

Seven Aspects of a Civilization

<p>Cities & Food Supply</p>	<p>People in the cities worked a <u>variety</u> of jobs including merchants, <u>craftsmen</u>, government officials, and <u>scholars</u>. Many cities in Ancient China grew very <u>large</u> with some having populations totaling <u>hundreds</u> of thousands of people. The cities of China were <u>surrounded</u> with <u>formidable</u> walls made from packed dirt. Each night the city <u>gates</u> were locked shut and no one was allowed to <u>enter</u> or <u>leave</u> the city after dark. Farmers had to work for the <u>government</u> for about one month each year. They served in the <u>military</u> or worked construction projects like building <u>canals</u>, palaces, and city walls. Farmers also had to pay a <u>tax</u> by giving the government a percentage of their <u>crops</u>. The type of food that people ate <u>depended</u> on where they were living. In the <u>north</u> the main crop was a grain called <u>millet</u> and in the south the main crop was <u>rice</u>. Eventually <u>rice</u> became the main staple for much of the country. Farmers also kept animals such as <u>goats</u>, pigs, and <u>chickens</u>. People that lived close to the rivers ate <u>fish</u> as well.</p>
<p>Social Class & Job Specialization</p>	<p>Social structure was very <u>important</u> in ancient China. Beneath the emperor, there were <u>four</u> main social classes in ancient China. These four classes were <u>nobles</u> and officials, peasants, <u>artisans</u> and merchants. The Chinese believed in <u>strict</u> social groups and people were expected to <u>behave</u> according to their social position. This belief was further <u>reinforced</u> by the Chinese philosopher <u>Confucius</u>, who taught that strict social order and <u>discipline</u> was the key to a successful society. Men and women in ancient China were not <u>equal</u> and men were afforded far more <u>privileges</u> than women. The Chinese strongly believed in the wisdom of the <u>elders</u> and, as such, grandparents were greatly <u>respected</u>.</p>
<p>Government & Public Works</p>	<p>The system of <u>government</u> in ancient China was unique. The <u>king</u> was the head of the government. He regarded himself as the <u>son</u> of god. No advisor or council of minister was there to interfere in the administration of the <u>king</u>. His order was regarded as <u>law</u> in the country. In spite of all these, the king was not <u>tyrant</u>. He resorted to many <u>welfare</u> projects for his subjects. Thus <u>monarchy</u> in ancient China was based on <u>morality</u>.</p>
<p>Technology & Contributions</p>	<p>They developed a lot in the field of <u>astrology</u> by observing the position of <u>planets</u> and stars in the sky. They prepared a <u>calendar</u> and counted year, month and day. They invented 16 musical <u>instruments</u> including drum water clock and lute. The Chinese also studied the <u>human</u> body and learned how to cure many <u>ailments</u>. They knew how to treat fever, <u>diarrhea</u>, weakness and <u>blindness</u>. They prepared powder from animal <u>bones</u> and used for treatment of various <u>diseases</u>. The Chinese also invented Mariner's <u>compass</u> which helped the <u>sailors</u> to determine the direction inside the deep sea. <u>Gun</u> powder was another great invention of the Chinese. In due course of time, this gun powder <u>determined</u> the course of history.</p>
<p>Culture, Art & Architecture</p>	<p>The <u>achievements</u> of Chinese in the field of art and architecture are <u>impressive</u>. To protect China from the <u>attack</u> they built the Great Wall of China. The wall was <u>built</u> by using the prisoners of war and laborers without paying them any wage. They also built many <u>bridges</u>, roads and dug many <u>canals</u>. The <u>pagoda</u> of China is unique in the world. It is a glaring example of Chinese <u>architecture</u>.</p>
<p>Complex Religion & Beliefs</p>	<p>The Chinese were worshippers of <u>nature</u>. They <u>worshipped</u> the earth, heaven, sun, moon, stars and other aspects of nature. The Chinese worshipped their <u>ancestors</u> by organizing family <u>feasts</u>. They did not offer any <u>prayers</u> to help the dead; rather they believed that the dead would <u>help</u> the living.</p>
<p>Writing System & Communication</p>	<p>The people of China developed their own system of <u>writing</u>. At first, they drew small <u>pictures</u> on bamboo slips to express their <u>idea</u>. These pictures were known as '<u>pictograms</u>'. They wrote the symbols from <u>top</u> to <u>bottom</u> on thin bamboo slips and each slip was like a <u>page</u> of a book. At a point of time, the Chinese people used around <u>55,000</u> symbols. Around <u>4,000</u> of such symbols are even used today in China. The Chinese people are the first inventor of modern <u>paper</u>.</p>