

China's Bright Ideas

Identify arts and innovations from ancient China.

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

NAME _____

DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK _____ Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline the name of each of the six arts or innovations in the passage. Write **A** above each art and **I** above each innovation so you can compare these achievements.

Arts and Ideas in Ancient China

- ① In ancient China, silk weaving was an important art. Workers spun silkworm threads, dyed them, and wove bright cloth for robes and banners. Calligraphy, the art of beautiful writing, appeared on scrolls and signs. Ink painting showed mountains, rivers, and people on silk or paper. These arts helped people share stories, ideas, and beauty.
- ② Chinese inventors developed paper from plant fibers, including bark and old cloth. Paper was lighter and easier to carry than bamboo strips, so writers could record ideas more easily. They also used magnetic compasses, which pointed north. Much later, sailors used compasses to guide ships when land was not in sight. This made sea travel safer.
- ③ Another Chinese innovation was woodblock printing. A craft worker carved words or pictures into a wooden block, covered it with ink, and pressed it onto paper. One block could make many copies of the same page. Printing helped spread books, calendars, and Buddhist teachings to more people. People could read the same information in many places.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE Use the passage

1 Which art used beautiful writing? Name two places where people saw it.

2 Describe two steps workers used to make silk cloth.

3 How was paper different from bamboo strips, and how did this help writers?

4 How did woodblock printing help ideas reach more people?

3 YOUR TURN Your own words

Choose one art or innovation from the passage. Write exactly three sentences that tell what it is, how someone in ancient China could use it, and how it could help people.

PART 1 • READ AND MARK

Underline the name of each of the six arts or innovations in the passage. Write **A** above each art and **I** above each innovation so you can compare these achievements. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 • ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	Which art used beautiful writing? Name two places where people saw it.	Calligraphy used beautiful writing. It appeared on scrolls and signs.
2	Describe two steps workers used to make silk cloth.	Workers spun silkworm threads, dyed them, and wove them into cloth.
3	How was paper different from bamboo strips, and how did this help writers?	Paper was lighter and easier to carry than bamboo strips. It helped writers record ideas more easily.
4	How did woodblock printing help ideas reach more people?	One block could make many copies of the same page. This spread books, calendars, and Buddhist teachings to more people.

PART 3 • YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

A magnetic compass is a tool that points north. I would use it on a ship when land was not in sight. It would help my crew travel more safely across the sea.

Accept the six marked items as silk weaving, calligraphy, ink painting, paper, magnetic compasses, and woodblock printing. For the open response, accept any passage-based art or innovation if all three requested ideas are included in exactly three sentences.