

ANCIENT CHINA

By Molly and Jesse

Daily Life

Role of a woman:

The women of ancient China were not empowered in their society and male domination was very prevalent. The women were asked to take care of the children and household chores whereas the men worked in farms. The women never had their choice in marriage and were not included in any decision making regarding the household or farms or any important affairs.



The Rich and the Poor

There was a wide demographic gap between the farmers and kings and nobles. The farmers were far more in population as compared to nobles. They were economically exploited and were made to work very hard. The nobles lived in luxurious palaces while the farmers in China survived in small huts. Naturally the nobles were highly regarded and lived with great riches.



Family Life

In poor households, women worked all day spending long tiring hours farming, cooking, sweeping and washing. For the children of poor families, education meant learning to the work the parents did. This involved carrying goods to the market, or helping with the threshing or planting. The children of wealthier parents had private tutors at home. In imperial China, weddings were arranged by the parents of the bride and groom.



Home Comforts

A large home in imperial China would include many living rooms for the owner and his wife, their children, the grandparents and other members of the extended family. There were several kitchens, servants quarters and reception rooms where guests would dine. A wealthy scholars home would even contain its own private library. People slept on low heated platforms called Kang.

Beliefs and Religions

The first Chinese people believed in various gods and goddesses of nature, in spirits and demons. Buddhism was brought into China 2,000 years ago, it was gradually widely accepted by most Chinese people and developed into three sections, namely the Han, Tibetan and Southern Buddhism.



Inventions

The Chinese invented :

- The magnetic compass

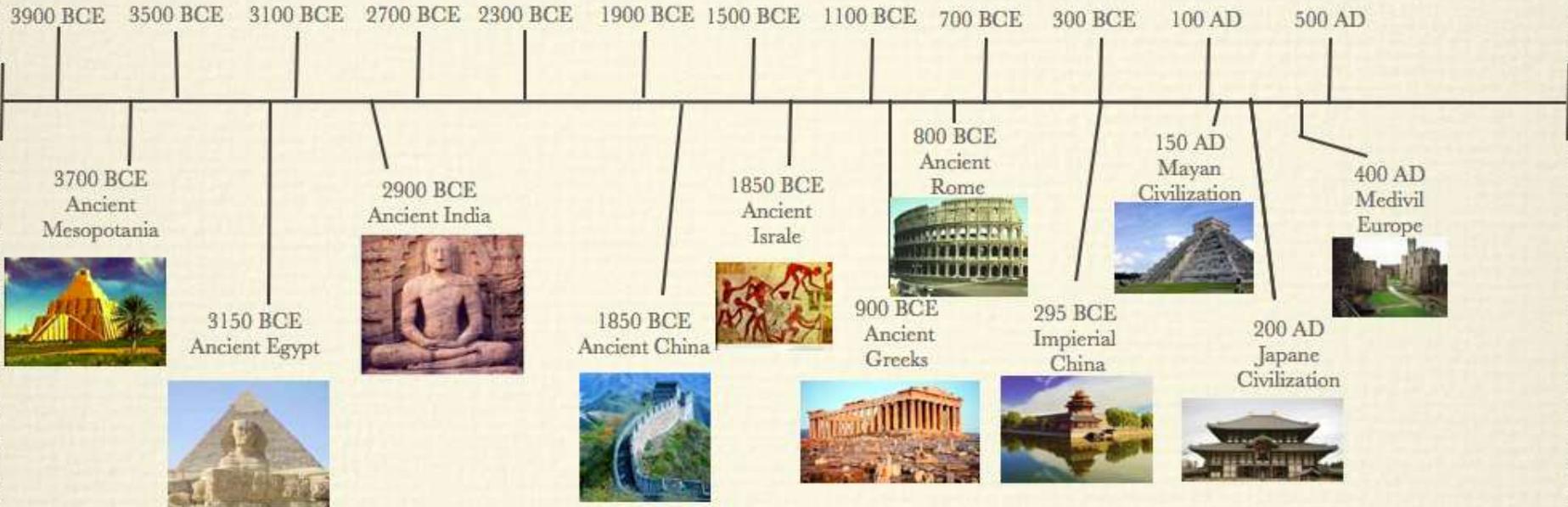
They were the first used in town planning to make sure that new houses faced in a direction that was deemed to be in harmony with nature. Later the compass was used for navigation at sea.

- The wheelbarrow

The Chinese invented the wheelbarrow between 221 B.C and A.D 265 during the period of the three kingdoms.

- Gun powder
- Paper
- Steering at a straight course

Timeline



Crime and Punishment



Stories tell us that robbers were beaten up to 100 times with a cane, and many died because of their wounds. Anyone who was caught stealing a horse was cut in half by a sword.

Famous people

- Sun Wu. Ancient Chinese military general, strategist and philosopher.
- Wu Qi. Chinese military leader, politician and reformer in the early Warring States period
- Sun Bin. Military strategist

Dynastys

Sui dynasty (581-618)

Tang dynasty (618-907)

Song dynasty (1127-1276)

Yuan dynasty (1271-1268)

Ming dynasty (1368-1644)

Quin dynasty (1644-1911)

What is a dynasty?

A dynasty is a succession of rulers all from the family. (same origin as dynamic.)

War

- o There were three centuries (300 years) of war in ancient China.

Battles included work of:

- o Crossbowmen
- o Cavalry
- o Armoured infantry and chariots

Great wall

- o The great wall of china was built in sections, by small states that wanted to defend themselves. As new rulers took power, the walls were rebuilt and made longer. Along the walls were watch towers where the emperors men watch for enemies.
- o Now it's a tourist attraction where people can now walk it.



The change in society

Chinese societies have change by the respect of the poor.

Population has changed, with law of 1 child per couple has been placed.

Also Health and longevity has changed.