100 – Invention of first writing paper made from wood
220 – Han Dynasty falls to nomadic invaders who destroy the Great Wall
400 – Buddhism, emphasizing meditation, spreads in China as it offers peace during war torn times
581 – Sui Dynasty peacefully reunites China under Emperor Wendi
605 – Emperor Wendi opens Grand Canal to transport people, grain, & silk
607 – Emperor Wendi orders the rebuilding of the Great Wall to protect China
618 – Emperor Taizong rules Tang Dynasty and supports farming and trade along Silk Road
700 – Civil service tests given to hire government workers, or scholar-officials
800 – Invention of printing helps spread Chinese ideas, poetry, & artwork
940 – Invention of compass called a “fish” because of its shape & use in water
1024 – Song Dynasty prints the world’s first paper money, which helps trade
1211 - Mongol warrior horsemen led by Genghis Khan invade northern China terrifying the Chinese into surrendering
1279 – Kublai Khan, a foreign Mongol ruler, conquers all of China and builds modern-day capital at Beijing
1288 – Chinese invent guns (later copied by Europe) and use gunpowder
1368 – Mongols are defeated by Ming Dynasty, whose symbol of imperial power is a dragon
1514 – First European ship from Portugal reaches China to trade for tea