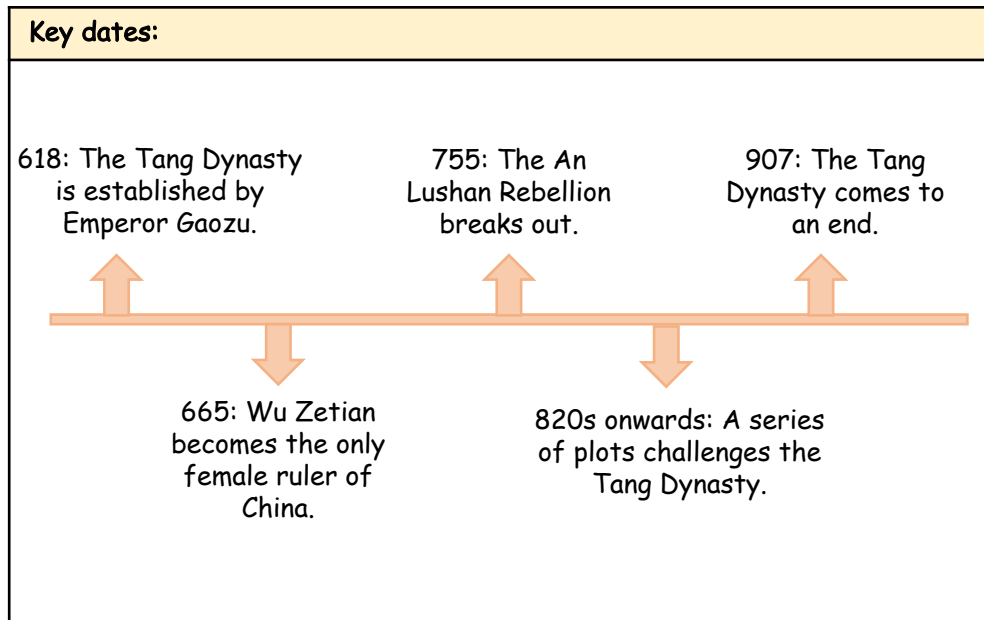


Was China under the Tang Dynasty really 'the greatest civilisation on earth'?

Aspects of life under the Tang Dynasty:	
Religion:	Although many people still had Taoist beliefs during this period, Buddhism (which originated in India) was becoming increasingly popular and influential.
Art:	We can find out about life under the Tang Dynasty from the wall paintings and other artworks preserved in the Mogao Caves.
Trade:	China was connected to places in Asia, Europe and North Africa by the Silk Roads, which brought in new ideas and products to the Tang Dynasty.
City life:	The city of Chang'an was very cosmopolitan: merchants from across Asia were welcomed to buy and sell goods. Life for residents was strictly controlled, though.
Disaster and unrest:	The period of Tang rule saw times of hardship, including the years following the An Lushan Rebellion. The late 700s and early 800s saw floods, poor harvests and famine, and finally the dynasty collapsed (after a series of rebellions) in 907.



Key terms:	
Dynasty	A line of rulers from the same family who rule over a country or area.
Emperor	The ruler of an empire (a group of states or countries).
Civilisation	A society that has a well-developed method of government.
Buddhism	A religion that originated in India in the 5 th century BC, based on the teachings of the Buddha.
Taoism	A religion or type of philosophy (set of ideas) that focuses on the importance of living in harmony with nature.
Monastery	A type of building where monks (religious men) live.
Rebellion	An attempt to challenge the authority of those in power, perhaps trying to overthrow them.
Diverse	Showing lots of variety.
Silk Roads	A network of land and sea routes that connected China with other parts of the world, including Asia, Europe and North Africa.
Trade	Buying and selling goods.
Merchant	A person involved in trade.
Enslaved person	Someone who is forced to work for free, and who 'belongs' to someone else.
Embassy	A mission or trip that someone is sent on, usually at the request of a ruler. They might be trying to gain information or learn new things.