Sui Yangdi (569–618)

In 604 Yangdi became the second emperor of the Sui dynasty. He is known for building the Grand Canal, rebuilding the Great Wall, and constructing great palaces. All of this work cost a huge amount of money. The main artery of the Grand Canal was completed in 608. It connected the rice-producing region in southern China with the Beijing area in the north. Later, this canal was expanded into a network that supplied the northern armies and the capital with food from the south. Also, Yangdi extended the Chinese Empire west into Central Asia and south to present-day Vietnam. Between 612 and 614, he attempted three times to take over Korea, but failed. Indeed, these expeditions were so disastrous that the Chinese people revolted. While traveling in southeast China, Yangdi was assassinated.

More About the Image: This image shows a detail from Portraits of Thirteen Emperors. The artist is believed to be Yen Li-pen.

1. **Drawing Conclusions** Do you think the Grand Canal helped Yangdi to expand his empire? Explain.

2. **Determining Cause and Effect** What was a contributing factor in the Chinese people’s revolt against Yangdi?