

Michelle Miller  
China Lesson Plan  
9-11, 45 minute class periods

### Contributions of Chinese Dynasties

**PURPOSE:** To help students recognize the contributions that major Chinese Dynasties have made that we still use today.

#### ESSENTIAL QUESTIONS:

1. What are the dynasties that are considered “major Chinese dynasties”?  
(Shang, Qin, Han, Tang, Song, Yuan, Ming, Qing)
2. What years of control did each of these dynasties have? (Shang 1766-1122 B.C., Qin 221-206 B.C., Han 202 B.C.-220 A.D., Tang 618-907, Song 960-1279, Yuan 1279-1368, Ming 1368-1644, Qing 1644-1911)
3. Who were the major rulers during each dynasty?
4. What contributions did each dynasty make to society?

**RATIONALE:** No study of China is complete without looking over the major dynasties and seeing how they have contributed to modern China. These contributions go beyond China into the rest of the world. The importance of this lesson is to aid students in seeing the global picture of how ancient dynasties have contributed to how they are living their daily lives today.

#### MATERIALS:

[www.wsu.edu:8080/~dee/ANCCHINA](http://www.wsu.edu:8080/~dee/ANCCHINA)  
“East Asia: A New History”, by Rhoads Murphey, 2004  
Social studies text chapter on China. I used “History of our World” by Prentice Hall, 2005  
“The World and its People”, Silver Burdett and Ginn, 2005.  
“Chinese Civilization: A Sourcebook”, Patricia Buckley Ebrey, 1993.  
[www.mnsu.edu/emuseum/prehistory/china/early\\_imperial\\_china/qin.html](http://www.mnsu.edu/emuseum/prehistory/china/early_imperial_china/qin.html)  
[worldclass.net/China/han.htm](http://worldclass.net/China/han.htm)  
[www.geocities.com/CollegePark/Union/7050/tang.html](http://www.geocities.com/CollegePark/Union/7050/tang.html)  
[afe.easia.columbia.edu/song](http://afe.easia.columbia.edu/song)  
[www.china-on-site.com/painting/yuan/yuan.htm](http://www.china-on-site.com/painting/yuan/yuan.htm)  
[www.travelchinaguide.com/intro/history/ming.htm](http://www.travelchinaguide.com/intro/history/ming.htm)  
[www.thejadetrade.com/ian/p15.html](http://www.thejadetrade.com/ian/p15.html)

#### ACTIVITIES:

\*Teacher should create an overhead projection of the following timeline to share with the students about Chinese Dynasties. The students should replicate and create their own timeline using the major dynasties included above. (1, 45 minute class period)  
([http://www-chaos.umd.edu/history/time\\_line.html](http://www-chaos.umd.edu/history/time_line.html))

\*Teacher should number the dynasties 1-8 and make numbered pieces of paper to have the students draw to split them into groups. Each group will be responsible for researching their dynasty and creating a class presentation about their dynasty. Each

group should create a PowerPoint presentation on their dynasty. The presentations should include a timeline of their dynasty, major leader, a map of the area their dynasty covered and the major contributions made by that dynasty. (4-5, 45 minute class periods)

\*Each group will present their PowerPoint creation to the rest of the class answering any questions the students may have. (2-3, 45 minute periods)

\*Students will be assessed on their understanding of Chinese Dynastic contributions by creating a “poster book” of the major contributions of each dynasty. The book will have a cover page and a page for each dynasty. Each page will have the name of the dynasty, the years it existed and an illustration of the major contributions made and a paragraph on how the contribution has affected the way we live today. (2, 45 minute class periods)

**GRADE ADAPTATION:** This lesson was created for a 6<sup>th</sup> grade Social Studies class. The class I teach is at a K-8 parochial school. There are 28-34 students in each classroom. I meet with grades 6-8 each day for approximately 2 hours. The amount of time designated by this lesson plan can be adapted and doubled up for block scheduling where there are larger amounts of class time. The curriculum I follow has a chapter on China and a section on Chinese Dynasties. The teacher may chose to work a computer teacher to teach PowerPoint if necessary. More or less time may be given if necessary. In younger grades, a class of older students may assist in making the book on the dynasties