

Quizlet

China vocabulary

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1. **acupuncture** Chinese medicinal practice that involves insertion of needles into designated parts of the body to release energy for healing
2. **analects** written collection of Confucius' teachings
3. **ancestor worship** reverence for all members of a family, even those who have died
4. **autocracy** a form of government in which the ruler holds total power. China was ruled this way for centuries
5. **barbarians** what Chinese considered all foreigners to be
6. **calligraphy** an artful form of writing originated by the Chinese, which used carefully made brush strokes
7. **China proper** traditional heartland of China, between the rivers, always part of China
8. **civil service exam** test given to determine who would help emperor to rule
9. **Confucius** most influential Chinese philosopher, lived c. 500 BC
10. **dynasty** ruling family that passes the right to rule from one member to another
11. **education** very important to all Chinese people for centuries including today
12. **Empress Wu** the only female leader in Chinese history
13. **extended family** several generations living together in one household
14. **filial piety** respect for one's parents and elders
15. **golden age** In China, the Tang- economy expanded, population grew, arts flourished
16. **Grand Canal** 1100 mile long canal in E. China, linking North and South, finished in 600 AD
17. **Great Wall** protective wall in northern China, started in 220 BC
18. **Himalayas** world's highest mountains, southwest China
19. **Legalism** very strict authoritarian philosophy
20. **loess** fertile, fine, yellow soil deposited by Yellow River
21. **mandate of heaven** divine right to rule
22. **Middle Kingdom (Chung Kuo)** Chinese name for themselves- belief that they were at center of universe
23. **Ming** last Chinese dynasty ruled by ethnic Han (1368-1660), China at its peak
24. **oracle bones** bones used for telling the future in ancient China
25. **oriental** eastern
26. **River of Sorrows** Yellow River, called that because of deadly flooding
27. **Silk Road** important trade route for many centuries that linked China and Europe
28. **Sung** dynasty when China became a truly unified state, 960-1279
29. **Tang** golden age in China, 618-906 AD
30. **Tang Taizong** brilliant Tang leader who expanded China's borders
31. **tao** the way a person followed to reach the goal of harmony with nature
32. **Yangtze River** 3rd longest river in the world, important river for China
33. **Yuan** foreign dynasty (Mongol) in charge in China, 1279-1368
34. **Zheng He** most famous of all Chinese travelers

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