

WARFARE:

The Han were able to expand their empires and nations with military methods, advanced technology, and a giant army. Iron had an impact on China because it helped them make stronger, more durable weapons. Some of these weapons were the: iron sword, crossbow, and kite. The iron sword helped swing at an enemy from a safe distance, the crossbow helped shoot at an enemy from far away, and the kite was used for three main purposes: to scare the enemies away, send messages to their allies, and to check their surroundings.

GOVERNMENT:

The rulers of the Han dynasty were different from the rulers of the Qin. The rules were less harsh and the Confucian ideas were accepted back into the government. In the Han bureaucracy, people directed those who were below them. People were hired based on skill, knowledge, and abilities. You had to pass a special exam to be hired.

AGRICULTURE:

Some problems that the farmers of Han faced were: they were expected to build their own homes and grow enough crops for their storage and their families, some floods and droughts destroyed crops, and they were expected to give one month of free labor to the government to help build houses and roads. Some inventions that helped the farmers were the chain pump, wheelbarrow, and the iron plow. The chain pump helped transfer water from the irrigation system to where the farmers needed it. The wheelbarrow helped carry crops from one place to another easily. And the iron plow helped shift excess dirt to the side of the rows (where farmers would plant their seeds). If you were a farmer these inventions would help you save enough energy to do whatever else you needed to do, not break your back carrying crops, and get just the right amount of water when watering crops.

INDUSTRY:

The only production of silk was made easier during the Han era because the new foot-powered machine was invented. The machine would wind the fibers up into a fabric, and that helped them save time by not doing it by hand. Salt impacted trade in this era because people were able to come from all over China and trade for salt. People used this salt to preserve their food. People used to get salt from the ocean but when moving further inland people will get salt from underground mines.

ART:

The Han used brushes and ink with paste to write in Chinese calligraphy. The Han used to write on silk and flattened-out bamboo but silk was too expensive and bamboo was too thick. Paper was invented and it was better because it was cheap, thin, and better absorbed the ink.

MEDICINE:

The Han believed that illnesses were caused when the forces of Yin and Yang were unbalanced. They heard about these illnesses with acupuncture and moxibustion. Acupuncture is the art of poking thin needles into specific parts of the body. This was believed to cure short, quick illnesses. Moxibustion is when one burns powdered leaves or sticks on another's body. People believed that it cured long-time illnesses (such as arthritis). Some discoveries made during this time were: blood circulates from the heart, and one should judge health by listening to another's heartbeat or feeling their pulse.

SCIENCE:

During the Han dynasty, they discovered that the moon shines because it reflects the light from the sun, they also invented the compass and the seismograph. The compass determined North and south (same old, same old), and the seismograph determined if, when, and where there was an earthquake. The seismograph did this using 8 balls, one would drop from a dragon's mouth indicating that there was an earthquake.