

"Fun" Facts about the Han Dynasty

- The most important products in the Han economy were iron, salt, copper work, and silk.
- The Silk Road was established during the Han Dynasty. This trade route from China to Europe was a great source of wealth and luxury items.
- Buddhism first came to China during this time.
- Social status was very rigid. There were 20 ranks of status and each level had increased privileges. Although merchants became rich, they were not respected and were forced to wear white clothes and pay high taxes, while craftsmen, doctors, and farmers were ranked fairly high.
- There was a short period when the Han Dynasty was overthrown by the Xin Dynasty. This lasted from 8 - 22 CE. The time before the Xin is often called the Western Han and the time after the Eastern Han.
- The first Han emperor was Liu Bang. He changed his name to Han Gaozu, which means "esteemed ancestor." He named his palace "Lasting Joy."