

Before 1500 BC

Earliest Chinese pottery c.18,000 BC
Agriculture in China by 7500 BC
Jade weapons and tools by 4500 BC
Silk in use before 3000 BC
Earliest bronze ritual vessels c.1650 BC

Agriculture in the Near East by 9000 BC
Earliest British pottery by 4000 BC
Sumerian and Egyptian writing by 3000 BC
Pyramids at Giza, Egypt, begun 2575 BC
Stonehenge begun c.2500 BC

Shang Dynasty: c.1500–1050 BC

Bronze casting flourishes at Shang capital Anyang c.1250-1050 BC
Chinese writing by 1250 BC

First Celtic settlements in Britain c.1500 BC
Tutankhamun, King of Egypt 1336–1327 BC
Trojan War c.1190 BC

Zhou Dynasty: c. 1050–221 BC

Confucius, political counsellor and philosopher, born c.551 BC

Olympic Games founded 776 BC
Parthenon begun in Athens 447 BC
Alexander the Great dies 323 BC

Qin Dynasty: 221–207 BC

First Emperor of Qin unites China 221 BC

Han Dynasty: 206 BC – AD 220

Early trade along the Silk Road
Reign of Emperor Wu, 141-87 BC
Buddhism arrives in China c.AD 1-100

Augustus crowned 1st Roman Emperor 27 BC
Romans invade Britain AD 43
Birth of Christ

Six Dynasties Period AD 220-581

Widespread practice of Buddhism begins

Last Roman troops leave Britain AD 410
Birth of Mohammed AD 570

Sui Dynasty: AD 581-618

Grand Canal completed

First Christian Anglo-Saxon king, Aethelbert of Kent reigns c.AD 590 – 616

Tang Dynasty: AD 618–906

Printing by AD 670

Widespread use of tea AD 700s

First Viking raid on Britain AD 793

Song Dynasty: AD 960–1279

Population doubles AD 900-1100

Battle of Hastings AD 1066

Mongol siege of Baghdad AD 1258

Yuan Dynasty: AD 1271–1368

Mongols conquer China AD 1271

Plague kills a third of the population after AD 1300

Marco Polo's travels in Asia AD 1271-1295

The Black Death arrives in Western Europe AD 1348

Ming Dynasty: AD 1368–1644

Voyages of Zheng He to Asia and Africa AD 1405-1433

Gutenberg Bible c.1454

First Europeans reach China by sea AD 1517

King Henry VIII dies AD 1547

Qing Dynasty: AD 1644–1911

Reign of Emperor Qianlong AD 1735-1796

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

English Civil War begins at Battle of Edgehill AD 1642

Isaac Newton's Law of Gravitation published AD 1698

First official British envoy to China AD 1793

Republic of China: AD 1912–1949

China enters World War I (Allies) AD 1917

Albert Einstein's General Theory of Relativity published AD 1916

People's Republic of China: AD 1949–present

Mao Zedong launches the Cultural Revolution AD 1966

Britain returns Hong Kong to China AD 1997

First man on the moon AD 1969