

Name _____

Empress Wu Zetian: The Empress Who Ruled China

Short Answer Key

1. Empress Wu Zetian rose to power through her intelligence and influence as a concubine, eventually seizing power from the empress dowager and her son.
2. Empress Wu implemented policies to strengthen the central government, expand the civil service system, and promote officials based on merit. She also granted women greater rights and opportunities for education.
3. The Giant Wild Goose Pagoda in Xi'an was a Buddhist monument and symbol of her rule, constructed to house Buddhist scriptures and promote Buddhism.
4. Challenges and controversies included political maneuvering, accusations of murder, and debates over the extent of her contributions.
5. Empress Wu Zetian's legacy continued to influence Chinese history and culture through debates among historians and ongoing discussions of her achievements and rule.

