

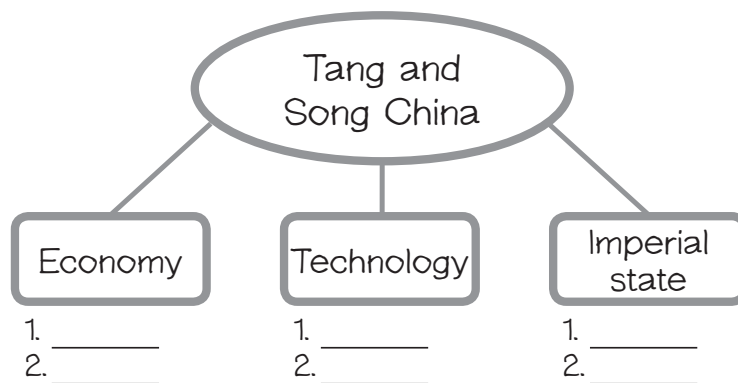
## Lesson 2 Advances Under the Tang and Song

### BEFORE YOU READ

In this lesson, you will learn about the political, economic, cultural, and technological advances made under the Tang and Song dynasties.

### AS YOU READ

Use this cluster diagram to note information about the main ideas in the lesson. Answering the question at the end of each section will help you fill in the diagram.



### TERMS & NAMES

- **imperial** related to an empire
- **bureaucracy** a government that is divided into departments
- **scholar-official** an educated person with a government position
- **wood-block printing** printing in which a person carved a word or letter on a wooden block, inked the block, and then used it to print on paper
- **movable type** a separate piece of type for each character in a language
- **porcelain** a hard white ceramic often called china

### Building the Imperial State

(pages 223–224)

*How was the Chinese government organized under the Tang and Song dynasties?*

Ruling a large country like China was difficult. To govern better, the Tang rulers developed an imperial state. **Imperial** means related to an empire.

The Tang realized that the Sui had had a well-run government. Because of this, the Tang based much of their government and military organization on Sui models. The Tang also used the Sui tax system.

The Tang government was like a pyramid. An emperor ruled at the top. The emperor's chief advisers served him directly. They were the second-highest level of the pyramid. Below those advisers was the **bureaucracy**, a system of departments and agencies that runs the government. Each department or agency was

in charge of a certain area, such as taxes or the army. Local governments throughout China had to report to this central bureaucracy.

Tang rulers created a new code of law. This new code proved highly effective. China used it from about 624 until the late 1200s.

For many government jobs, people had to take an exam. The state exam tested knowledge of Confucian ideas, poetry, and other subjects. Most people who took the exam failed.

A person who passed the state exam could become a **scholar-official**, an educated person with a government position. Almost all scholar-officials came from the upper class. Only rich people could afford the education needed to pass the test.

After the Tang, the Song Dynasty ruled from 960 to 1279. The Song tried to improve the exam system. It set up more schools. As a result, more people passed the test and got

## READING STUDY GUIDE CONTINUED

government jobs. Even so, most officials came from rich families with political influence.

1. What were the features of the Chinese government during the Tang and Song dynasties?

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### Prosperity from Trade and Farming

(pages 225–227)

*On what was China's economy based during the tang and Song periods*

Under Tang and Song rule, China's economy grew. China became the wealthiest nation in the world. An improved transportation system contributed to this growth.

The Tang and Song government built many roads and waterways. Better transportation improved trade and communication. Trade was also improved by several technological developments. The development of gigantic ships made sea voyages faster and safer. The magnetic compass also improved travel on the open seas.

Around A.D. 1000, Chinese farmers began planting a new type of rice that farmers could harvest more frequently each year. Soon the food supply expanded. This allowed the population to grow to 100 million.

Soon the people in southern China had more rice than they needed. Having extra food meant that fewer people needed to work as farmers. As a result, more people could work in trade.

The growth of trade led to a rapid increase in the use of money. But large numbers of coins were heavy and difficult to carry. To solve this problem, Tang and Song governments began to print paper money. They were the first governments in history to do so.

As trade increased, more people became merchants. China's merchants lived mostly in cities and towns, where most trade took place. The cities grew and prospered.

2. What brought about the change to a money economy during China's Tang and Song dynasties?

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### A Time of Brilliant Achievements

(pages 227–229)

*What technological advances were made under the Tang and Song dynasties?*

Poetry and art thrived during the Tang and Song dynasties. Three Tang writers are considered among the greatest Chinese poets of all time. They are Li Bai, Du Fu, and Wang Wei. Tang artists produced beautiful pottery figurines. During Song times, landscape painting became an important art form.

The Chinese developed methods to manufacture paper in large quantities. The Chinese also invented **wood-block printing**. Printers carved wooden blocks to print entire pages. Later, printers created **movable type**. The Chinese used paper and printing to make the first printed books.

Chinese technology shaped history in many different ways. Papermaking spread west to Europe in the mid-1100s. The Chinese invented gunpowder, which they used for fireworks. Later gunpowder changed warfare. It made deadly new weapons possible. The magnetic compass also spread to Europe. Compasses made the European Age of Exploration possible.

The Chinese influenced daily life by exporting **porcelain**, a hard white ceramic, and tea to the world.

3. What were some key Chinese inventions or products that influenced the world?

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