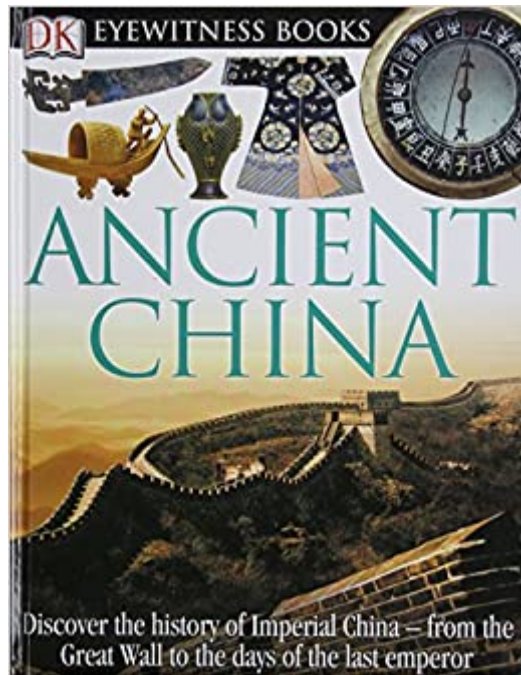


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# DK Eyewitness Books: Ancient China



## Synopsis

Here is a spectacular and informative guide to the history of the great Chinese empire and the customs and traditions of its people. Stunning real-life photographs and lifelike models offer a unique "eyewitness" view of life in imperial China, from its earliest beginnings in the Bronze Age to its final days in the early years of the 20th century. See the stunning bronze work of the ancient Chinese, an early irrigation machine, a set of antique acupuncture needles, the beautiful implements used for Chinese calligraphy. Learn why the First Emperor created the terra-cotta army, what kinds of goods were carried along the Silk Route, who invented paper, how a Chinese house was constructed, why tombs were filled with pottery figures, and what a civil servant's job entailed. Discover why emperors were known as Sons of Heaven, what kinds of weapons were used in early battles, why families worshiped their ancestors, how fishermen used bivas to catch fish, and much, much more.

## Book Information

Lexile Measure: 1060 (What's this?)

Series: DK Eyewitness Books

Hardcover: 72 pages

Publisher: DK Children; Revised ed. edition (September 5, 2005)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0756613825

ISBN-13: 978-0756613822

Product Dimensions: 8.8 x 0.4 x 11.2 inches

Shipping Weight: 1.2 pounds (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 3.9 out of 5 stars 16 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #62,331 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #11 in [Books > Children's Books](#)  
> [Education & Reference](#) > [History](#) > [Asia](#) #38 in [Books > Children's Books > Education & Reference](#) > [History](#) > [Ancient](#)

Age Range: 8 - 12 years

Grade Level: 3 - 7

## Customer Reviews

Grade 5-10-Done in typical "Eyewitness" format, this volume touches upon such topics as Chinese history, the first emperor, inventions, health and medicine, waterways, food and drink, clothing, the Silk Road, and arts and crafts. Material from as recent as the last dynasty, which ended in 1911, is

included; because all of the information is presented in double-page spreads, some cover extremely wide time frames. Reproductions of Chinese paintings and prints, while in full color, are sometimes so small as to be virtually useless. Confucianism is incorrectly called a religion; likewise the Great Wall is attributed to the first emperor rather than to Ming times. Given these limitations, the book will nonetheless be popular for browsing. Diane S. Marton, Arlington County Library, VA Copyright 1994 Reed Business Information, Inc. --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

...a mini museum between the covers of a book. [Eyewitness series] -- The New York Times These books' striking visual impact will draw in even the most casual readers. [Eyewitness series] -- School Library Journal --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

A very excellent teaching book. The Chinese were farming a full thousand years before the Egyptians. The pictures helped my student understand better.

great book

Great

I didn't realize that this was a picture book with very little text. I liked what it was, but probably would have sought something of more substance if I had realized that this book was so skimpy.

I just ordered this book as a gift for my adult aged daughter who has a great interest in China. I was very disappointed in the size of the book. It is very thin. I wish I had paid more attention and gotten something a little more like a heftier coffee table type book. I was looking for something with beautiful pictures of the mountains, temples, etc. You won't find those in this book. It's like a mini-encyclopedia, with a little bit about a lot of things. The price should have told me I wouldn't be getting too much. But it is a start. Will look for something else later on, having learned what to look for.

Bought for my 11 year old nephew for xmas so I hope he likes it.

The institutional review coming with this page says: "Grade 5-10-Done in typical "Eyewitness" format, this volume touches upon such topics as Chinese history, the first emperor, inventions,

health and medicine, waterways, food and drink, clothing, the Silk Road, and arts and crafts. Material from as recent as the last dynasty, which ended in 1912, is included. . . ." That summarizes nicely--both the age group for whom this book is intended and for the wide range of issues considered. As such, the book works pretty well. As with all in this series, it reminds one of the first couple phrases in some lines about the Platte River: "A mile wide, an inch deep. . . ." Lots of coverage but not a whole lot of depth. But for young readers, this is a fine work. The work begins with a bit of history, from the origins of the Chinese civilization under its first rulers, to the creation (by force) of a unified empire under the Qin Dynasty (China, the name, comes from this dynastic term), to the full unfolding of the empire under the Ming Dynasty after the expulsion of the Mongols. There follows a discussion of the first dynasty (Shang, from 1650 to 1027 BC), the importance and central views of Confucius, the first emperor of a united China (Zheng), the development of an early civil service. Then, some of the artifacts of the culture--printing and books, medicine, agriculture, food and drink, housing, dress, and so on. The book closes out with a discussion of "The Silk Road" (during which time trade flourished between China throughout Asia to Europe), ocean voyages (voyages to the Middle East, Africa, India, the great islands of the Indian Ocean), and the end of empire, with the final emperor being deposed in 1912. Again, as with others in this series, you get rather shallow coverage--but the illustrations are great and the amount of information provided really lined up with the age group targeted.

I am a middle school reading teacher. I like to support the curriculum of the other subjects if possible. Right now, in 6th grade world history, the classes are studying ancient China. This book seemed like the perfect resource for students to have access to. I wasn't disappointed. The first day I put the book out, one of my students checked it out.

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