

Early Imperial China

Qin dynasty (221–206 BCE)

Han dynasty

Western Han period (206 BCE–9 CE)

Eastern Han period (25 CE–220 CE)

Jin dynasty

Western Jin period (265–316 CE)

Eastern Jin period (317–420 CE)

Northern Wei dynasty (386–534 CE)

mingqi 冥器 (spirit utensils)

qi 氣 (cosmic breath that pervades the universe)

Daoism [dao 道 = the way]

Gu Kaizhi (344–407 CE)

Archaeological sites:

Mausoleum of the First Emperor (Lintong, Shaanxi), Qin dynasty, c. 210 BCE

Tombs at Mawangdui (Changsha, Hunan), Han dynasty, 186–c. 160 BCE

Tombs of Liu Sheng and Dou Wan (Mancheng, Hebei), Han dynasty, 113 and 104 BCE

Tomb of the King of Nanyue (Guangzhou, Guangdong), Han dynasty, 2nd century BCE