China’s Contacts with the Outside World

How did the foreign-contact policies of three medieval Chinese dynasties affect China?

Read the situation below.

The Johnsons have just moved to a new neighborhood. They are debating whether to have an open- or closed-door policy toward their neighbors. If they have an open-door policy, they will invite the neighbors to parties, ask for and perform favors for them, and borrow from and lend things to them. If they have a closed-door policy, they will keep to themselves and not interact with their neighbors at all.

In the T-chart below, write two arguments in favor of the Johnsons following an open-door policy and two arguments in favor of a closed-door policy. One example is done for each.

Arguments for an Open-Door Policy

An open-door policy is a good idea because if the Johnsons are friendly with their neighbors, their neighbors will share information about local services.

Arguments for a Closed-Door Policy

A closed-door policy is good because if the Johnsons are not friendly with the neighbors, the neighbors won’t ask to borrow their things.
Key Content Terms
As you complete the Reading Notes, use these terms in your answers.

Mongols  Ming
maritime  tributary

If you are doing the activity for this lesson, complete all steps in the Reading Notes for each section. (Note: If you are not doing the activity, skip Step 1 for each section.)

Section 2

Step 1: Read along with the first dialogue on Student Handout.

Step 2: Answer the following questions about Section 2.
1. In the space below, list at least six countries with whom China had contact during the Tang dynasty (through traders, merchants, missionaries, or visitors).

2. Describe how attitudes and policies changed toward the end of the Tang dynasty in regard to each of the following:
   • Foreigners:
   • Buddhists:
   • Trade routes:

Step 3: Answer the following question, using supporting details from your Reading Notes: To what degree did emperors of the Tang dynasty pursue a closed- or an open-door policy? Then, place an X at the appropriate place on the spectrum to indicate your answer.

[Diagram showing Closed-Door Policy on the left and Open-Door Policy on the right]
Section 3

Step 1: Read along with the second dialogue on Student Handout.

Step 2: Answer the following questions about Section 3.
1. List four ways in which China was affected by thriving trade during the Yuan dynasty.

2. Describe the role of foreigners in China during the Yuan dynasty. Then, explain how the Chinese felt about this.

Step 3: Answer the following question, using supporting details from your Reading Notes: To what degree did emperors of the Yuan dynasty pursue a closed- or an open-door policy? Then, place an X at the appropriate place on the spectrum to indicate your answer.
Section 4

Step 1: Read along with the third dialogue on Student Handout.

Step 2: Answer the following questions about Section 4.
1. What belief led China to acquire tributaries during the Ming dynasty?

2. Explain the purpose and result of Zheng He’s expeditions.

3. Describe what happened as the Ming dynasty turned inward in the mid-1400s.

Step 3: Answer the following question, using supporting details from your Reading Notes: To what degree did emperors of the Ming dynasty pursue a closed- or an open-door policy? Then, place and X at the appropriate place on the spectrum to indicate your answer.
You are a Ming emperor. You must decide whether China should have an open-door policy or a closed-door policy toward foreigners. In the space below, write your decision in the form of a royal proclamation. Then give five reasons that support your decision. Illustrate each of your reasons. For example, you might write, “Contact with foreigners benefits China because foreign merchants bring us luxuries, such as pearls.” You might illustrate this sentence with a pearl.
Preparing to Write: Story Mapping a Narrative
The story, or narrative, of Zheng He’s life is one of the great sea adventures. Is there an event in your life that was fun or exciting, such as a theme-park visit, favorite vacation, or a special celebration? Choose an event in your life that you would like to write about. Then complete the story map below to plan your own, or autobiographical, narrative.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Topic/Title</th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Setting</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Character(s)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Beginning Actions or Events</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Middle Actions or Events</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Conclusion</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Writing an Autobiographical Narrative

On a separate sheet of paper, use your story map to write your autobiographical narrative. Your narrative should be written in the first person, meaning from your point of view. It should also include a beginning, a middle, and an ending and be from 500 to 700 words long.

Use this rubric to evaluate your autobiographical narrative. Make changes to your narrative if you need to.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Score</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>The narrative is written in the first person, includes a clear beginning, middle, and ending and is from 500 to 700 words long. There are no spelling or grammatical errors</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>The narrative is written in the first person, includes a beginning, middle, and ending and is at least 500 words long. There are some spelling or grammatical errors.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>The narrative is written in the first person, includes a vague beginning, middle, and ending or is missing main plot points, and is fewer than 500 words long. There are many spelling or grammatical errors.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Timeline Skills
Analyze the timeline in your book. Also think about what you have learned. Then answer the following questions.

1. For how many years did the Han dynasty rule China?

2. What religion spread to China under the Tang dynasty, and where did it come from?

3. During which dynasty were officials chosen by merit-based exams?

4. What was the result of increased food production during the Song dynasty?

5. What invention made written materials more widely available?

6. About what year was the art of papermaking developed in China? Why was this an important invention?

7. How many years passed between the fall of the Tang dynasty and the rise of the Song dynasty?

8. Which foreign group ruled China during the Yuan dynasty?

9. During which dynasty did Marco Polo travel through China?

10. During which dynasty did Zheng He make his voyages?
Critical Thinking
Use the timeline and the lessons to answer the following questions.

11. Which do you think most contributed to a high quality of life in China during the Song dynasty: agricultural changes or trade? Explain your answer.

12. The Chinese made many discoveries and inventions between about 200 C.E. and 1400 C.E. What two inventions do you believe have most affected life today, and why?

13. Compare the process of appointing government officials under the Song and Yuan dynasties.

14. If you could add three more events to this timeline, which would they be? List each event, and explain why you think it is important enough to add to the timeline.
   a.
   b.
   c.