

## Four Great Inventions

While the people of China are responsible for many inventions throughout time, there are the following four inventions that are designated as the “four great inventions” due to their historical significance:

1. the Si Nan Compass – 270 B.C.
2. Paper – 105 A.D.;
3. Block Printing – 868 A.D.
4. Gunpowder – 1044 A.D.;

An interesting point is that it was Westerners that first designated these as the four great inventions in the 1500's. For example, Sir Francis Bacon proclaimed: *"Printing, gunpowder and the compass ... whence have followed innumerable changes, in so much that no empire, no sect, no star seems to have exerted greater power and influence in human affairs than these mechanical discoveries."* *Novum Organum, Book I, CXXIX*

