

WHAT UP WITH CHINA?

Reporters Kyle, Olivia, and Daria bring you the scoop on renaissance China in the Tang and Song periods! These dynasties are characterized by their innovations in trade procedures and transportation, decline in the position of women and Neo-Confucian social structure, and

Farming and Trade

- Rice and millet are most expensive in trade
- Yangtze Basin was main farmland
- Grand Canal made transportation easier
- Great Wall built by 1 million laborers
- Junks – Chinese boats, best in the world
- Invented paper money
- Moved to Yangtze for more fertile soil
- New seeds: farmed champa rice from Vietnam

Family and Society

- Position of women deteriorating
- Positives:
 - Laws against deserting wife
 - Upper class women have occupations
 - Divorces available
- Negatives:
 - Neo-Confucianism stresses male power
 - Many women were house-bound
 - Foot binding: makes women ornamental, limits mobility
- Family: respect of elders stressed, children could be beheaded for striking an elder

advances in art plus inventing and engineering feats you still see today!

Art and Engineering Achievements

- Invention of tools, production techniques, weapons
- Tang and Song artwork: landscape paintings
- Engineering Feats:
 - Grand canal
 - Dikes/dams
 - Complex irrigation systems
 - Advanced bridges
- Tang inventions
 - Explosive powder-fireworks
- Song Inventions
 - Compasses
 - Abacus
 - Movable type