The Sui, Tang, and Song Dynasties of Ancient China
Review

- Dynastic Cycle
- Mandate of Heaven
Period of Disunion (220-589 AD)

- When the Han Dynasty collapsed, China split into several kingdoms, each ruled by military leaders.
- Cultural diffusion happened between traditional Chinese, nomadic settlers, and invaders during this time.
Emergence of Buddhism

- Buddhism found its way into China during this time of government change (Period of Disunion).
- By the end of the Period of Disunion, many wealthy people donated land and money to Buddhist Temples.
- During the Golden Age, Buddhism influenced Chinese art, literature, and architecture.
The Sui, Tang, & Song Dynasties
The Sui Dynasty

- Did not last long (similar to the Qin)
- **Grand Canal** Constructed
  - Largest artificial river in the world today
- **Canal locks invented**
- Established Professional army
- Overworked and over taxed
The Grand Canal

- A canal linking northern and southern China
- Provided water to the southern regions to grow food that could feed the people of the north
The Tang Dynasty

- 618- Tangs overthrew the old Sui government
  - Founder: Taizong: Greatest ruler
- Known as the **Golden Age** of China (a time of great accomplishments and innovations)
- The only female ruler of China came from this dynasty- **Empress Wu**
The Tang Dynasty Falls....

- China falls into a brief period of chaos & disorder
- Separate kingdoms competed for power
- China was so divided that this period is known as the Five Dynasties and Ten Kingdoms
- Lasted only 53 years
The Song Dynasty

- Took control of China in 960 & was similar to the Tang Dynasty in length (300 years) and in accomplishments

- Invented paper money to help manage growing wealth
Tang & Song Achievements

- Advances in Agriculture:
  - During Song Dynasty: farming reached new heights due to new irrigation techniques
  - The Dragon Bone device allowed one person to do the work of several in digging an underground well
  - Was a light weight portable pump that a farmer could scoop up water and pour it into an irrigation canal
Tang & Song Achievements

- **Advances in Agriculture:**
  - Under Song Dynasty farmers *cultivated the wild lands around the Chang Jiang River*
  - Discovered a new fast-ripening rice; allowing several crops a season to grow
  - Learned to grow cotton
  - Tea production increased
  - Agricultural *surpluses* helped pay taxes to the government, merchants trade crops, and there was plenty of food for all Chinese—resulting in a population increase
Tang & Song Achievements

**Artists & Poets:**

- Tang Dynasty - murals celebrated Buddhism and nature
- Poetry describe the beauty in life and human emotion
- Artists made clay figurine such as horses that showed their strength
- **Porcelain** items were made of pale-green glaze called celadon
1. **Paper** was invented in 105 during the Han Dynasty.
2. Tang Dynasty invented the woodblock printing
3. Tang Dynasty invented **gunpowder**; originally used only in fireworks, then small box bombs—drastically altered how wars were fought.
4. Tang Dynasty invented **magnetic compass**—used to navigate vast distances over land and sea (an improvement of the earlier sundial/compass).
Quick Recap

1. What advancements in farming occurred during the Song dynasty?
2. What was the effect on Chinese population due to these advancements?
3. How could the invention of woodblock printing affect society?
4. How do you think the magnetic compass affected Chinese trade?