

People Who Shaped China

Identify major Chinese figures and their contributions.

SS.6.W.4.9 "Identify key figures from classical and post classical China."

NAME _____

DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline each historical figure's name and circle words that tell what the person did. This helps you connect each key figure with a contribution.

Voices, Leaders, and Thinkers

- ① China's long history includes leaders, teachers, inventors, and travelers whose choices shaped later generations. During the Zhou period, Confucius taught that people should act with respect, duty, and care for family. His ideas became Confucianism and influenced Chinese government and education for centuries. Centuries later, Qin Shi Huang unified several warring states in 221 BCE and became the first emperor of a united China. He ordered common systems of writing, money, and measurements, helping connect his new empire.
- ② In the Han dynasty, Emperor Wu, also called Han Wudi, strengthened the central government and sent Zhang Qian westward to seek allies. Zhang Qian's journeys gave the Han court information about Central Asia and helped open trade routes later called the Silk Roads. Another Han figure, Cai Lun, improved a process for making paper from materials such as bark, hemp, and old cloth. Paper was easier to use than many earlier writing materials, so his improvement supported record keeping and learning.
- ③ Postclassical China also produced influential figures. Wu Zetian ruled during the Tang dynasty and was China's only woman to rule as emperor in her own name. She expanded the use of examinations for government jobs, which could help officials earn positions through learning. The Buddhist monk Xuanzang traveled to India to collect religious texts and later translated many of them into Chinese. In the Song dynasty, Shen Kuo wrote about science, including the magnetic compass. His observations recorded useful knowledge about the natural world.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE Use the passage

1 Which figure's teachings influenced Chinese government and education for centuries?

2 Who became the first emperor of a united China, and name two systems he ordered to be common?

3 How did Zhang Qian's journeys help China?

4 Name two postclassical Chinese figures from the passage and state one contribution of each.

3 YOUR TURN Your own words

Write exactly three sentences comparing two figures from different periods in the passage. Name both figures, describe one contribution by each, and explain one way their contributions were different.

PART 1 • READ AND MARK

Underline each historical figure's name and circle words that tell what the person did. This helps you connect each key figure with a contribution. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 • ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	Which figure's teachings influenced Chinese government and education for centuries?	Confucius.
2	Who became the first emperor of a united China, and name two systems he ordered to be common?	Qin Shi Huang. He ordered common systems of writing, money, and measurements. Any two systems are acceptable.
3	How did Zhang Qian's journeys help China?	His journeys gave the Han court information about Central Asia and helped open trade routes later called the Silk Roads.
4	Name two postclassical Chinese figures from the passage and state one contribution of each.	Answers may include Wu Zetian, expanded examinations for government jobs; Xuanzang, collected and translated Buddhist texts; Shen Kuo, wrote about science including the magnetic compass.

PART 3 • YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

Confucius of the Zhou period influenced education and government through his teachings about duty and respect. Cai Lun of the Han dynasty improved paper making, which supported record keeping and learning. Confucius shaped ideas, while Cai Lun improved a material people could use to share and preserve ideas.

Accept contributions stated clearly in the passage and connected to the correct figure. For the open response, accept any two figures from different periods if all three required parts are included.