

# CPS SOURCE bySunday

It seems that we hear a lot about China and North Korea in the news these days. In global politics they are often thought of as besties when it comes to their relationship. But did you know that a lot of that is because they've been friends for a couple thousand years?

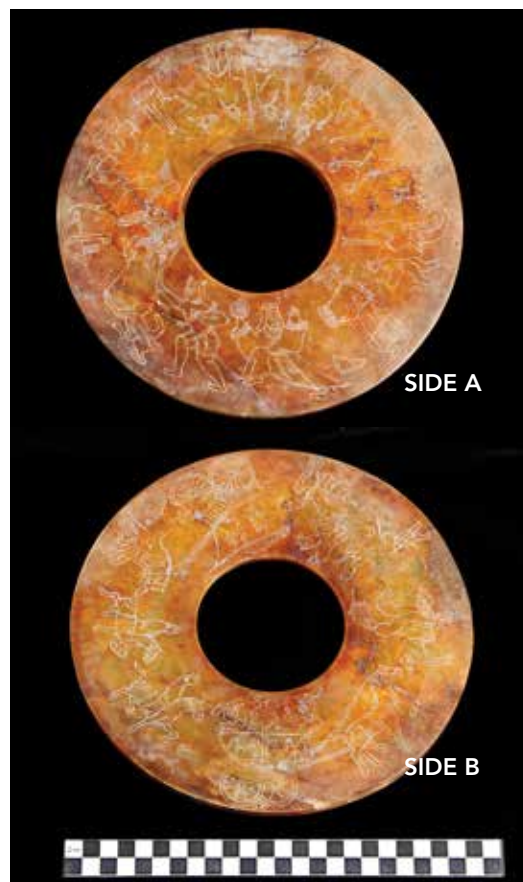
The relationship between China and North Korea goes, at least, all the way back to the "golden age of Chinese history" - the Han dynasty, 漢朝. The Han dynasty was the second imperial dynasty of China and spanned over four centuries from 206 BC to 220 AD. Science, technology, writing, and mathematics during the Han period saw significant advances, including papermaking, the nautical steering rudder, the use of negative numbers in mathematics, the raised-relief map, and advances in astronomical equipment. In fact, it is such an important part of Chinese history that to this day the majority of Chinese people refer to themselves as the "Han people" and the Chinese script is referred to as "Han characters."

The Emperor presided over the Han government, but he shared power with both nobles and appointed ministers who were mostly from the highly educated upper class. Members of government would carry symbols of their power and importance.

This jade Pi ring from the Museum of Anthropology's Grayson Archery Collection at the University of Missouri, is originally from North China, possibly Honan, Shansi or Shensi province, and was hung as a badge of office by a Han dynasty official.

It has engravings on both sides: side A includes a tax collector carrying a Pi ring, a warrior killing a bear, a crossbow below a dragon, men carrying marking stakes, a two-headed cat figure, and a human figure with tale. On side B are men in a horse drawn vehicles and men on horseback.

Okay, so what does this have to do with China and North Korea being best buds? Well, the Han Empire was divided into areas (called jun) directly controlled by the central government, and several kingdoms that gradually lost all of their independence. The map shows the Han dynasty along with modern day political boundaries. If the Han dynasty were around today most of North Korea, (as well as parts of Mongolia and Vietnam) would be under its control. Artifacts from Korea's Han period are similar to those found in China, showing the close cultural ties between the peoples, and include Korean Han dynasty Pi rings!



Pi ring (Collection# 1994-1073)  
Han Dynasty, 206BC-220AD  
China, North region  
stone: jade

What does the term golden age mean? What evidence supports the moniker (title) golden age?

What is the significance of the engravings? What contextualization or historical background did you use to come to your conclusion?

## Want to See More Artifacts from China and Korea?

To see more artifacts in the Grayson Archery Collection from the Han period of China and Korea, visit the Museum of Anthropology's online databases: <https://anthromuseum.missouri.edu/databases.shtml>

The Museum also has Chinese archery on exhibit. It is located on the second floor of Mizzou North on the corner of Business Loop 70W and Garth Ave. The Museum is open:  
Tuesday - Friday, 9am - 4pm;  
Saturday - Sunday, 12pm - 4pm.

**MOA** | The MUSEUM of ANTHROPOLOGY  
Mizzou North  
115 Business Loop 70W, Columbia, MO 65203

## Tips for Using the Museum Databases

- Choose your database.
- Log in as a "Guest Account" and click on "Find."
- Enter search terms into one or more fields and click the "Perform Find" button in the status area at top of screen.
- Use the book icon in the status area to move from one record to another in the found set.
- Click on the magnifying glass icon ("Find") to return to find mode and perform additional searches.
- When finished working with a database, please be sure to click the "Log Out" button in the status area to close your session.



THE MINNEAPOLIS INSTITUTE OF ARTS

*Continuity and Change Over Time:*

Analyze how and why Ancient Chinese developed a civilization to interact with one another and their environment and how that civilization changed over time. (Key vocabulary: *dynasties, Great Wall, Technological Advancements*)

# CPS SOURCE bySunday

## Citing Evidence: Society Analysis

Record important details found or that you can infer from the artifact, article, and map about the Han Dynasty related to geography, culture, government, and economics.

Aspect of Society	Details and evidence that help us understand the aspect of society
Geography & Environment	
Government & Social Structure	
Culture & Religion	
Economy, Trade & Jobs	

### Writing:

Significance: Why are the event(s) and artifacts described in the article taught in schools today? What are the lasting lessons that we can learn from studying these event(s) and artifact(s)? Support your response with evidence from the text.