

Ancient China

The Qin and Han Dynasties



Military Stamp/Seal

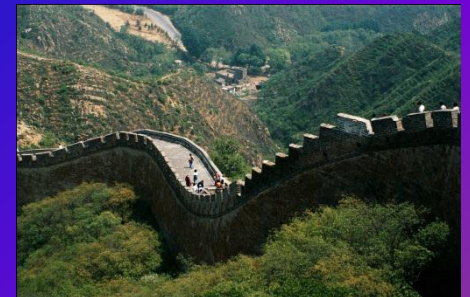
Qin Shi Huangdi

- 246_{BCE} - Warring States Period
- Zhou Dynasty has almost no power in China
- Qin Shi Huangdi comes to power in 246_{BCE} as king of state of Qin
 - Conquers other Warring States in 25 years
 - Had been fighting for over 200 years!



Qin Dynasty

- Qin Shi Huangdi unites all states into 1 empire in 221_{BCE}
 - First time China is united as an Empire
- Sets up a very strong government
 - Huangdi is a firm believer in Legalism
 - Very strict laws and harsh punishments
- Many achievements during this time
 - This is when the first Great Wall of China is started
 - Network of roads and canals
 - Unified language, laws, and currency



Qin Dynasty

Qin Dynasty, c. 221–206 BC



ASIA

GOBI DESERT

Huang He (Yellow River)

Chang Jiang (Yangzi River)

Xi River

Yellow Sea

PACIFIC OCEAN

East China Sea

South China Sea

Qin dynasty

Great Wall

WEI Warring state

0 150 300 Miles
0 150 300 Kilometers

Emperor Shi Huangdi

QUICK FACTS

Policies

- Strong government with strict laws
- Standard laws, writing system, money, and weights throughout China

Achievements

- Unified China
- Built network of roads and canals
- Built irrigation system to improve farming
- Built the Great Wall across northern China

GEOGRAPHY SKILLS

INTERPRETING MAPS

Location Where was the Great Wall located during the Qin dynasty?

Fall of Qin Dynasty

- Qin Shi Huangdi dies in 210_{BCE}
 - Drinks a potion meant to make him immortal
 - Ends up killing him
- Second son takes over empire
- Revolt against the Dynasty takes place
 - Qin Dynasty overthrown in 206_{BCE}
- The country falls into Civil War (again)



Tomb of Qin Shi Huangdi

- Qin Shi Huangdi is buried in elaborate tomb
 - Protected by the Terracotta Army
 - Large map of China
 - Money and gemstones everywhere
 - Buried with those who worked on the tomb
 - They were buried alive
 - With all of Huangdi's childless wives



The Rise of a New Dynasty



- Liu Bang became emperor in 206_{BCE} following the fall of the Qin Dynasty
 - Was a peasant in the Rebel Army
 - Became Emperor because of Mandate of Heaven
- Liu Bang was the first emperor of the Han dynasty
 - First emperor to start as a common person

The Rise of a New Dynasty

- One of Liu Bang's first acts was to eliminate Legalism

 - People greatly respected him for this

- Liu Bang lowered taxes, gave large plots of land to supporters, and set up a government that expanded on the ideas of the Qin.

Wudi's New Government

- 140_{BCE} - Emperor Wudi becomes emperor
 - 5th emperor of Han Dynasty
 - Became the most powerful emperor of Han Dynasty
- Wudi was a firm believer in Confucianism
 - Confucianism became the official government philosophy
 - Built a university that taught Confucian ideals
 - Rewarded his officials with higher rank if they were familiar with Confucian principles



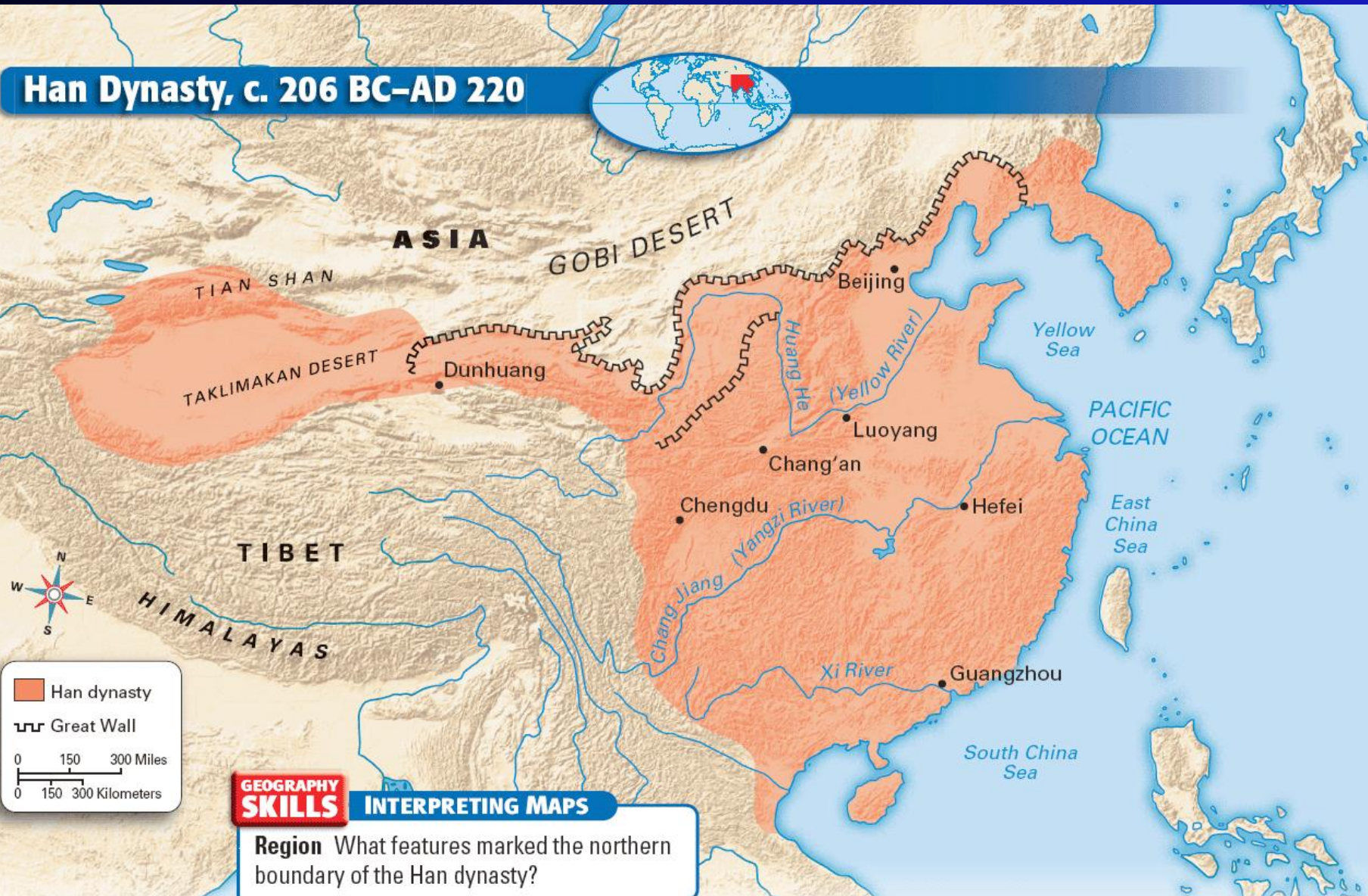
Emperor Wudi

- Wudi spent much of his time as emperor expanding the Chinese empire
- Wudi raised taxes and expanded trade in order gain money for his constant warfare
- Wudi started trading for Central Asian horses to use them in war
 - He traded silk for horses
 - This is the first version of the Silk Road



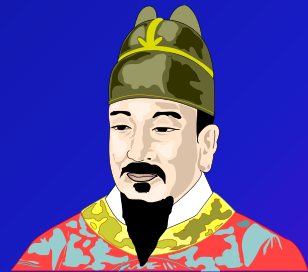
Han Dynasty

Han Dynasty, c. 206 BC–AD 220



Han Dynasty Social Classes

- Upper Class:
 - The Emperor, his court, and his scholars
- Second Class:
 - The peasants, who farmed on a daily basis
- Third Class:
 - The artisans, who made goods
- Fourth Class:
 - The merchants, who bought and sold what others made



Family Life

- People were taught to respect their elders
- The more respect you gave to elders, the higher you climbed in society
- Rulers:
 - It was a crime to disobey a ruler
- Men:
 - Men were head of the household
- Women:
 - Women were taught to obey their husbands

Han Achievements



- **Art:**

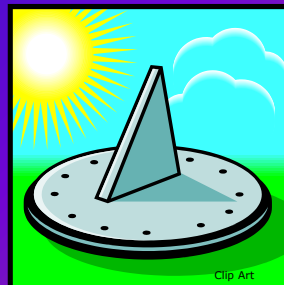
- The Han artists made many realistic scenes from everyday life, and very realistic figures.

- **Invention of Paper:**

- The Han made paper by grinding plant fibers into a paste and then setting the paste out to dry in sheets. Later they rolled the dried pulp into scrolls.

- **Sundial:**

- A device for telling time, using the sun.



Han Achievements



- **Seismograph:**

- This device measures the strength of an earthquake.

- **Acupuncture:**

- Acupuncture is the practice of inserting needles into the skin to cure disease or relieve pain. This practice is still widely used today.

New Technology

- Farming and manufacturing expand a lot
 - The Iron Plow was created, which helped in farming
 - The wheelbarrow was able to haul more products
 - Iron swords were invented along with Iron Armor
 - Silk was manufactured at a much higher rate
 - Silk – a light, highly valued fabric

