

The Asian Dynasties

*The Emergence of the First
Global Age (1450–1750)*



The Ming Dynasty

The Qing Dynasty

Tokugawa Japan

Thematic Icons



Economics and business



Geography and environment



Historical concepts and questions



Politics, government and citizenship



Religion and thought



Society and culture



War, diplomacy and foreign policy

Icons: For more detailed instructions, see the *User Guide*



Flash activity (these activities are not editable)



Teacher notes included in the Notes page



By the end of this section, you will have learned about the Ming Dynasty in China, and be able to answer the following key questions:

- How did the Ming Dynasty come to be?
- What were some of the major accomplishments of the Ming emperors?
- What was Ming culture like?
- How did the Ming respond to interactions with Europe?



Looking back timeline



In order to contextualize the Asian dynasties, use this timeline to recap previous key historical events. Either press on a date or drag the pointer along the timeline to find out information about what happened in each year.

Press **start** to begin.

start





The Ming emperors wanted to ensure their power. During the Ming Dynasty, they built two major structures to demonstrate and defend their control. These structures are still major landmarks today.

Press **start** to learn more.

start



How did these structures protect Ming control?



By the time Yongle came to power, many nearby countries paid tribute to the Ming emperor. Yongle wanted to expand China's sphere of influence and impress foreigners with his power. In 1405, he launched the first of seven ocean expeditions into the West.

Press **start** to begin.

start



What did Zheng He's voyages achieve?



Foreign trade led to the growth of manufacturing and commerce in China, yet the country did not industrialize.

This was mainly due to China's **Confucian** ideology, which rejected materialism. Merchants were seen as lower class, and taxes on manufacturing and trade increased.

As a result, China's economy was based mainly on agriculture.



Do you know what China's main exports were?



Despite China's trade restrictions, European missionaries continued to visit China in an effort to spread Christianity.



In addition to their religion, the missionaries brought news and technology from the West.

Yet many Chinese continued to feel that they were better off without European influence.



What might China gain or lose by interacting with Europeans?

