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