1000 BC | 0 | AD 1000

Neolithic Period: about 4500–2000 BC

Earliest Chinese pottery about 4000 BC

Silk invented about 3600 BC

The bell invented about 2000 BC

Shang Dynasty: about 1500–1050 BC

Ritual bronze vessels first used 1300–1050 BC

Gunpowder invented about 1050 BC

Mining for metals introduced

Western Zhou Dynasty: about 1050–771 BC

Eastern Zhou Dynasty: 770–221 BC

Spring and Autumn Period: 770–475 BC

Warring States Period: 475–221 BC

Qin Dynasty: 221–207 BC

Confucius, political counsellor and philosopher, born 551 BC

Great Wall begun 221 BC

Qin Dynasty – pronounced *Chin* – provides the Western name China

Han Dynasty: 206 BC – AD 220

Paper invented about 200 BC

Cast iron invented about 200 BC

The compass invented about AD 20

First Roman embassy to China AD 166

Other Dynasties: AD 220–1279

Tang Dynasty: AD 618–906

Song Dynasty: AD 960–1279

Porcelain invented about AD 600

Buddhism established as the predominant religion about AD 600

Arab traders introduce Islam AD 651

Printing invented about AD 670

Tea (first used as medicine) becomes a leisure activity AD 700s

Yuan Dynasty: AD 1271–1368

Ming Dynasty: AD 1368–1644

Plague epidemics kill a third of the population after AD 1300

Construction begins on the Forbidden City, Beijing AD 1406–1408

Western musical instruments introduced

Chinese porcelain exported to Europe AD 1602

Qing Dynasty: AD 1644–1911

Republic of China: AD 1912–1949

People's Republic of China: AD 1949–present

First Encyclopaedia printed AD 1725

Hong Kong ceded to Britain at the end of the First Opium War AD 1842

China declares war on Germany and enters World War I AD 1917

First National Art Exhibition in Shanghai AD 1929

Mao Zedong launches the Cultural Revolution AD 1966

Britain retrocedes Hong Kong to China AD 1997

The wheel invented about 4000 BC

Pyramids at Giza, Egypt, begun 2575 BC

Earliest British pottery about 2500 BC

Stonehenge begun about 2500 BC

First Celtic settlements in Britain about 1500 BC

Tutankhamun, King of Egypt 1336–1327 BC

Trojan War about 1190 BC

Olympic Games founded 776 BC

Rome founded about 750 BC

Parthenon begun in Athens 447 BC

Romans invade Britain 55 BC

Birth of Christ

Hadrian's Wall begun AD 122

Last Roman troops leave Britain AD 410

Large-scale Anglo-Saxon migration to Britain begins about AD 450

Modern calendar established AD 465

Fall of the Western Roman Empire AD 476

Birth of Mohammed AD 570

First Anglo-Saxon king, Aethelbert of Kent, baptised AD 601

First Viking raid on Britain AD 793

King Alfred unites England under his rule AD 886

Easter Island carvings about AD 1000

Battle of Hastings AD 1066

Marco Polo travels east to China AD 1271

The Black Death arrives in Western Europe AD 1348

Printing introduced into Europe about AD 1450

Christopher Columbus reaches America AD 1492

First Europeans reach China by sea AD 1517

King Henry VIII creates the Church of England AD 1534

William Shakespeare AD 1564–1616

Galileo Galilei AD 1564–1642

Pilgrim Fathers arrive in Massachusetts AD 1620

English Civil War begins at Battle of Edgehill AD 1642

Isaac Newton's Law of Gravitation published AD 1698

Invention of Photography in France AD 1826

Charles Darwin's *On the Origin of Species* published AD 1859

First World War AD 1914–18

Albert Einstein's *General Theory of Relativity* published AD 1916

Second World War AD 1939–45

Watson and Crick construct a molecular model of DNA AD 1953

First man on the moon AD 1969

Tim Berners-Lee releases the software for the World Wide Web at CERN AD 1991