

Social Studies Enrichment Packet

Plouffe Academy

Ancient China

Learning Outcomes

Language Objectives – The student will...

use past tense verbs in English correctly to describe the historic events and impact of the ancient Chinese dynasties.

use descriptive adjectives, including those to describe color, age, size and distance to describe the geography, innovations and trade of ancient China.

Content Objectives –

use specific examples to describe in English how the physical geography of China presented ancient people with challenges.

identify at least three ways that the geography of China influenced the way ancient people lived

explain the major beliefs of Confucianism, Taoism and Legalism, founders, and influence on ancient Chinese government.

name at least two major accomplishments of each of the Shang, Zhou, Qin, and Han dynasties.

identify the purpose of the Silk Road and describe how cultural diffusion took place because of its existence.

analyze why the Great Wall of China was built and if it was necessary?

Key Vocabulary Terms:

dynasty	warlord
aristocracy	periphery
bureaucracy	plateau
emperor	nomad
Confucianism	terrain
Taoism	mandate
Terracotta Army	Ying and Yang
Legalism	Sentry
Great Wall	permeated
basin	

Exploring the Geography of Ancient China

Today, China is the third-largest country in the world. Third in land size to only Russia and Canada, China has close to four million square miles of land. To its north, China is bordered by Mongolia and Russia. Kazakhstan and Krygzstan share China's western border, and its southern neighbors include India, Nepal, Burma, and Vietnam. In 1990, China's population hovered slightly over 1 billion people, but by the year 2025, China is expected to have over 1.5 billion. At around 1.3 billion people, China is the most populated country in the world.

While enormous in both land and population size, we have to remember that China was not always this large. China's early population, like that of many civilizations, began very small and was centered around a reliable food and water source. Due to these factors, most ancient Chinese sought to settle in the eastern and southern regions. Today, historians call this area China Proper since it formed the basis of Chinese history. As Chinese dynasties rose and fell, they always maintained control over China Proper. The western and northern regions of modern China made up the **periphery** in ancient times. This area is called Outer China and the environment is much more extreme. In ancient times, those living here found life very difficult. Sometimes, Chinese dynasties stretched their power and influence to cover these regions as well.



Following are articles about six geographical areas of ancient China. As you navigate through articles on the geography of ancient China, complete the graphic organizer on pages 4-5. Document on the correct side (Outer China or China Proper) information about the environment, life in this region, and how people adapted to survive.

Graphic Organizer

OUTER CHINA	Station: _____	Station: _____	CHINA PROPER
	Describe the geography and climate of this feature of Outer China: _____ _____ _____ _____ _____	Describe the geography and climate of this feature of China Proper: _____ _____ _____ _____ _____	
	How did the ancient Chinese live and adapt in this graphic feature? _____ _____ _____ _____ _____	How did the ancient Chinese live and adapt in this graphic feature? _____ _____ _____ _____ _____	

OUTER CHINA	Station: _____	Station: _____	CHINA PROPER
	Describe the geography and climate of this feature of Outer China: _____ _____ _____ _____ _____	Describe the geography and climate of this feature of China Proper: _____ _____ _____ _____ _____	
	How did the ancient Chinese live and adapt in this graphic feature? _____ _____ _____ _____ _____	How did the ancient Chinese live and adapt in this graphic feature? _____ _____ _____ _____ _____	

OUTER CHINA	Station: _____	CHINA PROPER
	Describe the geography and climate of this feature of Outer China: _____ _____ _____ _____ _____	
	How did the ancient Chinese live and adapt in this graphic feature? _____ _____ _____ _____ _____	
	How did the ancient Chinese live and adapt in this graphic feature? _____ _____ _____ _____ _____	

**** Extension****

Which of these six areas of ancient China do you think would be the most difficult place to live? Why? Give evidence from the reading.

Which of these six areas of ancient China do you think would be the easiest place to live? Why? Give evidence from the reading.

The Tibetan Plateau (Outer China 1)

Nicknamed the “roof of the world”, “the Third Pole”, and the “Asian water tower”, the Tibetan Plateau dots the landscape of China’s southwestern border. While its highest peak is a mammoth 16,000 feet above sea level, its average elevation exceeds 14,800 feet.

Experts have determined that the Tibetan Plateau is still rising; due to collision of the Indo-Australian and Tibetan tectonic plates, the plateau rises around 5 millimeters per year. The Tibetan Plateau is not only tallest in the world, but also the largest. The plateau stretches over 970,000 square miles, which is over four times the size of France!

If you visited the Tibetan Plateau, you would certainly be intimidated by the daunting physical **terrain**. You would feel as if you were completely surrounded by mountains. In fact, you would be! The Tibetan Plateau is surrounded by the highest peaks in the Himalaya, Pamir, and Karakoram mountain ranges. One of these peaks, Mount Everest, which is part of the Himalayas, is the tallest mountain in the world at an astonishing 29,028 feet.

Terrain – a stretch of land with distinct physical features.

While most would prefer to avoid the Tibetan Plateau, those in China would be wise to recognize the plateau’s important to their everyday life. In fact, National Geographic summarized the importance of the major rivers that begin their journey high up in the Tibetan Plateau:

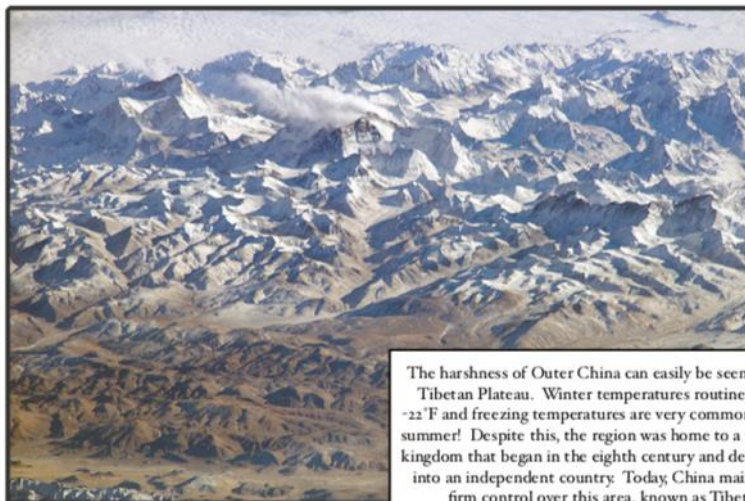
“All told, some two billion people in more than a dozen countries -- nearly a third of the world's population -- depend on rivers fed by the snow and ice of the plateau region.”

The popular magazine and television network was referring in large part to two of China’s greatest rivers: the Huang He (the Yellow River) and the Chang Jiang (Yangtze River). However, even though the rivers begin here, the region is still very dry. It was far too cold in the plateau to grow crops consistently, and those who lived here relied heavily on roaming animals such as yaks and goats. It was their meat, fur, and milk that kept early settlers alive. Since the animals roamed, the early settlers were forced to live a **nomadic** lifestyle as they followed the herds that they relied on.

Nomad – a person who has no permanent home.

** Extension - Watch this interesting video about the Tibetan Plateau and climate change. Write 2-3 sentences about something interesting you learned.**

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bLtVI8lhQ20>



The harshness of Outer China can easily be seen in the Tibetan Plateau. Winter temperatures routinely hit -22 F and freezing temperatures are very common in the summer! Despite this, the region was home to a thriving kingdom that began in the eighth century and developed into an independent country. Today, China maintains firm control over this area, known as Tibet.

The Deserts (Outer China 2)

Two great deserts mark the landscape of Outer China's northwestern region - the Taklimakan and Gobi Deserts. These two deserts are almost complete opposites of each other. In fact, the only similarities the Gobi and Taklimakan deserts share are very general. They both are located on the northwestern frontier, share a border, are difficult places to live due to a sweltering hot climate, and both provided challenging situations for travelers along the Silk Road.

Also known as Teklimakan, the Taklimakan Desert is located west of the Gobi Desert in northwestern China. While still a very large desert, the Taklimakan Desert dwarfs that of its eastern neighbor; the Taklimakan is estimated to be roughly 130,000 square miles while the massive Gobi Desert is over 500,000 square miles in diameter. Do not let its size fool you, however. The Taklimakan Desert is considered to be one of the most dangerous deserts in the world. According to National Geographic magazine,

"[the Taklimakan Desert] is, the most deadly stretch along the legendary Silk Road, the desert into which entire caravans disappeared without a trace. To locals, the name "Taklimakan" has come to mean "If you go in, you don't come out."

The Taklimakan Desert evokes images of a classic desert: huge sand dunes and strong, blowing winds. It is not uncommon for sand dunes to reach over 100 yards tall. If you were planning on crossing this desert then you had better get used to the dunes as over 85% of the desert is made up of them!

Living in this desert is nearly impossible due to its lack of water. However, many **oasis** towns were able to thrive here, such as Kashgar and Marin.

The Gobi Desert borders the Taklimakan Desert to the east and is one of the world's largest deserts. While its size dwarfs that of its neighbor, the terrain of the Gobi Desert also represents a stark difference between the two. Most of the Gobi is not sandy but instead contains bare rock and gravel. Also, while the Taklimakan is known to be very warm, the Gobi Desert is a cold desert. Being further north than its neighbor and located at a higher elevation both contribute to this sharp temperature difference. But, this does not mean that the Gobi has a desirable climate. In fact, the Gobi's climate is one of extremes; the temperature can change as much as 63°F in just 24 hours!



Can you tell which desert is which?

The Manchurian Plain (Outer China 3)

Located north of present-day Korea and east of present-day Mongolia, the Manchurian Plain was actually once part of the Mongol Empire in the mid-1200s CE. Part of the plain was reclaimed by China in the 1300s and fights continued over the area for another 500 years. It was not until 1946 that China regained full control of the plain. There is a reason why the Manchurian Plain has been fought over by a variety of neighboring forces: it is an area dominated by low hills, plains filled with natural vegetation, and it provides easy access to the East China Sea. In ancient times, the region was a homeland to several nomadic tribes, such as the Manchu and the Ulchs. While the climate was not ideal for growing crops, grassy vegetation existed that allowed animals, such as sheep, yaks, and horses to graze. While it is likely that some tribes settled and farmed where vegetation was possible, most people were nomads and relied heavily on animal herds for their survival.

The Manchurian Plain has a handful of rivers that make the plain fairly easy to navigate, but the Amur River has historically played the largest role in the plain's development. Today the tenth-largest river in the world, many competing forces have sought control over the Amur River. The river is valuable because of how it sprawls throughout the entire plain; this provides easy access to the eastern seas as well as access into mainland Mongolia.

Perhaps no other region in China has as stark a contrast in climate than the Manchurian Plain. The climate ranges from extremely humid, almost tropical heat in the summer to dry, windy, Arctic cold in the winter. Temperatures reach their peak in the summer with an average of 83 degrees, while in the winter temperatures can fall to around -18 degrees. The region also experiences heavy thunderstorms in summer months as pressure systems change. While enough grassy vegetation exists on the plain to support a variety of animals, the climate is far too inconsistent to provide a good environment for growing crops.



The Yellow River (China Proper 1)

Known officially as the Huang He River, the Yellow River starts high up in the Tibetan Plateau and flows through the northern end of China Proper. Due to annual flooding, the river provides for a very fertile **basin** that has given life to millions of settlers. The North China Plain, which covers around 158,000 square miles, provided ancient people with an abundance of grasslands for grazing animals as well as an ideal environment for farmers to cultivate corn, sorghum, millet, maize, cotton, and a variety of vegetables. The fertile soil is coupled with a moderate climate; summers see averages of 77-82°F while winters average around 28-44°F. As expected due to its fertile environment, this plain has become one of the most densely populated regions in the world.

It should be no surprise that the fertile plain around the Yellow River attracted outside invaders. In fact, Emperor Qin first ordered construction of the Great Wall in northern China in 210 B.C.E. to protect from the invading Mongols. The wall was extended to its current state by the Ming Dynasty in the 1300s.

The North China Plain has often been nicknamed the “Land of the Yellow Earth” because of the yellow **silt** left behind by the Huang He River (or Yellow River). The great winds of the Gobi Desert blow the silt south where it is deposited into the river; the silt makes the river appear with a yellow tint. In fact, these wind storms have caused the Gobi Desert to expand drastically since ancient times. Today, many Chinese leaders have grown concerned about how fast the Gobi Desert is expanding into the North China Plain. Despite their concern, the Yellow River continues to provide for the Chinese people as over fifteen hydroelectric power plants generate electricity from the river's flow.

These silt deposits have played a crucial role in a variety of ways to China's history. The deposits made the land fertile, which created jealousy among foreigners and led to foreign invasions. The Great Wall was constructed in order to repel these invading groups. Today, the valuable farmland has led to one of the world's most densely populated regions. However, the most significant way this silt has impacted Chinese history is that the Yellow River has also been called the “the cradle of Chinese civilization.” It was this river that led to one of the first great human civilizations.

Even though the fertile areas along the banks of the Huang He have helped farmers over the years, it has also earned the nickname of “China's Sorrow.” The river has flooded over one thousand times and has brought much death and destruction to the region. The main reason the floods occur is due to the silt that settles in the bottom of the river, thus causing water levels to rise. One of the worst floods occurred in 1887 and killed an estimated 900,000 people.

** **Extension** – Watch this video about the Yellow River and write 2 – 3 sentences about what you learned. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=RGwb3zxRR-A> **



The Yangtze River (China Proper 2)

The Yangtze River is located in southern China and flows through a very desirable part of China. The river has attracted an abundance of ancient people to settle along the nearby **basin**. In fact, today this area is home to one-third of China's entire population. The basin that surrounds the Yangtze experiences four distinct seasons and are evenly distributed. Summers are warm and wet and have an average temperature of 88°F while winters are fairly mild with an average temperature at just 47°F. The moist, humid environment of the basin makes the cultivation of rice an ideal crop.

The Yangtze River, also known as the Chang Jiang River in China, starts high up in the Tibetan Plateau and weaves its way east through south-central China. From the plateau where it begins to where it empties into the East China Sea, the Chang Jiang is measured to be around 3,900 miles long. This makes the Chang Jiang the longest river in all of Asia and the third-longest in the world; in fact, its name translates to literally mean "Long River." The length of this great river has led to the basin having some of the highest levels of biodiversity in the entire world - ranging from dense forests to fertile wetlands. The great length of this river has also sustained numerous local communities with fresh drinking water and has provided easy access throughout central China.

The basin has very fertile soil from the occasional flooding of the Yangtze River. While the Chang Jiang floods much less often than the Huang He, it can still be devastating when a flood does happen. For example, the 1931 Yangtze River floods are some of the worst on record. Over two feet of rain fell from July to August 1931, and the devastating result ended with between 3.7 to 4 million people dying. Floods have been controlled significantly with the completion of the Three Gorges Dam project in 2012. This has allowed agriculture to thrive in the region; today, over 70% of China's rice and 40% of its grain come from the basin surrounding the Yangtze River.

A NASA image of the Yangtze River delta



The Pearl River (China Proper 3)

The Pearl River, also called the Zhu Jiang, gets its name from a large boulder that rests in the river's path as it passes through the city known as Guangzhou. Ancient people referred to the large rock island as a pearl due to its round, smooth appearance from years of erosion that had polished its surface. While the river gets its name from the small section that passes through Guangzhou, it actually is quite large; the river ranks as the third longest in China at over 1,200 miles.

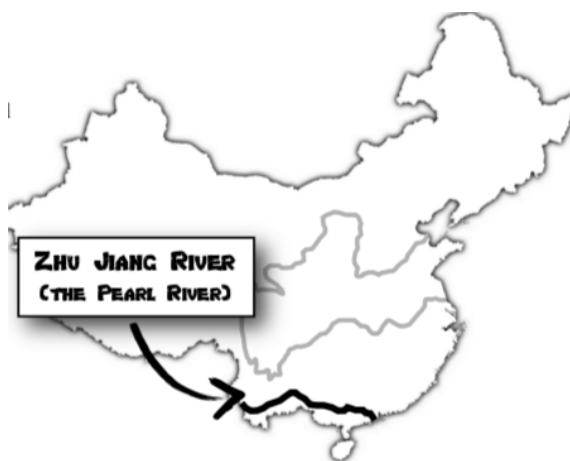
The basin around the Pearl River experiences a fairly consistent and moderate climate; in the summer, the average sits around 76 degrees and in the winter, the temperate averages around 55 degrees. Being a sub-tropic zone the region receives plenty of rainfall as well. As a result, rice is a major crop in this region, both today and in ancient times.

Since the river system weaves in and out of mountains, the land that is inhabitable is very valuable. On the land that is farmed, tobacco, sugarcane, and peanuts are grown in large quantities (as well as rice). Rivers also provided an abundance of freshwater fish for ancient people as well as those living today. Perhaps most importantly, the basin around the river has provided an ideal climate for silkworms to thrive. The silkworm produces the valuable silk cocoon that was highly sought after by traders in ancient times. So important was this good that merchants from Europe and Africa traveled thousands of miles across the legendary Silk Road to obtain it.

The Pearl River has several different sources as many tributaries merge to form this great river. The river empties into the South China Sea and allowed ancient people easy access to travel via the water. The river has allowed modern people to travel easily as well, which has contributed in part to the growth of Hong Kong as a major international city.



The silkworms that populate the basin around the Pearl River

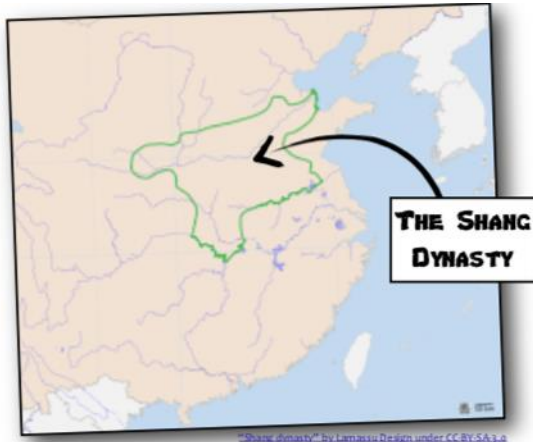


Ancient Chinese Dynasties

Directions: Read about these Chinese dynasties and complete the graphic organizer on page 15.

The Shang Dynasty

The Shang dynasty ruled over China from 1600 BCE to around 1046 BCE. Succeeding the Xia, the Shang dynasty is considered by a variety of sources to be China's second dynasty. The Shang ruled in the Yellow River Valley located in the central and eastern areas of China Proper. China's second dynasty was founded by their first king, Tang, by leading a rebellion that overthrew the last Xia ruler in the Battle of Mingtiao.



The Shang were able to defeat their Xia overlords by using a unique military style: they were some of the first to implement an infantry to attack their enemies. Armed with a variety of stone and bronze weapons such as spears, axes, bows, arrows, and bronze helmets, Shang warriors were difficult to handle from horseback.

It was during the Shang dynasty that bronze working became common. Along with discovering a variety of bronze weapons, tools, and ships, today archaeologists have discovered bronze vessels for drinking, remnants of bronze chariots, and even bronze hairpins likely worn by the Shang elite. Tombs of Shang kings were also adorned with a variety of bronze objects. This is proof that the Shang dynasty prospered during the Bronze Age.

The Shang dynasty is remembered for many grand achievements, such as producing some of the earliest forms of glazed pottery found on earth. The Shang also developed a very intricate writing system and left many examples of their text carved on bone and bronze items. Too, the Shang astronomers were able to determine the correct year length - 365 and 1/4 days!

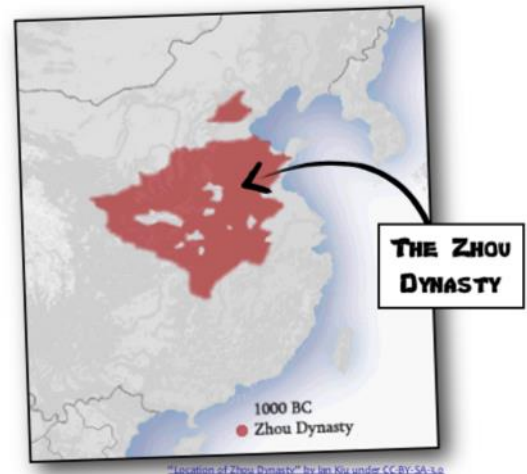
Living in the heart of the Bronze Age, the Shang people experienced a time of cutting-edge equipment. Yet, their way of life was still very ancient. The Shang had around 13.5 million people and nearly all of them survived as wandering nomads. Eventually, the Shang created more permanent settlements and learned to harness their unforgiving terrain. Frequent floods by the Huang Ho (Yellow River) and the Yangze River (Long River) led the Shang to create very complex irrigation systems that rerouted water to nearby crops. In this, the Shang were able to farm wheat, rice, millet, and barley.

The three major philosophies of ancient China - Confucianism, Taoism, and Legalism - were not born when the Shang dynasty ruled. However, the Shang people were still very religious. Their religion was based heavily on ancestor worship. The Shang believed strongly in honoring their ancestors, and they believed their commitment to this would be reflected in the success or failure of their crops each year. Successful crop seasons meant the ancestors were pleased, while a season plagued by drought or excessive flooding meant the ancestors were not pleased.

The Shang dynasty fell around the year 1046 BCE in large part because of a very oppressive government. The final king of the Shang dynasty, Shang Xin, was known for implementing cruel laws, torturing prisoners, and exploiting commoners. Eventually, the people fought back against the king. Some stories tell of Xin committing suicide after his army betrayed him, while others say he was ousted by a rival group. Either way, the Shang dynasty was quickly replaced by the invading Zhou dynasty.

The Zhou Dynasty

The Zhou dynasty, also known as the Chou dynasty, replaced the Shang and ruled over China from around 1046 BCE to 256 BCE. The Zhou dynasty actually developed alongside the Shang and both groups peacefully coexisted for many years. However, as a series of corrupt kings inherited the Shang throne, the people slowly turned away from their leaders and turned toward the Zhou for protection. At the Battle of Muye in 1046 BCE, Zhou leaders invaded the Shang capital of Yin. Most Shang people, tired of their cruel leaders, rose up to support the Zhou. This victory led to the establishment of the longest-running dynasty in Chinese history, the Zhou dynasty.



Along with the crumbling Shang infrastructure, the Zhou were able to easily defeat their predecessor because of their superior military. The Zhou army was split into two major sections, “the Six Armies of the west” and “the Eight Armies of Chengzhou.” These armies frequently roamed the countryside, keeping the Zhou people and their land protected. Zhou kings were true leaders of their military as they often accompanied their men into battle.

It was during the Zhou dynasty that China entered its Iron Age. While bronze was still heavily used in the early years of the dynasty, by 600 BCE the greater strength and durability of iron helped it become popular. Iron-tipped plows made farming more efficient and greatly increased crop yields. Too, iron-bladed tomahawks, swords, armor, and helmets became very popular among the military.

The Zhou dynasty is remembered for many advancements and achievements, such as the invention of the compass and the popular children's toy, the kite. Like the Shang before them, the Zhou created intricate irrigation systems that helped supply crops with water. Zhou historians created some of the first geographical maps of China. Primarily a farming civilization, the Zhou understood the importance of fertilizer to improve crop yields. They also experimented with herbal pesticides to keep away bugs and animals.

The Zhou also created the Mandate of Heaven, the idea that the emperor was handpicked by God. Heaven would bless the authority of a good ruler, however natural disasters or famines were viewed as signs that God was losing confidence in the emperor. This would lead to the overthrow of that ruler, the mandate would then be passed to a new ruler, and the cycle would continue.

The greatest achievement during the Zhou dynasty was by accident. China was in such disarray toward the end of the Zhou period that philosophers sought ways to create a peaceful society. Confucius taught that people needed to have proper morals and show respect to their ancestors. Laozi expressed the idea that everything in the world was connected and always in balance. Finally, Legalism taught that people were self-motivated and would naturally do bad things; to him, the only way to create a peaceful society was through strict laws and harsh punishments.

The Zhou dynasty fell in 256 BCE to the state of Qin, one of the territories of the Zhou dynasty. By the 4th century BCE, the Qin state had reformed their government based on the teachings of Hanfeizi, the founder of Legalism. According to the philosophy, the Qin posted its laws, enforced them with harsh punishments, and did not make exceptions for anyone. This strong government led to the Qin becoming more powerful than the Zhou, and by 256 BCE the Qin established their rule throughout China.

The Qin Dynasty

The Qin dynasty, also known as the Ch'in dynasty, replaced the Zhou and ruled over China for only fourteen years, from 221 BCE to 207 BCE. The Qin dynasty actually developed as a state within the Zhou dynasty, starting in the 4th century BCE. Slowly, the Qin reformed its government, economy, and legal code to model the recommendations of the philosopher, Hanfeizi, the father of Legalism. The Qin government posted their laws in plain view for all citizens to see, enforced very harsh punishments to those who dared break the law, and made exceptions for no one. Soon, the Qin state grew very powerful and in 221 BCE officially seized power from Zhou rulers.



The Qin dynasty only had one ruler, Emperor Qin, and he is often remembered for his tyrannic and cruel nature. However, while greatly feared by his people, Emperor Qin is the reason the Qin dynasty was able to supplant the Zhou. Late in the Zhou period the people lacked effective leadership. Everyday life had become extremely dysfunctional; crime rates were high and battles frequently broke out among ruling families over who had the true “mandate” to rule. The Qin state brought stability to China when it needed it the most.

Like the Zhou dynasty before it, the Qin enjoyed the use of iron goods, however now they became stronger and even more durable. Since the Qin only lasted for a little over a decade, there was not much time for the dynasty to develop its own style of weaponry. Therefore, the Qin used much of the same technology available to the Zhou. Soldiers of the Qin dynasty used iron swords and daggers, as well as armor, helmets, and armor guards for their horses.

The Qin dynasty is remembered for many advancements and achievements, such as creating a standard for Chinese writing and currency. Before the Qin, a variety of different languages and forms of coinage were found throughout China. Now, China became much more unified with only one form of communication and one type of currency. The Qin is also famous for its extensive network of roads and canals that helped the provinces communicate more effectively.

However, the greatest achievement of the Qin dynasty was the construction of the Great Wall of China. During Emperor Qin’s reign he faced constant threat from the invading Xiongnu people (Mongols) to the north. The invading Mongols were seizing land in the Yellow River Valley and Qin was determined to put an end to it, so he sent over one million laborers to build a wall in northern China. This project was built mainly by common people and criminals through forced labor; the wall would take nine years to complete as they constantly had to battle Mongols during construction. However, the Great Wall that we see today was not entirely built by Emperor Qin; he is only responsible for a smaller section that is actually south of the current wall.

The downfall of the Qin dynasty is directly linked to the downfall of their one and only emperor. Despite uniting China, most people of China hated Emperor Qin. Their ruler burned books, lived a lavish lifestyle, and followed a very strict Legalist code. As the emperor aged he became paranoid about death. He hired doctors and scientists to make a variety of medicines that the emperor hoped would make him immortal. Many of the medicines contained mercury, a metal that is very toxic. Eventually, Emperor Qin lost his mind. He even ordered his tomb be surrounded by soldiers made of terra cotta; these clay soldiers would guard him for all of eternity. China fell into chaos upon the death of Emperor Qin in 210 BCE. A brief rebellion resulted in the Han dynasty seizing power.

The Han Dynasty

The Han dynasty replaced the Qin and ruled over China for 426 years, from 206 BCE to 220 CE. This dynasty ruled over an extremely vast territory, stretching much further into the south and west than any other previous dynasty. Today, most Chinese live within the boundaries of the once- great Han Dynasty. In fact, 92% of all Chinese people today consider themselves part of the “Han people.” This is also seen in the Chinese language: most is made up of what is called “Han characters.” While it had its missteps, the Han dynasty is often referred to as the greatest period of Chinese history.



The Han dynasty seized control of China following the death of Emperor Qin. However, it was not clear who would be its first emperor. Two leaders within the Han eventually warred over who would rule the dynasty: Liu Bang and Xiang Yu. At the Battle of Gaixia, Liu Bang emerged victorious and assumed the title of emperor. Today, he is also referred to as Emperor Gaozu. His first challenge as emperor was to end the Mongol invasions that plagued the Qin. Gaozu’s plan was threefold: continue work on the Great Wall and choose families through a lottery system to move to the northern border. The hope was that this settlement would discourage the Mongols from invading. The third option was to negotiate a deal with the Mongols: the Han would offer silk in exchange for peace.

Like the Zhou and Qin dynasties before it, the Han also enjoyed the use of iron goods, however now they also began to experiment with steel. Today, many Han artifacts have been recovered that help us learn more about the Han military. Weapons of the Han dynasty consisted mainly of knives, swords, spears, battle-axes, and halberds. Han cavalry members also enjoyed the use of a revamped and more effective crossbow. Armor was provided for all of the horses in the Han cavalry instead of only those ridden by the generals, as was done in the Qin dynasty.

The Han dynasty is remembered for many advancements and achievements, such as creating one of the first forms of paper. This paper was much thicker than what is found today and was made of bark, hemp, and wheat stalks. Also, Han scientists experimented with a new method of relieving pain and mental stress known as acupuncture. Too, the Han understood many advanced scientific concepts: they created a seismograph to measure the strength of earthquakes and were the first to launch a hot air balloon. While introducing these high-tech ideas, the Han also created many simple tools, such as the wheelbarrow, glazed pottery, stirrups for a horse saddle, and were among the first to create weaved clothing.

However, the greatest achievement of the Han dynasty was in its transformation of government. Prior to the Han, emperors routinely gave government positions to friends and family members. For example, it was common for an emperor to name his nephew as governor of one of China’s provinces. The quality of China’s government personnel became very lackluster; corruption was common, and leaders were incompetent. Embracing the Confucian teachings of the time, the Han implemented a rigorous civil service exam that all government workers had to pass. Instead of being chosen through special or inherited privileges, prospective applicants would now be chosen based on their abilities.

The downfall of the Han dynasty occurred in the early 3rd century as a result of taxation. Many wealthy landowners evaded paying taxes on their land and this resulted in the lower classes taking on the burden. Soon, the people revolted and the empire fractured into three distinct sections. The “Three Kingdoms” period would mark the next sixty years, and would forever be known as the bloodiest time in Chinese history.

Comparing the Dynasties Graphic Organizer

Dynasty Time period	What was the reason for their rise to power?	Inventions, achievements and discoveries.	What was the reason for their decline and loss of power?
SHANG <hr/> To <hr/>			
ZHOU <hr/> To <hr/>			
QIN <hr/> To <hr/>			
HAN <hr/> To <hr/>			

****Extension** – Which Dynasty was most interesting to you and why. Give evidence from the reading **

Ancient Chinese Philosophies

Directions: Please read about the three most important ancient Chinese philosophies. Use the information you learn to complete the worksheets on pages 23 – 26.

Confucianism

Confucianism is an ethical and philosophical system based on the teachings of the Chinese philosopher Confucius. This system has come to play a large role in Chinese government and in everyday life. In fact, today, Confucius' teachings have influenced much of eastern Asia, such as Taiwan, Hong Kong, Japan, Korea, and Vietnam. Today, it is estimated that around 5 million people follow the teachings of Confucius.

Confucius, also known as Kong Qiu, was a Chinese teacher, politician, and philosopher who was born in the year 551 B.C.E. A poor and humble man most of his life, Confucius devoted his life to study at the age of fifteen. In his twenties, Confucius became a respected teacher and traveled throughout China to educate the sons of the noble class. But, Confucius saw problems everywhere in Chinese society; land was divided among feudal lords, the morals of the people were in decay, and respect for long-standing Chinese traditions were slowly fading.

To fix China's problems, Confucius knew that reforms had to start from the government and work their way down to the people. Confucius dreamed of one day serving as an advisor to a powerful ruler. He believed that, by giving the right advice, he could create an ideal world in which to live.

In 501 B.C.E., there was an opening for the governor of a small town in the state of Lu, and Confucius saw this as an opportunity to influence the change he wanted to see in the world. Confucius had built up a strong reputation through his teachings, and administrators of the Lu state began to take notice. He was appointed to this position and quickly rose the ranks to higher public offices. Confucius' service had a great impact on Chinese government. Above all else, Confucius believed it was essential to hire men who were honest, fair, and of good character to government positions. But, what exactly did Confucius teach?

QUOTE - "...those who preside over the people should cherish the dearest aims and give the most correct lessons, honoring the requirements of humanity by loving the people as their sons; then the people will use their utmost efforts to please their superiors."

generosity - the quality of being kind and demonstrating a willingness to give to others

obligation - an act that someone feels morally or legally bound to do

permeate – to spread throughout

Confucius was quick to explain that his teachings were not a religion, but rather a set of principles on which to live. Li, the first principle, stated that people should show courtesy and respect toward others, especially one's elders. The second principle, Jen, represents the heart of Confucius' teachings. Jen emphasizes the need to show concern for others. No matter their rank in society, Confucius stressed that everyone should be valued and respected for what they have to offer. The third concept, Chun-Tzu, is the idea of the true gentleman. Chun-Tzu states that all people should live according to the highest standards. People must have self-respect, and show **generosity**, sincerity, and kindness toward others. If all people would live by these three principles, Confucius believed, then all of China would be ruled by harmony.

To make this easier for people to understand and follow, Confucius encouraged people to recognize the five relationships in the world. In each relationship, Confucius said it was essential to pay respect and obey those above you. In return, those with authority have a special **obligation** to set a good example for how to live. In addition to the five relationships, all people must respect their elders. Here are the five relationships that Confucius said govern the world. Can you determine who would be “above” in each relationship? Circle the one that you think it would be!

- 1.) ruler and subject
- 2.) husband and wife
- 3.) father and son
- 4.) older sibling and younger sibling
- 5.) friend and friend

QUOTE - “Children owe a duty of obedience to their fathers, and men to their rulers. However, this is a reciprocal obligation. The father had a responsibility to his children, and the ruler to his subjects. He must put their interests first.”

Confucius’ teachings played a large role in how the Chinese government would operate under the Han Dynasty. Specifically, the teachings influenced how civil servants, or government workers, would be chosen. Instead of being chosen through special or inherited privileges (as was before Confucius), prospective applicants would now be chosen based on their abilities.

The civil service examination was a method to hire qualified men in order to fill the thousands of government positions that were needed to run the empire effectively. Men had to show proficiency in music, arithmetic and horsemanship, as well as have an understanding of civil law, taxation, and geography. By the year 1370 C.E. the exams proved to be effective; during the Ming Dynasty, around 47% of those who passed the exam were from families who had no connections to the emperor.

Today, Chinese culture still stresses many of the same Confucian values that were first stressed in this time. In fact, a handful of schools in China are returning to a more traditional approach and are teaching Confucian values. The Analects of Confucius, which are a collection of sayings and ideas written by Confucius, are required reading in many early college courses. Confucian values have **permeated** Chinese society with the value placed on pride, honor, and the importance not to “lose face.” To “lose face” means to lose honor and respect, and no Chinese wishes to be put in that position.

Today, many societies have a sort of “golden rule” which can also be traced back to Confucius. Typically, this rule is translated to mean something along the lines of: “Treat others the way you wish to be treated.” It was Confucius who said, ““What you do not wish for yourself, do not do to others.”

Taoism

Taoism, also spelled Daoism, is an ethical and philosophical tradition based on the teachings of the Chinese philosopher and poet Laozi. While the Chinese government has tried to suppress Taoism throughout history, the teachings of this philosophy have remained strong. Today, Taoism is practiced mainly in two countries: China and Taiwan. It is estimated that around 20 million people follow the teachings of Laozi, and most followers practice Taoism in conjunction with Confucianism.

Laozi, also known as Lao-Tzu, was a Chinese philosopher and poet who was born in the year 604 B.C.E. in the province of Henan, China. Henan is in north-central of modern day China. Much of Laozi's life is a mystery as so little is known about him. As a young adult, Laozi held a government post as the Keeper of the Archives at the Zhou court. This position gave Laozi access to China's greatest classics, and he became very well versed in Chinese philosophy and other famous works of literature. Laozi's access to these materials encouraged him to share what he learned to others. Slowly, Laozi gained a group of followers who enjoyed hearing his take on these famous works.

Over time, Laozi became troubled by what he saw throughout China's empire; he recognized that the empire around him was falling into despair. Corruption was everywhere, and Laozi grew weary of the moral decay he witnessed among the Chinese people. After a spiritual awakening, Laozi quit his government job and decided to leave the empire altogether. According to Chinese legend, Laozi rode a water buffalo to the western frontier and disappeared forever. But, just before he left the empire, Laozi was stopped by a **sentry** at China's western border. It was here where Taoism was born.

Yinxi, the guard stationed at the western gate, recognized Laozi and ordered him to stop. Before he could pass, Yinxi asked Laozi to record his wisdom into a book to better help China's future generations. This book would go on to be called the Tao Te Ching, and it would form the basis of Taoism.

sentry - a soldier stationed to keep guard or to control access to a place

Yin and yang -represent the constant balance that exists in nature. Also, the principle of cycling is apparent. Can you see it?

iconic - relating to the nature of an icon; something that is easily recognizable

QUOTE- "Life is a series of natural and spontaneous changes. Don't resist them - that only creates sorrow. Let reality be reality. Let things flow naturally forward in whatever way they like."

Like Confucianism, Taoism is not a religion but rather a set of principles that seek to guide one's life, choices, and behavior. In the end, Taoism teaches a way of life that is based around harmonious living. However truly understanding Taoism can be a difficult chore. In fact, Laozi recognized this when he stated how it is impossible to truly define Tao:

"The Tao that can be told is not the eternal Tao."

Taoism is based around the “Tao”, or translated to mean “The Way” or “The Path.” The Tao is the basis of all living things, it governs all of nature, and it is a method by which to live. To truly understand what Tao is, one must come to understand the four main principles of Taoism: oneness, balance, cycling, and harmony.

The four principles of Taoism are:

- 1.) Because the Tao is the essence of all things, nature and the observer of nature are one. The Tao creates all things and ends all things. This is called oneness.
- 2.) Life and nature are always in constant balance. This is best symbolized by the yin and yang; white balances black just like lightness balances darkness and the heat is balanced by the cold. This is called balance.
- 3.) Just as life is always in balance, it is also in constant cycle. The sun is replaced by the moon just as the moon is then replaced by the sun. Too, death will be replaced by new life. This is called cycling.
- 4.) Life is constantly changing and will present unknown circumstances. It is important to be flexible. Imagine a piece of grass in the wind. It overcomes the wind because it yields to it. If it were too stiff it would break. This is called harmony.

Taoism had great influence on a variety of dynasties and emperors since the time of Laozi. However, the first organized Taoist movement saw opposition during the Han Dynasty. A rebellion known as the Five Pecks of Rice Rebellion eventually led to a separate Taoist state in China known as the Zhang Han state, but it was only temporary.

Taoism became more popular and accepted during the reign of the Tang Dynasty in the 8th and 9th centuries B.C.E. In fact, many emperors claimed that Laozi was a distant relative. The glorification of Laozi continued into the 10th, 11th, 12th, and 13th centuries with the establishment of the Song Dynasty. Song emperors were very active in promoting Taoists teachings and philosophy. But, by the time of the 18th century Taoism had fallen out of favor.

Today, Taoist culture still thrives throughout modern day China and Taiwan. In China, Taoist priests, known as daoshi, continue to study the teachings and works of Laozi. Too, many Taoist traditions and values are still visible in Chinese culture. Not only is the “yin and yang” still an **iconic** image, but many of the martial arts are rooted in Taoist tradition. Feng shui, or the process of harmonizing one’s home or office by rearranging furniture to help with energy flow, is also of Taoist origin.

QUOTE - “Be content with what you have; rejoice in the way things are. When you realize there is nothing lacking, the whole world belongs to you.”

Legalism

Legalism is a philosophy that followed a very different path than that of Confucianism or Taoism. All three of China's philosophies sought to create a peaceful and harmonious society, however Legalism presented a radical departure. This Chinese philosophy was created by a man named Han Fei (or Han Feizi). Other than a brief stint with Emperor Qin and the Qin Dynasty, Legalism as a whole was not a successful political philosophy in ancient China.

The origins of Legalism are unclear; this philosophy was created from a variety of different ideas that influenced Chinese emperors as early as the 7th century B.C.E. However, it was Han Fei who compiled the various strands and created what we know as Legalism in the 3rd Century B.C.E.

Early in his life, Han Fei became very knowledgeable on Confucian teachings. His teacher, Hsun-tzu, was a devout Confucianist as well, and he taught Han Fei that people could be guided toward goodness. He stressed to Han Fei the importance of kindness, respect toward elders, and generosity toward others. However, according to popular belief, Han Fei was dismayed by what he saw in the world. People were morally corrupt, communities were being ravaged by outsiders, and individuals were hurting their neighbors to gain an advantage in the world. Han Fei believed something had to change.

Han Fei's attitude toward human nature started to shift; he was convinced that people were naturally evil and only acted in ways that would promote their self-interest. If given the chance, Han Fei claimed, people would betray their neighbor if it meant they themselves would go free. To sum it up, Han Fei believed that humans were inclined toward criminal and selfish behavior. It was in this environment that the philosophy of Legalism was born.

QUOTE - "It is dangerous for a ruler to trust others. He who trusts others can be manipulated by others."

Unlike Confucianism or Taoism, Legalism did not seek to answer questions about the purpose or nature of life. Instead, Legalism argued that in order to create a peaceful society, there had to be an emphasis on strict obedience to laws. People were so bad, and so evil, that a strong government needed to enforce strict laws. If the government did this, Han Fei believed, the people would "fall in line."

Han Fei believed that a ruler needed to follow three simple steps in order to be effective. The three steps are law, method, and legitimacy.

First, Han Fei said the law code must be clearly written and posted in public for all to see. The law should reward those who follow it, while it should severely punish those break it. Punishments should be severe and must be enforced. Han Fei stressed that the law is what should run the state, not the ruler. If the law is successfully enforced, a weak ruler will instantly be a strong one. This is law.

Second, Han Fei stated that rulers should take special precautions to make sure others do not seize control of the state. Rulers should be hard to figure out and their actions cannot be predictable. No one should be able to know the rulers true motivations for his decisions because they may seek to use this to their advantage. This is called method.

Finally, rulers must understand that it is the position of the ruler that holds the real power. Rulers must strictly enforce laws to protect the position and reinforce their legitimacy to rule. Also, **civil servants** who do poor quality work should be punished. This further commands the authority of the ruler. This is legitimacy.

Legalism became popular for only a brief moment in China's history, during the Qin Dynasty in the 3rd century B.C.E. In fact, Han Fei was poisoned by a former classmate, Li Si, who helped the Second Qin Emperor gain the throne. Ironically though, Li Si was executed since Legalism also taught that no person could escape punishment for a crime. The emphasis on punishing even minor violations encouraged Qin rulers to maintain a civilian-led mutual surveillance system over one another.

While Legalism was eventually discredited and failed to play a significant role in later dynasties, many still believe that Legalist ideals have emerged in mainstream Chinese politics. For example, in 1973 Chairman Mao Zedong launched an aggressive campaign against his political opponents. In the campaign he identified himself with the first emperor of China, Emperor Qin, perhaps the most strict adherent of Legalist thought.

Forms of Legalist torture?

"...a fortunate offender would only lose his ears..."

"...for capital punishment (death penalty) they would use the 'cut and kill' method. The body would be divided into a number of pieces (or cuts) based on the crime... 8, 24, 36, 72, or even 120 pieces...the jailer would start with the eyebrows, then the feet, hands, the arms, the legs, and finally the heart...the more the cuts means the jailer starts with smaller body parts, the purpose to make the criminal suffer longer"

"...limbs would be broken and forced to heal in awkward positions..."

"...some would be sentenced to hard labor for life...some had their names and crimes tattooed on their face..."

QUOTE - "Only an intelligent ruler is capable of applying heavy punishments to light offenses. If light offenses carry heavy punishments, one can imagine what will be done against a serious offense. Thus, the people will not dare to break the laws." - **Han Fei**

Comparing Perspectives in Three Chinese Philosophies

Directions: Below are seven scenarios that many teens deal with. How would you respond to each situation as a scholar of the three philosophies? Write your answers in the grid.

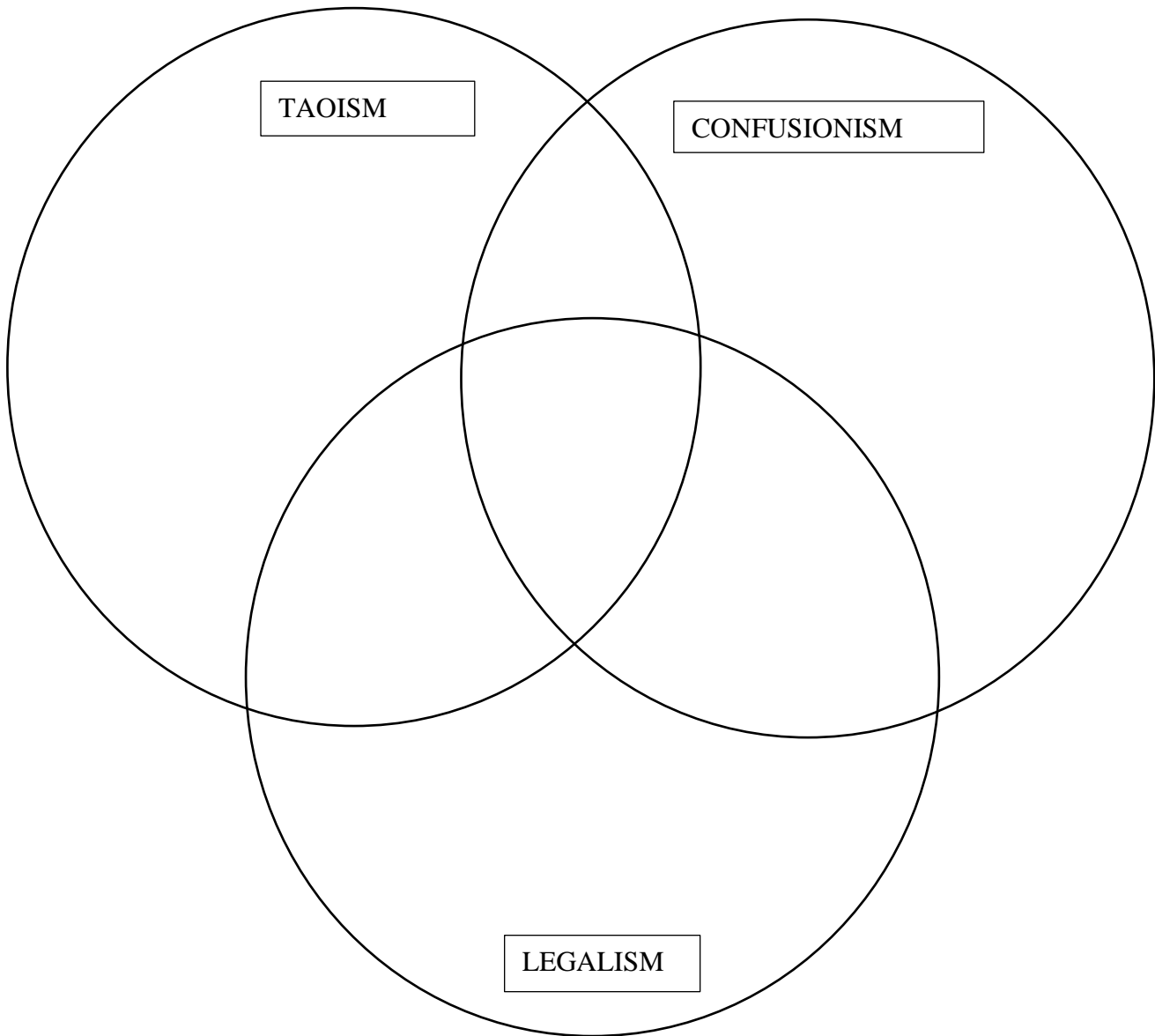
Philosophy	1. A student knows that she is failing a class. She must tell her parents. How can she expect her parents to respond?
Confucianism	
Taoism	
Legalism	
Philosophy	2. A student's friends smoke and are trying to get him to start. What should the student tell his friends?
Confucianism	
Taoism	
Legalism	

Philosophy	3. A student has found \$20 in the hallway next to the principal's office. What should she do and why?
Confucianism	
Taoism	
Legalism	
Philosophy	4. Student A really likes a new kid at school, but other kids are making fun of his clothes. What should student A tell his friends and how should he expect them to respond?
Confucianism	
Taoism	
Legalism	
Philosophy	5. A student knows that her friend is cheating on school tests. How should she act towards her friend? Should she tell a teacher?
Confucianism	

Taoism	
Legalism	
Philosophy	6. A student sees an opportunity to take something he really wants with only a small chance of getting caught. Should he take it? Why or why not?
Confucianism	
Taoism	
Legalism	
Philosophy	7. A student spills ink all over her friend's brand new, expensive tablet. How should the friend react? What should the student do?
Confucianism	
Taoism	
Legalism	

The Three Philosophies of Ancient China

Directions – Fill in the three circles to show how the three ancient philosophies of China are similar and different. Shared ideas should go in the shared portions of the circles, while unique or different ideas are only in the one circle.



****Extension** – Play the game Yong’s China Quest – which level did you get to? How did you do it? <https://www.mylearning.org/resources/yongs-china-quest-adventure-game-level-1>

The Silk Road

Directions: Read about the following items and use the information to complete the graphic organizer on pages 29 – 30 about trade along Ancient China’s Silk Road.

Buddhism - Historians estimate that Buddhism, a belief system and way of life centered around true happiness being obtained by eliminating personal cravings, originated in northern India around the fifth century BCE. Founded by Siddhartha Gautama, Buddhism migrated to Central Asia by the first century BCE; from here, it was spread by its followers along the Silk Road until it reached China around the year 100 CE. The majority of Chinese had adopted Buddhism by the fourth century CE, and soon Buddhist monasteries would adorn the path between India and China. The spread of Buddhism to China is likely the most significant impact of the Silk Road; however, Indian traders sent a variety of other goods such as spices, dyes, stones, and ivory across the Silk Road from Asia to Europe.



Porcelain: The Silk Road was founded by traders from Europe and western Asia who hoped to obtain the rare and secretive silk fabric that only the Chinese knew how to create. According to legend, the Goddess of Silk, Lady Hsi-Ling-Shih, is credited with discovering the process for rearing the silkworm and weaving the silk into a usable cloth. In addition to silk, the Chinese also created the thinnest and most delicate porcelain. Travelers established the Silk Road to trade for these two goods -- they would bring horses, rugs, blankets, and furs among many other products. In addition to trading away silk and porcelain, the Chinese also traded away paper, bronze mirrors, and collapsible umbrellas.



Bactrian Camel: The Bactrian camel originated in the ancient country of Bactria in southwestern Asia. The capital of Bactria was Bactra, and it was a major stop along the Silk Road. Evidence suggests that these camels reached China around the first century BCE and were highly sought after by the Chinese. Bactrian camels were particularly attractive because of their ability to traverse long distances without food or water, something that was necessary to cross the deserts of Asia. Along with the Bactrian camel, people living in central and western Asia traded woolen clothing, gold, silver, and a variety of exotic fruits such as watermelon, peaches, and cantaloupe.



Fur: Only a few records exist of Roman traders appearing in Chinese markets, or of Chinese merchants ever visiting Rome. However, Roman and northern European goods still traveled to China via the Silk Road due to their high value. For example, fur was a very valuable commodity throughout the world (including in China), and the Roman Empire was a great source of it. Lion, cheetah, and leopard fur were among the most commonly exported furs by Romans and northern Europeans. Other western goods flooded eastern markets too, such as iron tools and weapons, honey, and even slaves. Like those in central Asia, Africa, and Arabia, silk was highly sought after by Europeans, and these goods helped procure it.



Glass Bottles: Word of Chinese silk reached the bustling markets of Alexandria, Egypt and, like in other territories, traders made the journey east with their most-prized goods. Egypt was the world leader in perfumes and glass bottles, both of which were highly regarded around the world. Egyptian perfumes combined the oils of a variety of natural plants and herbs such as myrrh, cinnamon, henna, and cassia. Perfumes were stored in glass bottles made from a combination of crushed quartz pebbles and plant ashes; this mixture was heated in clay pots to create a formable glass blob. While perfume and glassware were popular trade items that came out of Alexandria, the Egyptians also produced cotton linens, dyed fabrics, and blankets.



Rugs: The Persian Empire, located in the Middle East, specialized in a variety of products that adorned the Silk Road; of particular demand to the Chinese were Persian rugs. Rug weaving first took hold in the Persian Empire around 529 BCE when it was introduced by their ruler, Cyrus the Great. Rugs were made by hand in small villages throughout the empire with various designs and colors. Eventually, weaving workshops were created to inspire artisans to create larger products like carpets and tapestries (a thick piece of fabric hung from a wall and used as art). These designs soon cemented themselves as the fashion of the Middle East and the Chinese grew interested; eventually Persian music, clothing, and food all made their way to China.



Name _____

Period _____

TRAVELLING ALONG THE SILK ROAD

Directions: As you navigate the Silk Road gallery, complete each box to learn what items were traded along the ancient Silk Road. Then, complete the six overarching questions on the back!

The map shows the Silk Road route from the Mediterranean coast (Venice & Rome) through the Black Sea, Byzantium (Constantinople), Alexandria, Arabia, Bactra, Kabul, Pamir, Kashi, Taklamakan Desert, Horan, Dunhuang, Kunlun Mines, Gobi Desert, Great Wall, and Chang'an in China. It also shows the Caspian Sea, Aral Sea, and Indian subcontinent.

<p>_____ originated in the Roman Empire and Northern Europe.</p> <p>This region also traded: _____, _____, _____, _____, and _____.</p> <p>Sketch an image of it here: _____</p>	<p>_____ originated in Western Asia</p> <p>This region also traded: _____, _____, _____, _____, and _____.</p> <p>Sketch an image of it here: _____</p>	<p>_____ originated in China and East Asia.</p> <p>This region also traded: _____, _____, _____, _____, and _____.</p> <p>Sketch an image of it here: _____</p>
<p>_____ originated in Egypt.</p> <p>This region also traded: _____, _____, _____, _____, and _____.</p> <p>Sketch an image of it here: _____</p>	<p>_____ originated in the Middle East.</p> <p>This region also traded: _____, _____, _____, _____, and _____.</p> <p>Sketch an image of it here: _____</p>	<p>_____ originated in India.</p> <p>This region also traded: _____, _____, _____, _____, and _____.</p> <p>Sketch an image of it here: _____</p>

Q: What led to the establishment of the Silk Road?

Q: What was the greatest impact of the Silk Road?

Q: Where did Bactrian camels come from, and why did the Chinese want them?

Q: In what ways does the Silk Road represent a bridge between East and West?

Q: Why do you think the Chinese kept silk production a secret?

Q: Who do you think benefited the most by the Silk Road: the East, West, or Everyone? Why?

Build a Pagoda Activity

Directions – Use these important facts to complete the Pagoda on the following three pages. Create and decorate your pagoda and be prepared to present it to your peers.

China is positioned between the Gobi Desert and the Taklamakan Desert in the north and west, the Pacific Ocean to the east, and Himalaya Mountains in the south.

China developed its culture independently, with little influence from other civilizations.

The Yellow River to the north and the Yangtze River to the south provided fresh water, food, fertile soil, and transportation.

Three major religions or philosophies helped to shape Ancient China. Known as the Three Ways, they are: Taoism, Confucianism, and Buddhism.

Taoism - Founded during the Zhou Dynasty in the 6th century by Lao-Tzu. Taoism promotes oneness with nature and has little interest in rules or government.

Confucianism - The philosopher Confucius was born in 551 BC. He developed a system for moral living. Confucius' teachings focus on treating others honorably, politely and respectfully.

Buddhism - Buddha was born in Nepal in 563 BC. Buddhists believe people are reborn after death, and that the cycle of rebirth is complete once a person lives a proper life and their soul enters nirvana.

The Ancient Chinese were technologically advanced and are credited with many important inventions and engineering feats.

SILK – Soft, light material made from the cocoons of silkworms. It was a valuable export.

PAPER - Invented by the Chinese in the 2nd century BC.

PRINTING - Wood block printing was invented in 868 AD. Moveable type was invented around 1000 AD.

THE COMPASS - The magnetic compass was a device which became very important for navigation and exploration.

GUNPOWDER – Invented in the 9th century. The Chinese also developed fireworks using gunpowder.

ENGINEERING FEATS - The Great Wall of China is a system walls and fortifications that is more than 13,000 miles long. The Great Wall is a well-known symbol of China and its great history.

Ancient China's political system was dominated by a series of dynasties.

A dynasty is a family that rules a country for a long period of time.

The head of the family is usually named emperor, and when that ruler dies, another member of the family takes over.

If a new family takes control, a new dynasty begins.

The economy of Ancient China was mainly agricultural (most people made a living by farming).

Most Chinese farmers did not own their own land. They worked as sharecroppers or renters on a richer family's land. As part of this agreement the farmers gave a portion of what they grew to the family that owned the land.

After about 500 BC, the Chinese began to trade with the other people of Asia, along the Silk Road. China traded items like silk, tea, and porcelain for horses, gold, silver, carpets, glass, and steel.

Ancient China had a hierarchical social structure. This means that people in China that were divided into classes.

The Emperor was at the top of the Chinese social pyramid. The emperor was the wealthiest and most respected member of Chinese society.

Beneath the emperor, there were four major social classes in ancient China:

- Shi – Gentry Scholars
- Nong – Peasant Farmers
- Gong – Artisans and Craftsmen
- Shang – Merchants and Traders

****Extension** – Watch this video tour of Xi'an China. Write a 6-8 sentences about what interested you in the video. Attach it to the back of your Pagoda.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QLciJq4QO4k> **

Name: _____

ANCIENT CHINA

GEOGRAPHY

China is positioned between the _____
and the _____ in the _____ and
_____, the _____ to the _____, and
_____ in the _____.

<p>China developed its _____ _____, with _____ influence from other civilizations.</p>	<p>The _____ to the _____ and the _____ to the _____ provided fresh water, food, fertile soil, and transportation.</p>
--	--

DOODLE TASK
Doodle something that
the rivers provided.

RELIGION

_____ major religions or philosophies helped to shape Ancient China. Known as the _____,
they are: _____, _____, and _____.

<p>Taoism - Founded during the _____ Dynasty in the _____ century by _____. Taoism promotes _____ and has little interest in rules or government.</p>	<p>Confucianism - The philosopher _____ was born in _____. He developed a _____ for _____ _____. Confucius' teachings focus on _____, _____, _____ and _____.</p>	<p>Buddhism - _____ was born in Nepal in _____. Buddhists believe people are _____, and that the cycle of rebirth is complete once a person lives a _____ and their soul enters _____.</p>
--	--	---

DOODLE TASK
Rewrite one of Confucius's sayings in a doodlely way.

- Forget injuries, never forget kindnesses.
- When anger rises, think of the consequences.
- Everything has its beauty but not everyone sees it.

GLUE HERE

ACHIEVEMENTS

The ancient Chinese were _____ and are credited with many _____ and _____.

INVENTIONS

Silk

Soft, _____
_____ made
from the _____
of _____. It
was a valuable
_____.

Paper

invented by the
Chinese in the
_____.

Printing

_____ was
invented in _____.
_____ was
invented around
_____.

The Compass

The _____
_____ was a
device which became very
important for _____
and _____.

Gunpowder

Invented in the
_____.
The Chinese also
developed _____
using gunpowder.

Engineering Feats—The Great Wall of China is a system of _____ and _____
that is more than _____. The Great Wall is a well-known _____ and its great history.

DOODLE TASK

Doodle a sketch of one of the inventions or engineering feats from ancient China.

POLITICS

- Ancient China's political system was dominated by a series of _____.
- A dynasty is a _____ that _____ for a _____.
- The head of the family is usually named _____, and when that ruler _____, another member of the _____.
- If a _____ family takes _____, a _____ begins.

DOODLE TASK

Doodle the word dynasty to represent its meaning.

Back of Pagoda pg. 2

GLUE HERE

ECONOMICS

The _____ of Ancient China was mainly _____ (most people made a living by _____).

Most Chinese farmers did _____ their own land. They worked as _____ or _____ on a richer family's land. As part of this agreement the farmers gave a _____ of what they grew to the _____ that _____ the land.

After about _____, the Chinese began to _____ with the other people of Asia, along the _____. China traded items like _____, _____, and _____ for horses, gold, silver, carpets, glass, and steel.

DOODLE TASK

Doodle a symbol to represent ancient's China's economy.

SOCIAL STRUCTURES

▶ Ancient China had a _____ social structure. This means that people in China that were divided into _____.

▶ The _____ was at the _____ of the Chinese social pyramid. The emperor was the _____ and most _____ member of Chinese society.

Beneath the emperor, there were _____ major social classes in ancient China:

Shi-

Nong-

Gong-

Shang-

Back of Pagoda pg. 3

Cumulative Review

Use this map to answer questions 1-8:



- 1.) Place a "1" in the area of the Tibetan Plateau
- 2.) Place a "2" in the Gobi Desert
- 3.) Place a "3" in the area of Chang Jiang River
- 4.) Place a "4" in the area of the North China Plain
- 5.) Place a "5" in the area of the Taklamakan Desert
- 6.) Place a "6" in the area of the Northeastern Plain
- 7.) Place a "7" in the area of the Huang He River
- 8.) Place an "8" in the area of the Chang Jiang Basin

MULTIPLE CHOICE

- 9.) Which of the following is another name for the Huang He River:
- a. Yellow River
 - b. Long River
 - c. Yangtze River
 - d. Brown River
- 10.) The most populated region throughout China's history is:
- a. Tibetan Plateau
 - b. Gobi Desert
 - c. Northeastern Plain
 - d. North China Plain

The Chinese Philosophies:

- 11.) All three of China's philosophy had one goal – what was it?
- a. To make people believe in their religion
 - b. To find a way to have a peaceful society
 - c. To make people friendly to each other
 - d. To have people enjoy life
- 12.) The philosophy that stresses strict rules with harsh punishment is known as:
- a. Confucianism
 - b. Legalism
 - c. Daoism
 - d. Buddhism
- 13.) The philosophy that encourages people to “take life as it comes.” It also stresses that when times are bad – smile – because eventually there will be good times.
- a. Legalism
 - b. Confucianism
 - c. Buddhism
 - d. Daoism
- 14.) This philosophy states that all people should respect their elders, and honor the relationships they are in. They also stress that it is the elders duty to teach the young how act honorably.
- a. Confucianism
 - b. Legalism
 - c. Daoism
 - d. Buddhism

The Dynasties:

- 15.) Which of the following best describes the Mandate of Heaven?
- The belief that God ruled over each dynasty
 - The belief that rulers had to return to heaven (to ask for advice) before making important decisions
 - The belief that God gave the rulers permission to rule
 - The belief that the people were in control of their own dynasty
- 16.) Which dynasty is famous for inventing paper?
- Han
 - Shang
 - Qin
 - Zhou
- 17.) Which dynasty is famous for its ceramics and pottery?
- Han
 - Shang
 - Qin
 - Zhou
- 18.) Which dynasty invented the idea of the Mandate of Heaven?
- Han
 - Shang
 - Qin
 - Zhou
- 19.) Which dynasty was inspired heavily by Confucianism?
- Han
 - Shang
 - Qin
 - Zhou
- 20.) Which dynasty followed strict Legalist rules and punishments?
- Han
 - Shang
 - Qin
 - Zhou
- 21.) Which dynasty is famous for first using/creating silk?
- Han
 - Shang
 - Qin
 - Zhou

- 22.) Which dynasty is known for lasting only around 15 years?
- a. Han
 - b. Shang
 - c. Qin
 - d. Zhou
- 23.) Which dynasty is known for **starting** the Great Wall of China?
- a. Han
 - b. Shang
 - c. Qin
 - d. Zhou
- 24.) Which dynasty is known for expanding the Great Wall of China to what we see today?
- a. Han
 - b. Shang
 - c. Qin
 - d. Zhou
- 25.) Which dynasty chose government workers (civil servants) based on ability, instead of “who they were”?
- a. Han
 - b. Shang
 - c. Qin
 - d. Zhou

TRUE/FALSE

- 26.) The Gobi Desert is referred to as the desert where “once you go in, you may never come out”
- a. True
 - b. False
- 27.) The Great Wall of China was built to protect from the Xiongnu people.
- a. True
 - b. False
- 28.) Qin soldiers had to worry about fighting the Xiongnu people they built the Great Wall.
- a. True
 - b. False
- 29.) The Chinese government refused to move peasants to their northern border for fear of them being attacked.
- a. True
 - b. False

- 30.) The Han traded (or bribed) the Xiongnu with large amounts of silk.
a. True
b. False
- 31.) Work on the Great Wall was voluntary and typically only the richest men participated.
a. True
b. False
- 32.) The Han Dynasty were the first to launch a hot-air balloon.
a. True
b. False
- 33.) Confucius and Laozi both lived during the Zhou period.
a. True
b. False
- 34.) The Shang dynasty believed strongly in the teachings of Legalism.
a. True
b. False
- 35.) Most of China's history only deals with Outer China.
a. True
b. False

SHORT ANSWER

- 36.) Explain how the geography impacted peoples' lives in the Tibetan Plateau?

- 37.) Explain how the geography impacted peoples' lives in the Taklamakan Desert?

38.) Explain how the origin of the term the “Yellow River?”

39.) What is Confucianism? Explain what Confucius taught, how he sought the find peace in the world, and the 5 major relationships he saw in the world.

40.) Explain how the Dynastic Cycle works and the role the Mandate of Heaven plays in it:
