

China's Creative Legacy

Describe ancient Chinese arts and innovations.

3.6.d “describing the arts and innovations; and”

NAME _____

DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK _____ Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline each art form, circle each innovation, and box details that tell how it was made, used, or helpful.

Art and Ideas in Ancient China

- ① In ancient China, artists used skill and patience to make beautiful objects. Weavers gathered thread from silkworm cocoons and made soft silk cloth. They dyed the cloth bright colors and added patterns. Painters used brushes and ink to write calligraphy, which is beautiful handwriting. Potters shaped clay, then heated it in hot ovens to make bowls, jars, and figures.
- ② Inventors in ancient China also created useful new tools and materials. Long ago, people wrote on bamboo strips or silk. Papermakers mixed plant fibers with water, pressed the wet mixture flat, and dried it into paper. Paper was lighter than bamboo and less costly than silk. Another invention, the magnetic compass, helped travelers find direction when they traveled.
- ③ Arts and innovations changed life in ancient China. A silk robe could show careful work and beauty, while paper gave more people a material for writing. Calligraphy showed ideas through carefully formed characters. The compass made travel and trade easier because travelers could keep moving in the right direction. These achievements are still remembered as important contributions from ancient China.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE Use the passage

1 What details show that making silk cloth was an art?

2 How was paper different from the materials people used for writing before it?

3 Describe what the magnetic compass helped travelers do.

4 Choose one art form and one innovation from the passage. Describe how each changed or helped life in ancient China.

3 YOUR TURN Your own words

Write a four-sentence museum card about one art form and one innovation from ancient China. Name each one, tell how it was made or used, and explain how one of them helped people.

PART 1 • READ AND MARK

Underline each art form, circle each innovation, and box details that tell how it was made, used, or helpful. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 • ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	What details show that making silk cloth was an art?	Weavers used thread from silkworm cocoons, dyed the cloth bright colors, and added patterns.
2	How was paper different from the materials people used for writing before it?	Paper was lighter than bamboo and less costly than silk.
3	Describe what the magnetic compass helped travelers do.	It helped travelers find direction and keep moving in the right direction.
4	Choose one art form and one innovation from the passage. Describe how each changed or helped life in ancient China.	Answers may name an art such as silk weaving, calligraphy, or pottery and an innovation such as paper or the compass, with accurate effects from the passage.

PART 3 • YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

Silk weaving was an art in ancient China. Weavers used thread from silkworm cocoons, then dyed the cloth and added patterns. Papermaking was an innovation because it made a useful writing material from plant fibers. Paper was lighter than bamboo and less costly than silk.

Accept accurate descriptions drawn from the passage. For the museum card, check that the student identifies one art form and one innovation and includes a correct detail about making, using, or helping people.