

China until 1911: important events and people

(1) Xia Dynasty ^{xià} 夏朝: 2000-1600 BC

1. People lived in more complex societies in northern part of China. They used metal tools and developed a written script that became the base for Chinese writing ^{cāngjié zàozì} 仓颉造字.
2. The first Xia emperor ^{yǔ} 禹 was a great engineer and was said to have built the country's first canals ^{dà yǔ zhì shuǐ} 大禹治水.

(2) Shang Dynasty ^{shāng} 商朝: 1600-1100BC

1. The first Chinese dynasty that started formal historical records.
2. Chinese mastered in using bronze ^{qīngtóngshídài} 青铜时代.
3. Start trading using barter system ^{yǐ wù huàn wù} 以物换物.

(3) Zhou Dynasty ^{zhōu} 周朝: 1100 - 256BC

1. Started feudal system ^{fēngjiàn zhìdù} 封建制度. The king made his royal family members the rulers of the major states (feudal lords). The eldest son would be the normal heir to his father's assets.
2. A set of systematic social rules and laws was set up by ^{zhōugōng} 周公.

(4) Warring State Period ^{chūnqiū zhànguó dōngzhōu} 春秋战国(东周): 770-221BC

1. These last 450 years of Zhou dynasty was a period of feudal lords fighting for land and power. China was divided into many small feudal territories ruled by powerful feudal lords with large armies.
2. 770-476BC ^{chūnqiūshíqī} 春秋时期 This period is named after the book ^{chūnqiū} 春秋 written by Confucius ^{kǒngzǐ} 孔子. ^{chūnqiū} 春秋 is a collection of the historical records from 770 to 478BC. ^{wǔbà} 春秋五霸
3. 475-221BC ^{zhànguóshíqī} 战国时期 This period is named after the book ^{zhànguó cè} 战国策. ^{qīxíng} 战国七雄
4. The unstable war time fostered many great philosophers, politicians, educators and thinkers. Their thoughts and values had a great impact on the Chinese society and led to the emergence of new ideas/religions, eg. Taoism ^{dàojiào} 道教 and Confucianism ^{kǒngjiào} 孔教. Great discoveries were also made in the fields of mathematics, medicine, and astronomy.
5. The great thinker, Confucius started the first school in Chinese history and was respected by many as ^{wànshìshībiǎo} 万世师表. He taught more than 3000 students in his life and among them, 72 became famous and important to their countries.

Try to answer this question.

What is the next dynasty? _____. The ruler was the first Chinese sovereign to proclaim himself "Emperor" and he started building the Great Wall of China.

Thank you for your effort.

