Task Name: Ancient China Inventions Task  
Subject: Year 7 Humanities  
Domain: Humanities  
Year Level: 7  
Statement of Inquiry: Events and ideas from past societies have significance in the modern world

Global Context: Orientation in space and time  
ATL Skills Focus: Research Skills  
Due Date: 1 week before end of Term 2 as directed by your teacher

Task

You have been asked by the World History Association to inform a selection panel about the impact of an Ancient Chinese invention.

You will be allocated one of the following inventions:

Paper, printing, porcelain, wheelbarrow, seismograph, matches, gunpowder, parachute, cast iron, ink, horse collar, kite, rocket, compass, umbrella, printed book, abacus, cannon, acupuncture, spinning wheel, iron, silk

You will write a persuasive letter

Your persuasive letter should be **350-400 words in length** and should contain the following information:

1. **Describe** when the invention was first discovered/created.
2. **Identify** the Emperor who was in power at the time of discovery/creation.
3. **Explain** how it came to be made and how it worked.
4. **Describe** the problem the invention aimed to solve.
5. **Explain** the effect your invention had/has on the lives of ordinary people.
6. **Describe** how the invention is used today.
7. Has the invention **changed** in appearance or use since its invention? **Explain** your answer.

Throughout your persuasive letter you should consistently justify the significance of the invention you have been allocated.

**Describe**: give a detailed account or picture of a situation, event, pattern or process

**Identify**: Provide an answer from a number of possibilities. Recognize and state briefly a distinguishing fact or feature.

**Explain**: Give a detailed account including reasons or causes
**Justify**: Give valid reasons or evidence to support an answer or conclusion including in-text citations.

Steps to get started:

1. Conduct research and complete the electronic lotus chart provided. We will begin this together but you will also need to work on this as a homework exercise.
2. Discussions will happen to examine the significance of your allocated invention.
3. Begin writing draft.
4. Remember to keep a record of the resources you use throughout the task. A correctly referenced bibliography (Links to an external site.) with in text citations (Links to an external site.) (Harvard style) should be submitted alongside your persuasive letter. (Links to an external site.)

**Rubric Checklist**

*Knowing and Understanding*

I consistently communicated relevant information throughout my persuasive letter or speech. My discussion and justification of the invention's significance were thorough. I fully supported my arguments using in-text citations.

*Investigation*

I developed clear and focused research questions on my lotus chart and clearly explained their relevance to my topic. I effectively followed the research process. My Lotus chart cleared clear, relevant, varied and detailed information regarding the invention.

*Communication*

I have written a persuasive letter or speech which consistently followed an effective structure with clear paragraphs. I have consistently used persuasive techniques throughout my letter or speech. I have included a correctly referenced bibliography (Harvard style). My bibliography is annotated with all sources thoroughly evaluated according to the CRAAP test.

*Critical Thinking*

I consistently communicated relevant information throughout my persuasive letter or speech. My discussion and justification of the invention's significance were thorough. I fully supported my arguments using in-text citations.

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**Academic Honesty**

Students are reminded that all work submitted must be their own and each use of the words, work or ideas of another person, whether written, oral or visual, (hard copy
and/or electronic materials) must be acknowledged in the body of their work and the bibliography.

Please refer to the Rubric for this assessment task for information regarding assessment criteria and task specific clarification.