

Sample Pages from

Teacher Created Materials

PUBLISHING

Created *by* Teachers *for* Teachers and Students

Please find enclosed in this sample the following:

Kids Learn! Activity pages:

- Table of Contents
- Intro letter to parents
- Things To Do at Home suggestions
- Writing activity
- Mathematics activity
- Reading activity

Parent Guide for Your Child's Success:

- Table of Contents
- Tips and activities for parents and students

Sample pages from readers:

- *Hive Mind*
- *Confucius Chinese Philosopher*

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Kids Learn!

Getting Ready for

7th Grade

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Welcome to Kids Learn!



Dear Family,

Welcome to *Kids Learn! Getting Ready for 7th Grade*. Seventh grade will be an exciting year, with plenty of new educational opportunities for your young teen. For example, your teen will learn about cell biology, world history, and three-dimensional geometry! Interesting new concepts in language arts and algebra will keep students engaged in lessons at school as well.

Kids Learn! was designed to help solidify the concepts your teen learned in sixth grade and help your teen prepare for the year ahead. The activities are based on the Common Core State Standards and provide practice with essential skills for the grade level. Keeping the skills your teen learned in sixth grade sharp while on break from school will help his or her seventh grade year get off to a great start. There is also a section at the end of the book that provides practice for standardized testing.

Keep these tips in mind as you work with your teen through the *Kids Learn!* book:

- Set aside a **specific time each day** to work on the activities.
- **Complete one language arts and one mathematics page** each time your teen works in the book rather than an entire week's worth of activity pages at one time.
- Keep all **practice sessions with your teen positive and constructive**. If the mood becomes tense or if either of you gets frustrated, set the book aside and find another time for your teen to practice.
- **Help your teen with instructions**, if necessary. If your teen is having difficulty understanding what to do, work through some of the problems together.
- Encourage your teen to do his or her best work and **compliment the effort that goes into learning**. Celebrate the completion of all the activities by filling in the certificate at the end of the book and displaying it in a special place.

Enjoy the time learning with your teen during his or her vacation from school. Seventh grade will be here before you know it!

Things to Do at Home

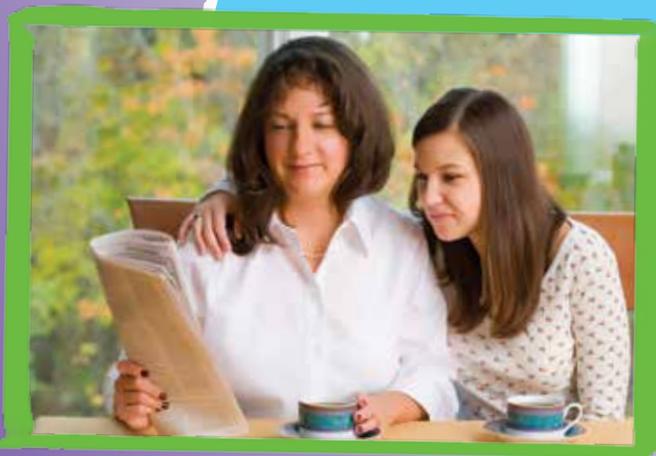
To Develop Healthy Habits

- Establish a system for posting a family schedule or calendar in a prominent place. Take time to review the plans for the following day the night before.
- Show your teen how to break down multistep projects or assignments into manageable chunks. Help him or her reduce school-related stress by providing strategies to stay organized.
- Students at this age still need about nine hours of sleep each night. Encourage your teen to engage in a relaxing activity before bedtime (e.g., a warm bath or shower) and to avoid sleeping in on the weekends as this will interfere with weekday sleep patterns.



To Practice Reading

- Have your teen read the directions of a game he or she has never played. After reading the directions carefully, have your teen teach the rest of the family how to play the game.
- To encourage your teen to read the newspaper daily, have him or her choose a news event to follow for at least two days. Discuss with your teen who is involved in the event, why the event occurred, and any resolutions that might have been reached.



- Have your teen select two advertisements from a magazine and analyze them to determine the marketing techniques used to attract buyers and the intended audiences for the products. Ask your teen to create an advertisement using similar techniques for a household object or personal electronic device.

Multiplying Decimals

Directions: Estimate each product. Then, use the standard algorithm to find each product.



When multiplying decimals, first estimate the product. The estimate will help you place the decimal correctly in your answer.

$$1.2 \times 4.3 = ?$$

Step 1

Estimate: $1 \times 4 = 4$

The product will be about 4.

Step 2

Multiply the factors as if they were whole numbers.

$$12 \times 43 = 516$$

Step 3

Place the decimal. The estimate was 4, so the decimal goes between the 5 and the 1.

$$1.2 \times 4.3 = 5.16$$

1. 45.7×5.3

Estimate: _____

Answer: _____

2. 312.64×43.2

Estimate: _____

Answer: _____

3. 55.16×9.09

Estimate: _____

Answer: _____

4. 637.2×8.49

Estimate: _____

Answer: _____

5. 32.04×65.87

Estimate: _____

Answer: _____

6. Alana had 9.6 barrels of apples. She gave 0.9 of what she had to Maurice. How many barrels of apples did Maurice get?

Estimate: _____

Answer: _____

Paragraph Web

Directions: Choose an informational article from a newspaper or magazine. Determine the author's purpose and provide evidence from the text to support your answer.



Authors of informational texts write to:

- **explain** a topic or process
- **persuade** someone to agree with an idea or take action
- **describe** an object, event, process, or place
- **express** feelings or opinions

Title of Article: _____

Source of Article (Publication): _____

1. What is the author's purpose for writing this article?

2. What evidence is there of the author's purpose? Use quotations to provide exact statements from the article.

Get Distributive!

Directions: Use the Distributive Property to write an equivalent expression for each expression.



The Distributive Property allows you to separate an operation into parts. The Distributive Property states that for any numbers a , b , and c :

$$a(b + c) = ab + ac$$

$$a(b - c) = ab - ac$$

Example:

$$\begin{aligned} 5(3 - x) &= 5(3) - 5(x) \\ &= 15 - 5x \end{aligned}$$

1. $2(x + y) =$ 2x + 2y

7. $2(7x^2 + 5d) =$ _____

2. $3(3c + 4d) =$ _____

8. $3b + 3c =$ _____

3. $5(2b - a) =$ _____

9. $4(x^3 - c^2) =$ _____

4. $2(3x + 4y) =$ _____

10. $b(c + d - e) =$ _____

5. $3x(5 + 7) =$ _____

11. $2(5 + 7y) - 3 =$ _____

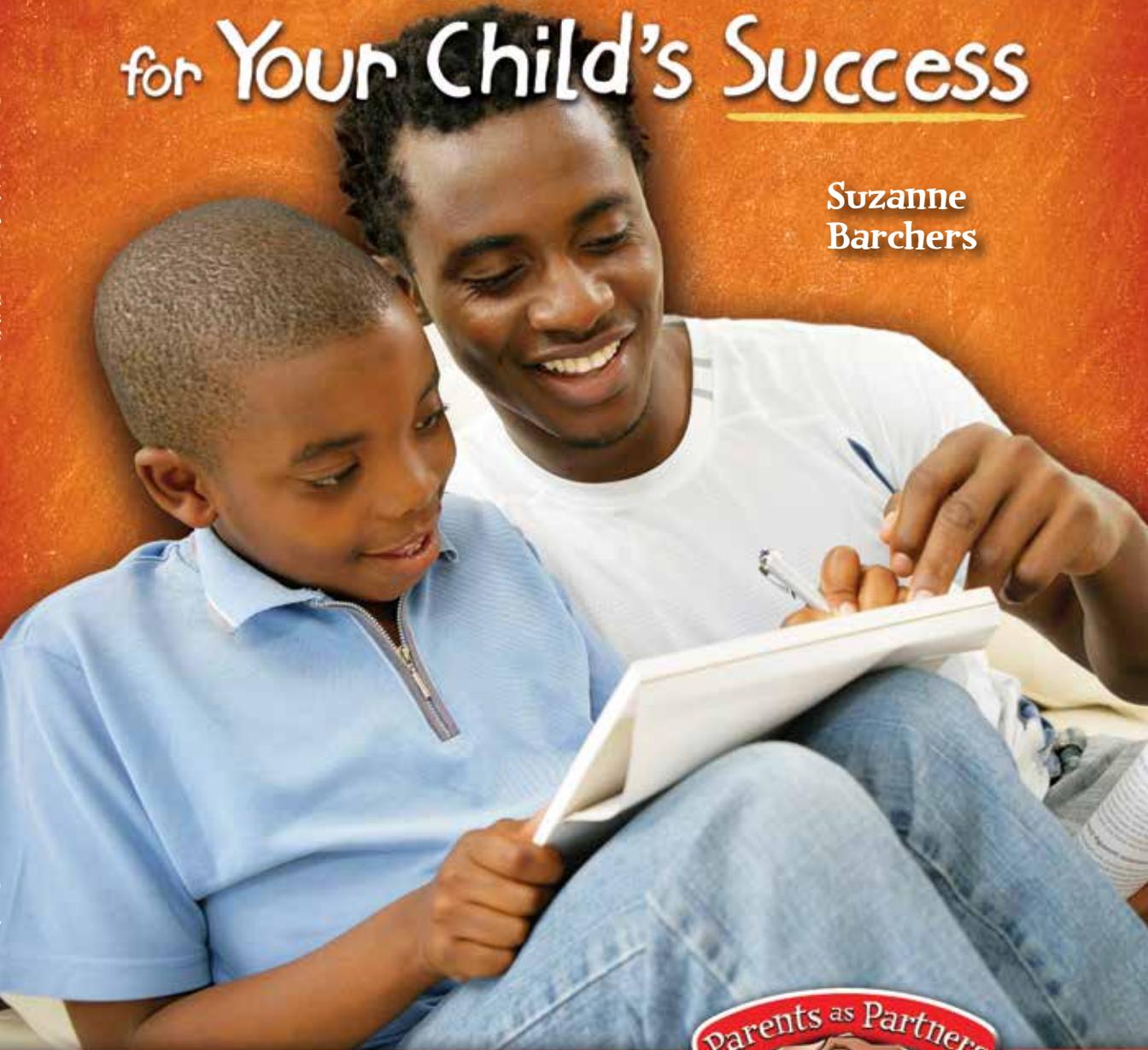
6. $8(3a - 4c) =$ _____

12. $5x - 5y + 15 =$ _____

Seventh Grade Parent Guide

for Your Child's Success

Suzanne
Barchers



Teacher Created Materials

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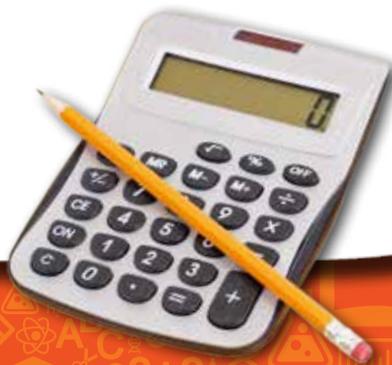
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Puns

on the Run

Although a limited vocabulary can get you through the day, success on standardized tests—especially college entrance exams—requires a good vocabulary. Puns and funny mistakes on signs are a great way to explore vocabulary.

One of those funny puns may be right around the corner.

Unexpected Conversations

Sometimes, interesting conversations can happen in unexpected places. Take advantage of them when and where they happen. You never know when the opportunity will strike again.

Homophones

Words that sound the same with different spellings are called *homophones*. When you see signs with errors such as *bye* instead of *buy* or *you're* instead of *your*, discuss why the word choice is incorrect. Discuss their alternative or literal meanings.

Catchy Names

Some businesses intentionally create catchy names to get your attention; for example, *Shear Delight* or *Mane Event* for hair salons.

Discovering Young Adult Books

If you aren't yet a fan of young adult (YA) literature, try a few of these outstanding books. They are guaranteed to entertain, inform, and make you think. While looking for one of these titles, consider looking in some unexpected places. You'll find a good read and save some money.



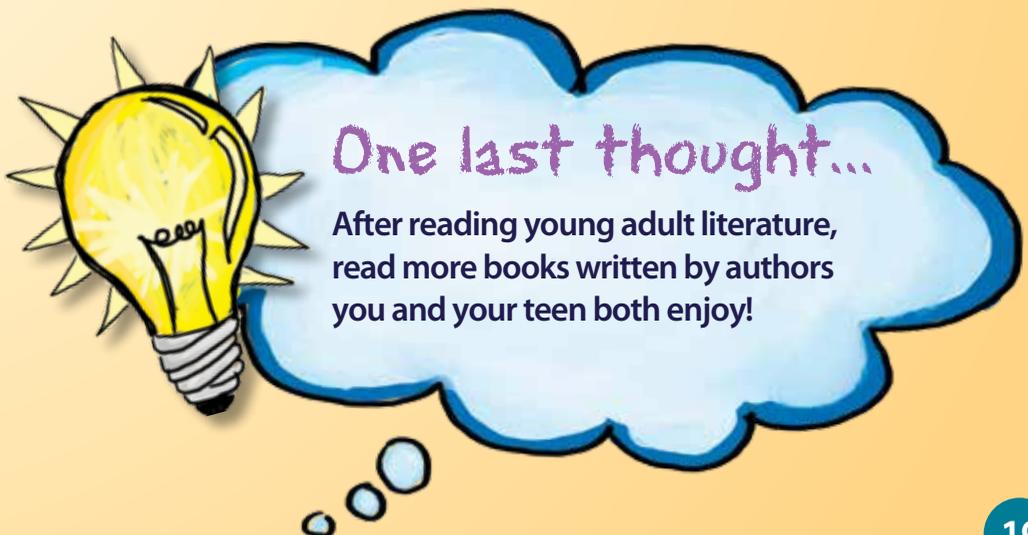
Here are some ideas for how to find books.

- **Library book sales**
- **Garage sales**
- **Sales at bookstores**
- **Book swap with neighbors**



Try finding some of these books for your seventh grader.

- *The Hunger Games* by Suzanne Collins
- *A Wrinkle in Time* by Madeleine L'Engle
- *Anne Frank: The Diary of a Young Girl* by Anne Frank
- *The Outsiders* by S.E. Hinton
- *The Giver* by Lois Lowry
- *The Lost Hero* by Rick Riordan
- *Holes* by Louis Sachar





HIVE MIND

Timothy J. Bradley

**BOOK
01**

Startled, Sid jerked back, slamming into the wall of the hive. Expecting the bee to sting him, he grabbed the shock prod from his belt and activated it. But the bee only stopped for a moment, regarding him with its unreadable compound eyes before continuing on its way.

After that first relatively uneventful contact, Sid felt more at ease moving through the hive. The bees didn't seem to take the slightest notice of him with his much smaller size and the queen's familiar scent.

"Sid, what's taking you so long?" Hari called from up ahead. "Are you all right?"

"I'm fine," he replied. "Right behind you."

The cells built into the walls of the hive made for easy climbing. There were plenty of secure footholds.

This hive is amazing, Sid thought. How could they build something like this without plans? They can't even talk to each other. After his sting when he was younger, Sidney had always been afraid of bees. But now that he could study them more closely, he was able to keep a lid on his fear and focus on how amazing and interesting the bees really were.

Sid looked up and saw he was approaching the ledge where Penny had stopped. She waved.

"Good to see you, slowpokes," Penny said as Sid and Hari reached the ledge.



“Very funny,” Hari said. “Enough climbing for me.” He cast his helmet light into the dark.

“Me, too,” Sid panted. “I must be *really* out of shape.”

“Guess we can stop climbing and start exploring what’s right here,” Penny said. She set out along the ledge, starting a visual check of the bees that were hanging on to the walls. Hari and Sid followed her.

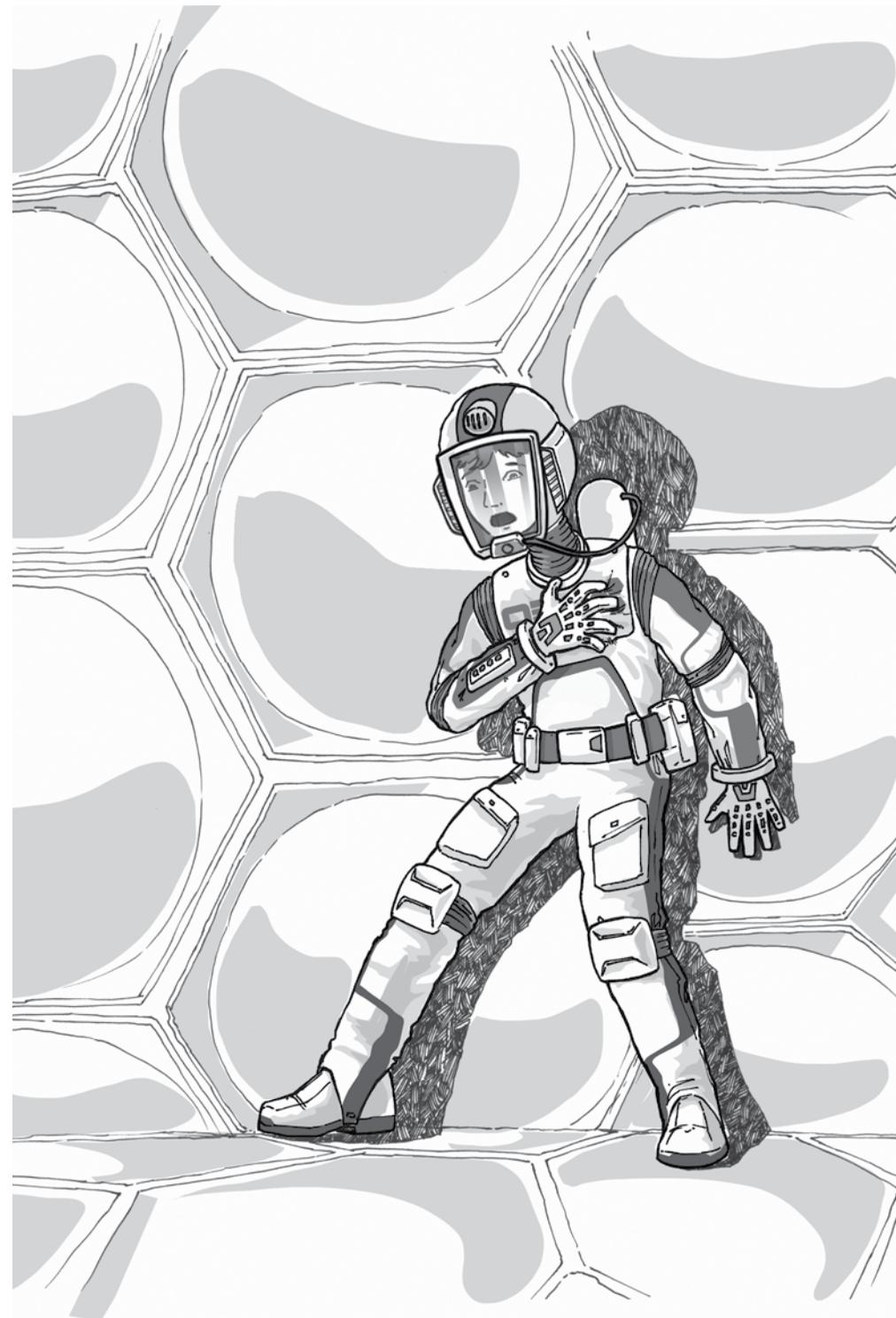
“I’m not seeing mites,” Hari said. “That seems kind of strange. We saw so many of them in the dead hive we studied in Sci Hi, remember?”

“Yeah. You’re right,” Sid said. He turned up the cooling system for his suit. Beads of sweat were rolling down his neck. He was breathing hard. It felt as if he were still climbing vertically, but now he was simply walking along a flat shelf jutting out from the hive wall. He glanced over at Hari, but he didn’t seem to be struggling.

“Hari, Sid, can you shine your lights inside this cell? I want to see if there are any mites on the larvae,” Penny asked.

“Sure,” Hari said as he joined her.

Sid started to move, too, but he was struck suddenly with a wave of dizziness. His stomach rolled unpleasantly. Struggling to keep his balance, he grabbed a cell in the wall and tried to stop himself from falling off the ledge. A red light started blinking inside his suit helmet, and the



PRIMARY SOURCE READERS

Confucius

Chinese Philosopher

至聖孔子

名丘字仲尼山東
兗州府曲阜縣人



Wendy Conklin
and Gisela Lee

Confucius in Confusing Times

Confucius (kuhn-FYOO-shuhs) was a man who lived long ago in China. He grew up during a time of war and **chaos** (KAY-aws). In spite of this, the Chinese made great advances during that time.

Great thinkers called philosophers (fuh-LAWS-uh-fuhrz) wondered about their laws. They questioned, “Is this really right?” They made others question, too. Because of this, the Chinese gained new ideas about how to live.

▼ Followers of Confucius today



Confucius was one of these thinkers. He changed and shaped Chinese culture. His teachings have influenced (IN-floo-uhntzd) people for a long time. In fact, there are some who still follow his ideas today.



Did You Know?

Today, you can read Confucius's sayings inside fortune cookies. Fortune cookies were invented in the United States. They were first seen in the 1800s.

What Did Confucius Look Like?

Confucius was a very large man. He had a beard, large teeth that hung over his lips, and warts on his nose. Even though he was funny looking, stories tell us that he was very charming.

◀ Statues of Confucius are seen all over the world.



King Wu
Zhou Dynasty

Preparing for a Downfall

A long time ago, the Chinese ruled in **dynasties** (DI-nuhs-teez). This meant that all the rulers came from one family. When one person died, another was waiting to take over the job. The dynasties took on the families' names. One family could rule for hundreds of years this way. In fact, the Zhou (JO) family ruled for more than 900 years!

The Zhou-dynasty rulers were smart. They decided to unite all of China under one ruler. To make it easy to govern, they set up small **feudal** (FYOO-duhl) states. They had the workers to build good roads and canals. Everyone used the same currency. They even spoke the same language.

Most would think this would lead to a **harmonious** (hawr-MOW-nee-uhs) country. But after many years, the states started fighting. **Civil war** spread and many died. It was around this time that Confucius was born.

Ancient Chinese money ▶



Time Line of Key Chinese Dynasties

Xia dynasty	2000–1600 B.C.
Shang dynasty	1600–1046 B.C.
Zhou dynasty	1046–221 B.C.
Western Zhou	1046–771 B.C.
Eastern Zhou	770–221 B.C.
Qin dynasty	221–206 B.C.
Han dynasty	206 B.C.–A.D. 220
Sui dynasty	A.D. 581–618
Tang dynasty	A.D. 618–907
Song dynasty	A.D. 960–1279
Yuan dynasty	A.D. 1279–1368
Ming dynasty	A.D. 1368–1644
Qing dynasty	A.D. 1644–1911

A Mandate

The first emperor of China did not like anything that challenged his rule. Any writings or books that did not agree with his ideas were destroyed. He was influenced by something called the Mandate of Heaven. He believed that if heaven was happy with him, he would rule for a long time.

A Different China Today

Since the fall of the last dynasty, China is no longer led by an emperor. Instead, a **premier** is the leader of the country today. The premier is selected by officials within the Chinese government.



◀ The Chinese premier is important in world politics.