represent your learning. The roles are:

- \*Map and Chart Maker
  - \*Timeliner
  - \*Artifact Maker
  - \*Historic Reporter
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## **The Quest**

What was life like under each dynasty and what were the important contributions of each dynasty?

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## **The Process and Resources**

In this WebQuest, you will be working together with a group of students in class. Each group will answer the Task or Quest(ion). As a member of the group, you will explore Webpages from people all over the world. Because these are real Webpages we're tapping into, not things made just for schools, the reading level might challenge you. Feel free to use the online Webster

dictionary or one in your classroom.

You'll begin with everyone in your group getting some background before dividing into roles where people on your team become experts on one part of the topic. You may wish to divide the research up between your group members and then teach each other what you have learned.

## **Phase 1 - Background: Something for Everyone**

Use the Internet information linked below to answer the basic questions of who? what? where? when? why? and how? Be creative in exploring the information so that you answer these questions as fully and insightfully as you can.

Your group will need to include the following information in your final display:

1. Name and dates of dynasty
2. Rulers
3. Major events
4. New knowledge or ideas used
5. New inventions
6. Geography
7. Representations of artifacts
8. Daily life
9. The arts – music, literature, art
10. Style of government

- [Ancient China Daily Life](#) - Information on each dynasty and religion.
- [Crystalink's Ancient China](#) - Info on artifacts, art, dynasties, religion, and much more. Follow the links for great pictures and maps.
- [Dragons in Ancient China](#) - Gives examples and descriptions of dragons from different eras.
- [Urbana Middle School China Page](#) - Timeline, philosophy and other links.
- [China Museum Homepage](#) - Shang dynasty information.
- [History of China](#) - Text based information about China.
- [Exploring Ancient World Civilizations](#) - Images, timeline, and other links.
- [A Visitor in Ancient China](#) - Information on the Zhou Dynasty.
- [Chinese History: The Main Dynasties](#) - Information on each of the dynasties.
- [Ms Hos-McGrane's Grade 6 Ancient China Page](#) - Lots of links to other pages!
- [Washington State University Ancient China](#) - Read through each dynasty to get to the next.
- [Condensed Ancient Chinese History](#) - All dynasties!
- [Traditional Chinese Art and Culture](#) - Pictures and descriptions of art and culture.
- [Qin Dynasty](#) - Tons of information on the Qin Dynasty.
- [Han Dynasty](#) - Tons of information on the Han Dynasty.
- [China Maps](#)
- [China - A Country Study](#) - Outline of information - begins with modern China but includes geography, culture, dynasties, religion etc.
- [Contact China](#) - Commercial site that includes info on history, culture etc.
- [Chinese Cultural Studies: Chinese Art](#) - Overview of Chinese Art.

## **Phase 2 - Looking Deeper from Different Perspectives**

## INSTRUCTIONS:

Now that you have some background information, you will need to discuss role assignments. Each person will need to select a specific role:

- \*Map and Chart Maker
- \*Artifact Maker/Collector
- \*Timeliner
- \*Historic Reporter

Review in your group the list required information. Discuss which role should represent each piece of information.

How you represent this information is up to you and your group – imagine the ways to represent your learning:

- \*Maps
- \*Graphs
- \*Posters
- \*Diagrams
- \*Pamphlets
- \*Short stories
- \*Games
- \*Mobiles
- \*Graphic organizers – Venn, Flow Chart, T-Chart etc.
- \*Poems
- \*Essays
- \*Comic Strips
- \*Other? There's lot!

Assign roles to each person in the group. Some 'representations' don't fit neatly into a category. Assign the work fairly and equally.

### **Map and Chart Maker**

Your job is to create maps and charts of information about your dynasty. If you copy information, remember to always give credit to the original author.

### **Artifact Maker/Collector**

Your job is to create and collect artifacts from your dynasty. If you copy information, remember to always give credit to the original author.

### **Timeliner**

Your job is to create a timeline for the events and people in your dynasty. If you copy information, remember to always give credit to the original author.

### **Historic Reporter**

Your job is to create and collect written text and stories about your dynasty. If you copy information, remember to always give credit to the original author.

## Phase 3 - Debating, Discussing, and Reaching Consensus

After doing some research on your role within your dynasty, you will need to get back together with your group to check that your group has covered all the required information.

Go back to the list of required information and check that you have each. Also, check the assessment rubrics provided.

## Phase 4 - Real World Feedback

Each of the dynasties contributed many things to Chinese culture. After viewing the completed displays from Ancient China, you will need to answer the following question.

**What dynasty had the greatest impact on the Chinese culture?**

Put your learning into a letter you'll send out for real world feedback. After viewing all the displays, you will write a letter that contains opinions, information, and perspectives that you've gained. Your letter should be addressed to other students learning about Ancient China. Here's the process:

1. Begin your letter with a statement of who you are (don't give your full names, rather a general statement of your project and grade).
2. Give background information that shows you understand the topic. Summarize the importance of each dynasty.
3. STATE THE TASK / QUEST(ION) AND YOUR ANSWER . "I believe the \_\_\_\_\_ Dynasty had the greatest impact on Chinese culture because . . . Write a paragraph that gives at least two good reasons supporting your opinion. Make sure to be specific in both the information (like where you got it from on the Web) and the reasoning (why the information proves your point).
4. Have someone proofread the message.
5. Hand in a typed copy of your letter and save a copy in the shared folder (Under AncientChina). Mrs. Porath will post your letter to a discussion group about Chinese Culture and History at ClassroomConnect.com

**Your Contact is:** the designated contact

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## Conclusion

'History is the 'know thyself' of humanity -- the self-consciousness of mankind.'-- Droysen

China's history is long and complex. Each dynasty left a legacy behind which can still be seen in modern China. Chinese inventions and innovations continue to influence the rest of the world.

Hopefully, through this WebQuest you have come to know Ancient China a little better and are able to appreciate the complexities of its culture. The next time you see something “Made in China” think about the truth of that statement!

**Website:**

**<http://www.kn.pacbel.com/wired/fil/pages/webchinesemrl.html>**