

Early Chinese Dynasties

Dates	Dynasty	Contributions	Important Figures
ca. 2000-1500 B.C.E.	Xia	Irrigation and farming, domestication of animals	
ca. 1700-1027 B.C.E.	Shang	Bronze, jade, oracle bones, early writing system (logographs), calendar	
ca. 1027-221 B.C.E.	Zhou	Iron, written laws, philosophies, Instability: Warring States Period, money, feudalism	Confucius, Lao-Tzu
221-207 B.C.E.	Qin (Ch'in)	Unification of China, standardization, laws based on Legalist beliefs, simplification of writing system, roads, canals, the Great Wall of China, the Emperor's tomb and the terra-cotta army.	Qin Shihuangdi
206 B.C.E - 220 C.E.	Han	Porcelain (fine china), paper, foot-powered reeling machine for silk production, chain pump, gunpowder, cast-iron plow, iron swords and fish-scale armor, crossbow, kites, wheelbarrow, salt mining, acupuncture, anesthetic, seismograph, compass, bureaucracy, meritocracy, Buddhism appeared in China, Silk Road	Liu Pang (Liu Bang), Wudi (Wu Ti), Zhang Qian