

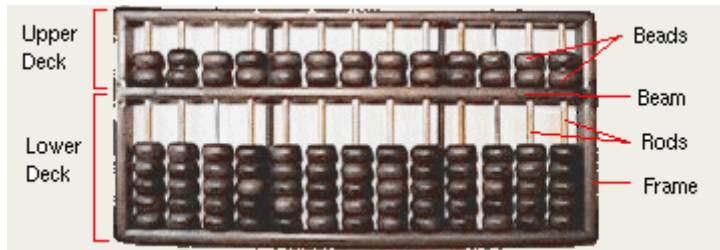


ANCIENT CHINA

I. China has existed as a country for thousands of years and China has had an advanced society for a long time under the rule of royal dynasties. During that time the Chinese culture was the most advanced of any in the world and the Chinese people are credited with many discoveries that migrated to the rest of the world. Let's take a few minutes to review the highlights of some of these contributions to arts and culture.

- I. A Chinese inventor name Ts'ai Lun made the first paper in the year 105. The Chinese people were the first ones to discover the idea of compass. They used a magnetic object called a lodestone to guide them in the right direction. The Chinese invented the first calculator in the second century B.C. which today we call an abacus. An abacus uses rows of beads on wooden or metal rods placed in the wooden frame. A person moves beads in a wooden frame. A person moves the beads by hand to perform a calculation. (see the picture 1)

Picture 1



- II. Chinese people were excellent producers of silk and discovered how to make silk from cocoons of silkworms.

European traders and adventurers travelled to China to bring back fine silk fabric for royalty.



Silkworms (priadka morušová)

- III. Pottery has long been one of the major products of China. Chinese potters created the fine china known as porcelain in the ninth century. Porcelain is prized because it is durable, thin, smooth and beautifully white. Regular pottery is fired or baked at 500 degrees C (Centigrade) but porcelain is fired at 1200 degrees C. Can you imagine the skill it took to fire pottery at that temperature?
- IV. The Great Wall of China is only the man - made object visible from space. **What is it?** The Great Wall of China is a series of fortifications made of stone, brick, tamped earth, wood, and other materials, generally built along an east-to-west line across the historical northern borders of China to protect the Chinese states and empires against the raids and invasions of the various nomadic groups of the Eurasian Steppe. Dynasty Ming (finished it: 6700km)



DID YOU KNOW?

China is a country in East Asia whose culture is considered the oldest, still extant, in the world.

The name: `China' comes from the Sanskrit Cina (derived from the name of the Chinese Qin Dynasty, pronounced `Chin') which was translated as `Cin' by the Persians and seems to have become popularized through trade along the Silk Road from China to the rest of the world. The Romans and the Greeks knew the country as `Seres', "the land where silk comes from".

Marco Polo, the famous explorer who familiarized China to Europe in the 13th century CE, referred to the land as `Cathay'. In Mandarin Chinese, the country is known as `Zhongguo" meaning `central state' or `middle empire'.

Dynasties:

- Xia Dynasty
- THE ZHOU DYNASTY (UNDER THE ZHOU, CULTURE FLOURISHED AND CIVILIZATION SPREAD. WRITING WAS CODIFIED AND IRON METALLURGY BECAME INCREASINGLY SOPHISTICATED. THE GREATEST AND BEST KNOWN CHINESE PHILOSOPHERS AND POETS, CONFUCIUS,

VOCABULARY:

NOTES:

