

Natural
Expressions

Trade, Travel and
Cultural Interaction

You
are
here

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Discover the Rich Culture of Tang China

Welcome to the Tang dynasty. Today, we're going to go on a voyage of discovery to explore three distinctive features of this dynamic era in China's history.

China in the Tang dynasty (618-907) was a diverse and cosmopolitan empire, a **melting pot** of different cultures and different races where foreign styles and customs were highly valued. The **trendy fashions** and accessories that ladies wore in those days were an indication of their wealth and status in Tang society. And there was lots of **exciting entertainment** to enjoy every day in this peaceful and prosperous era.

The ceramic art of the Tang dynasty is known for the diversity of its decorative styles. By studying Tang ceramics, we can form a clear picture of this distinctive period in China's history.

So, are you ready to find out more about Tang China and what made it so special?

First of all,
let's take a look at
the fashions that the
Tang people used to
wear.



Follow me!



Melting Pot

Foreign styles were very popular among local people in Tang China. These were the cool new fashions of the day! Can you identify the differences between the foreign styles and the traditional Chinese costume?

Hat

A



A:

B:

Clothes

A:

B:

Shoes

A: Shoes with round toes

B: Long boots with pointed toes

Foreign styles

B



Chinese costume

Look! This young local lady is wearing foreign fashions.



Let's find out some more about the foreigners who lived in China in the Tang dynasty!

Answers:
A. Chinese costume
Hat: Fan-shaped hat
Clothes: Long, wide-sleeved robes
B. Foreign styles
Hat: Pointed hat
Clothes: Long, belted tunic with lapels

Many foreigners came to live and work in China during the Tang dynasty. There were **merchants, grooms, entertainers, pilgrims, military men, students** and many others. If you were a Tang Immigration Officer and had to issue identity cards for these foreigners, **how would you describe them?**
 (Hint: Go to the display case "Trade, Travel and Cultural Interaction")

Features...



Tang Identity Card (Overseas)

name: Tom Cruise

Sex:

Occupation:

Features:



Features...

Tang Identity Card (Overseas)

name: Sylvester Stallone

Sex:

Occupation:

Features:



Features...



Tang Identity Card (Overseas)

name: Michael Jackson

Sex:

Occupation:

Features:



Name: Michael Jackson / Sex: Male / Occupation: Juggler
 Features: Curly hair, thick eyebrows, deep-set eyes, a sharp, pointed nose and a small mouth. Wears a tight-fitting blouse with a red strap diagonally across the body, a waistband and trousers with bound legs.

Suggested Answers
 Name: Tom Cruise / Sex: Male / Occupation: Merchant
 Features: Deep-set eyes, a high, sharp nose, a moustache and a short beard. Wears a pointed hat, a knee-length tunic with narrow sleeves and long boots with pointed toes.
 Name: Sylvester Stallone / Sex: Male / Occupation: Groom
 Features: Large, round eyes and a large, pointed nose. His hair is parted in the centre with two plaits coiled behind his head. Wears a knee-length tunic with narrow sleeves, a waistband and broad lapels, plus long boots with pointed toes.



How did Tang ladies like to dress? Let's take a look!

Trendy Fashions

narrow eyes, long eyebrows

round face, plump cheeks, a small mouth, thin red lips

a thin, gossamer silk blouse with a low collar and wide sleeves.

Who do you think is beautiful? Why? The figure on the right is an example of a beautiful Tang lady. Do you think she is beautiful by today's standards? Do you know why she was considered beautiful in the Tang period?



To be considered beautiful in the high Tang period, ladies usually had to be on the plump side, and they also had to keep up with the trends in fashion, hairstyles and make-up.

Look at her fashionable hairstyle. Isn't it lovely? It's based on the traditional chignon, where the long hair is tied up in a roll or knot at the back of the head. Can you match the names with the right Tang chignon styles?

(Hint: Go to the display case "Natural Expressions")



1

Duomaji

Known as "falling off a horse", this off-centre and drooping chignon was favoured by middle-aged women.

2

Fanwanji

The double back knotted chignon was formed by tying up the hair at the back, then holding it up and securing it on top of the head.

3

Paojiaji

The hair of this style went around the temples to form a chignon like a pyramid on top of the head.

4

Gaoji

This high chignon piled up the hair upright on top of the head.

5

Woduopji

Another off-centre and drooping chignon, this was based on the *duomaji* style.



Now it's your turn to be a fashion designer!



Design a fashionable hairstyle for a lady who's going to a social event.



Mid-Autumn Festival Lantern Show



A Chinese New Year Celebration



Now it's time for some relaxation. Let's listen to some music!

Exciting Entertainment

The three ladies shown below are musicians.

They are each playing a different musical instrument. But look, the musical instruments are missing!

Judging from their different postures, put the right musical instrument sticker in their hands again.

(Hint: Go to the display case "Trade, Travel and Cultural Interaction")



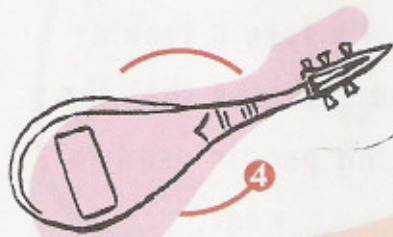
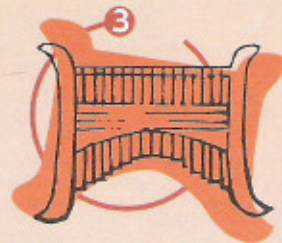
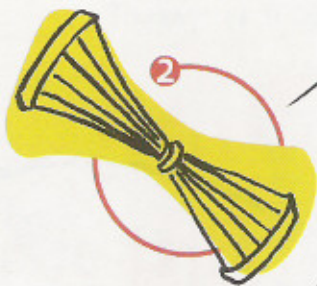
Panpipes

a primitive woodwind instrument made of pipes of different lengths and played by blowing across their open ends.



Waist drum

a percussion instrument which is hung at the waist and beaten with the palms of the hands.



Qin

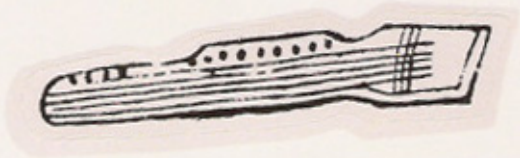
a type of flat musical instrument with 5 or 7 strings, played with the fingers.

Pipa

a stringed instrument that the player places horizontally and played with the fingers or with a plectrum.

Congratulations!

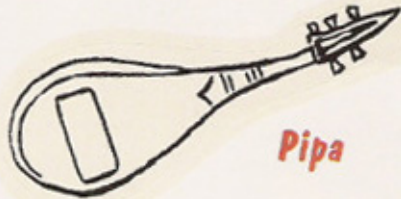
You have finished our voyage of discovery through Tang culture. Now you can go to the gallery and appreciate the objects from a different perspective!



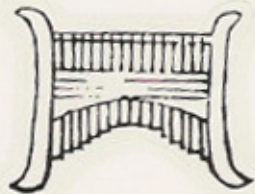
Qin



Waist drum



Pipa



Panpipes