Dynasties of China Timeline Cards
Big Question: What were some of the things the first emperor did to unite China?
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CHAPTER 2: The Han Dynasty

202 BCE: Liu Bang was the first emperor of the Han dynasty.

Big Question: Why might the Chinese have wanted to protect their silk industry?
CHAPTER 2: The Han Dynasty

Both the invention of paper and the start of the Silk Road happened during the Han dynasty (206 BCE–220 CE).

**Big Question:** Why might the Chinese have wanted to protect their silk industry?
Emperor Taizong, who ruled from 626 to 649 CE, was one of the co-founders of the Tang dynasty.

Big Question: Why might it be said that Wu Zhao’s rise to power was an extraordinary achievement?
Wu Zhao, who ruled from 690 to 705 CE, became the only woman to ever rule China as an emperor, after forcing her son to resign.

Big Question: Why might it be said that Wu Zhao’s rise to power was an extraordinary achievement?
During the Tang dynasty (618–907 CE), gunpowder, paper money, and the first book printed with a woodblock were created.

**Big Question:** What great advances happened during the Tang Dynasty?
Emperor Hui Zong of the Song dynasty, who ruled from 1100 to 1126 CE, was a great lover of art.

**Big Question:** How did Emperor Hui Zong fall from power?
In 1211, Mongol leader Chinggis Khan attacked and destroyed cities in northern China.

**Big Question:** What made the Mongols such fearsome warriors?
Kublai Khan, who ruled from 1260 to 1294, built a city on the site of what is now Beijing.

**Big Question:** Why might the development of the postal service have been considered one of Kublai Khan’s greatest achievements?
CHAPTER 8: Kublai Khan and Marco Polo

From 1271–1295, Marco Polo traveled throughout Asia.

Big Question: Why might the development of the postal service have been considered one of Kublai Khan’s greatest achievements?
In 1368, Zhu Yuanzhang defeated the Mongols and began the Ming dynasty.

**Big Question:** How did the Manchu gain control of China?
CHAPTER 9: The Forbidden City

Big Question: How did the Manchu gain control of China?

During his rule (1402–1424), Ming Emperor Zhu Di built the Forbidden City.
Qianlong was the fourth emperor of the Qing dynasty, which lasted from 1644–1912.

**Big Question:** What brought about an end to two thousand years of rule by emperors in China?
1839–1842 and 1856–1860: The British sent warships to force the Chinese to buy opium and other goods.

**Big Question:** What brought about an end to two thousand years of rule by emperors in China?