

SOCIAL SCIENCE: HANDOUT B1
Poetry Activity

What did life in Tang and Song China share with life in California today?

Students write poems that reflect either Tang or Song influences.

A. Tang poem: Tang poetry was noted for its expression of personal emotions.

Many Tang scholar officials and soldiers wrote poems about their homesickness when duty called them to outlying regions of the empire. *Write a poem expressing the emotion of homesickness.*

B. Song poem: Song poets were noted for their interest in everyday observations.

As Song dynasty rulers turned away from the expansionist policies seen in the Tang to focus on strengthening China's security at home, poets of the period similarly began to look carefully at the world close to home and celebrate the details of Chinese daily life. *Write a poem about something you see or do every day and concentrate on the details of the experience.*