



Ancient China

The first settlers of China lived in the Yellow River Valley. The farmers grew crops. Men made silk. They used clay to make dishes and pots. Mountains along the borders kept them apart from other nations. So, there was not much trade.

The first culture was under the Xia (she-AH) dynasty (DIE-nuhs-tee). A dynasty is one family. It holds all the power in a nation. The Xia ruled for 400 years.

The Shang Dynasty

The Shang dynasty came next. It ruled for 600 years. The Shang people worked with bronze. They made tools and wheels.

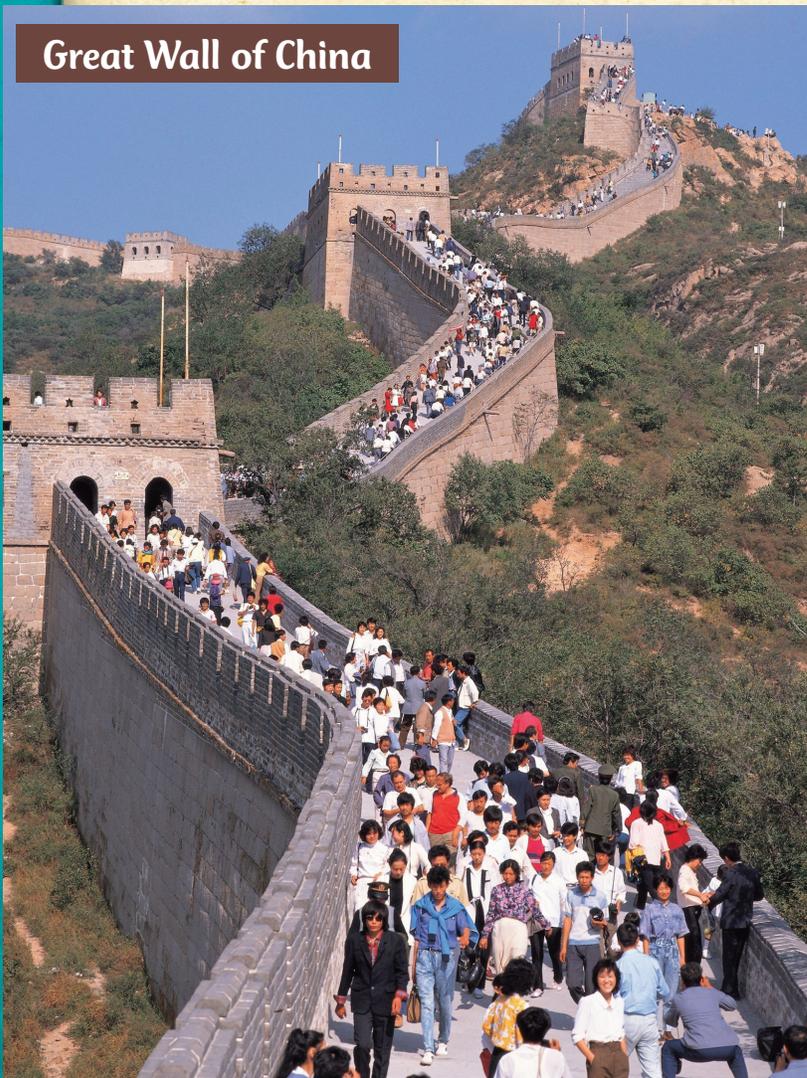
The oldest Chinese writings come from the Shang. The people carved words on animal shells and bones. These are called oracle (OR-uh-kuhl) bones.

Long-Lasting Zhou Dynasty

Then, the Zhou (JO) dynasty took charge. It lasted for 900 years. Near its end, the rulers became weak. They could not keep control of their land. Small states broke away. Their troops fought each other. Wars broke out. Thousands of men died. These battles ruined farms and towns.

Confucius (kuhn-FYOO-shuhs) lived during this time. He was a philosopher (fil-LOS-uh-fer). Philosophers think about the meaning of life. He said that family was most important. He taught that a person should be honest and work hard. He also said that a person must follow rules.

Great Wall of China



Short but Sweet: The Qin Dynasty

The Qin (CHIN) dynasty lasted only 15 years. Yet Emperor Qin Shi Huang (CHIN SHE HWANG) did a lot during this time. First, he stopped the battles. He took charge of all of China. He formed one government.

Other leaders had built walls to keep their areas safe. Emperor Qin chose to join these walls. This was the start of what would become the Great Wall of China. Qin set standard weights and measures. He made writing better. He had roads and canals made. He was a man who got things done.



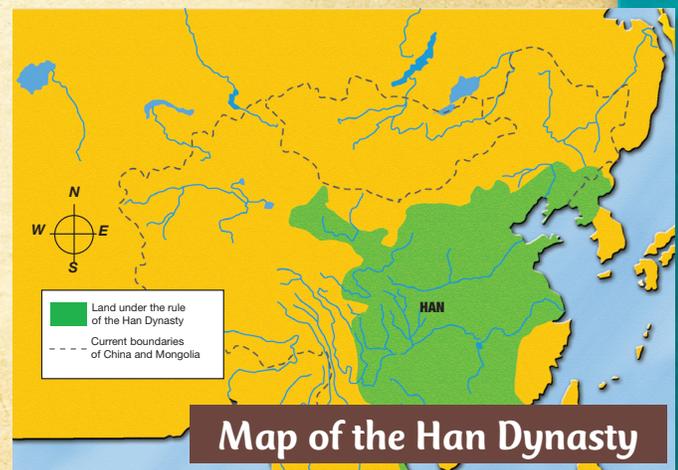
Terra-cotta soldiers

Emperor Qin wanted a great tomb. This tomb would show his power. He had artists make over 7,000 life-sized soldiers. They made these soldiers from red clay. This clay is called terra-cotta (tear-ruh-KAWT-tuh). When Qin died, these troops stood guard over him.

The Han Dynasty

Emperor Qin died. His sons lost control of China. The Han (HAWN) dynasty took over. It lasted more than 400 years. By then, China was the biggest country in the world. It had 60 million people. The Han built a trade route. It was called the Silk Road. It went from China to Europe. For the first time there was a road between Asia and Europe.

Then the Han rule ended. Wars broke out. Barbarians (bawr-BER-ee-uhn) took over northern China. These people had no culture (art or writing). Many rulers held parts of southern China.



Map of the Han Dynasty

Comprehension Question

How are dynasties good for the people?
How are dynasties bad for the people?





Ancient China

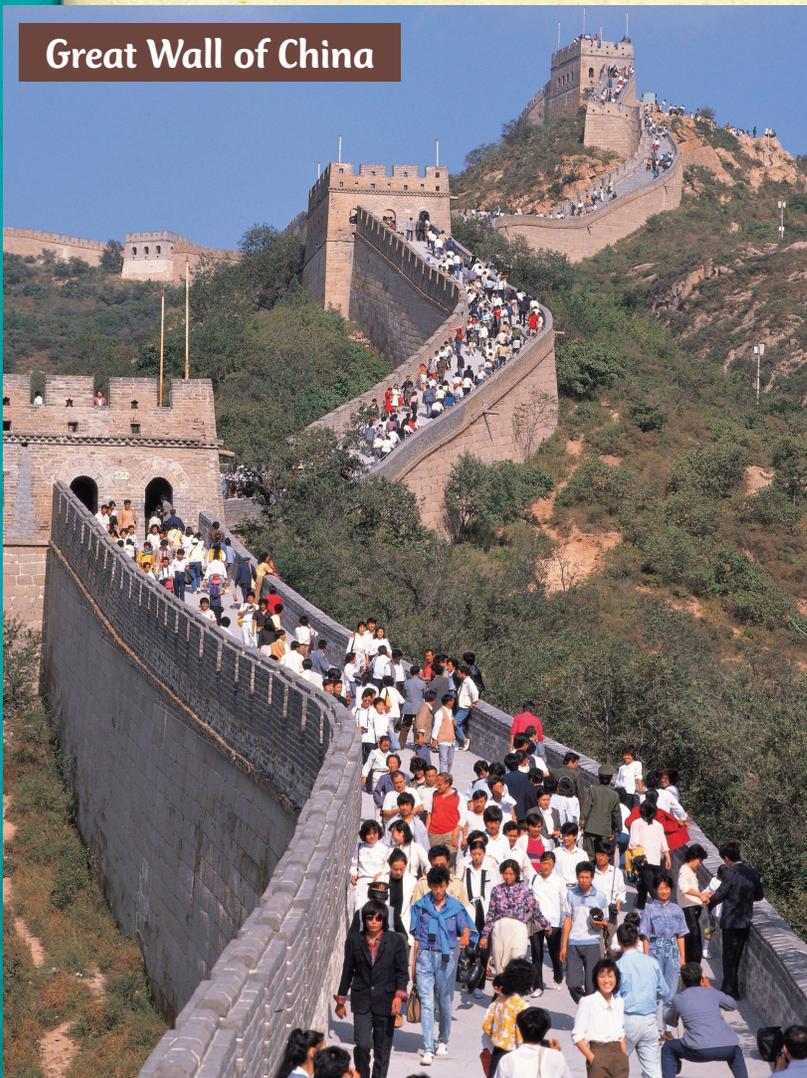
The first Chinese settled in the Yellow River Valley. The farmers grew crops. Craftsmen made silk and clay dishes and pots. The mountains along China's border kept it apart from other nations. So there was not much trade.

The first society was the Xia (she-AH) dynasty (DIE-nuhs-tee). A dynasty is one family that holds the power in a nation. The Xia ruled for 400 years.

The Shang Dynasty

The Shang dynasty held power for nearly 600 years. Its people used bronze. They made tools and wheels. The oldest Chinese writings come from this time. The people carved words on animal shells and bones. These are called oracle (OR-uh-kuhl) bones.

Great Wall of China



Long-Lasting Zhou Dynasty

Next, the Zhou (JO) dynasty ruled for 900 years. But near the end of this time, the emperors grew weak. They could not keep control. Small states broke away. Their troops fought each other. Soon, civil war began. Thousands of men died. Bloody battles ruined farms and towns.

Confucius (kuhn-FYOO-shuhs) lived during this time. He was a philosopher (fil-LOS-uh-fer). He thought about life and its meaning. He said that family was most important. He taught that it was a person's duty to be honest, work hard, and follow rules.

Short but Sweet: The Qin Dynasty

The Qin (CHIN) dynasty lasted only about 15 years. Yet, Emperor Qin Shi Huang (CHIN SHE HWANG) did a lot in this time. First, he stopped the battles. He took control of all of China.

Over the years, other leaders had built walls to keep their areas safe. Emperor Qin decided to join these walls. This was the start of what became the Great Wall of China.



Terra-cotta soldiers

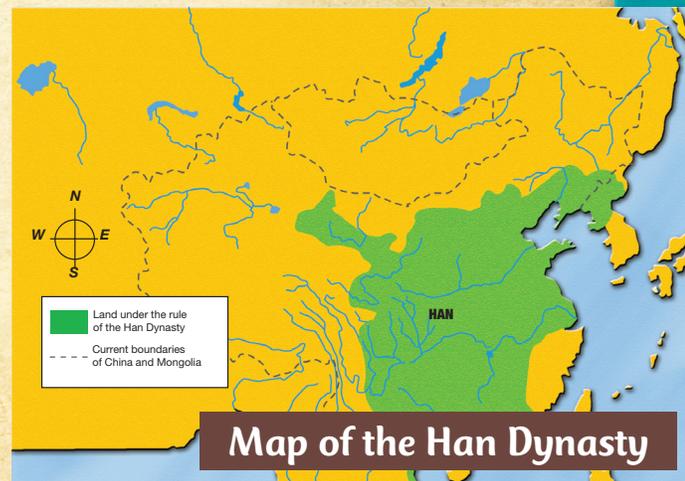
Qin set standard weights and measures. He made written language the same for all of China. To connect towns, he had roads made and canals dug. He formed a central government.

Emperor Qin wanted a fancy tomb. He wanted it to show his power and importance. So, he had artists make over 7,000 life-sized terra-cotta (tear-ruh-KAWT-tuh) troops. After Qin died, they stood guard over his tomb.

The Han Dynasty

Emperor Qin died. His sons lost control of China. The Han (HAWN) dynasty took over. It lasted more than 400 years. At this time, China was the world's biggest country. It had about 60 million people. The Han built a trade route from China to Europe. This great Silk Road was the first link between Asia and Europe.

Then the Han dynasty fell apart. Wars broke out. Barbarians (bawr-BER-ee-uhnz) took control of the northern part of China. These people had no culture (art or writing). Other rulers held parts of southern China.



Map of the Han Dynasty

Comprehension Question

In what ways are dynasties good for the people? In what ways are dynasties bad for the people?



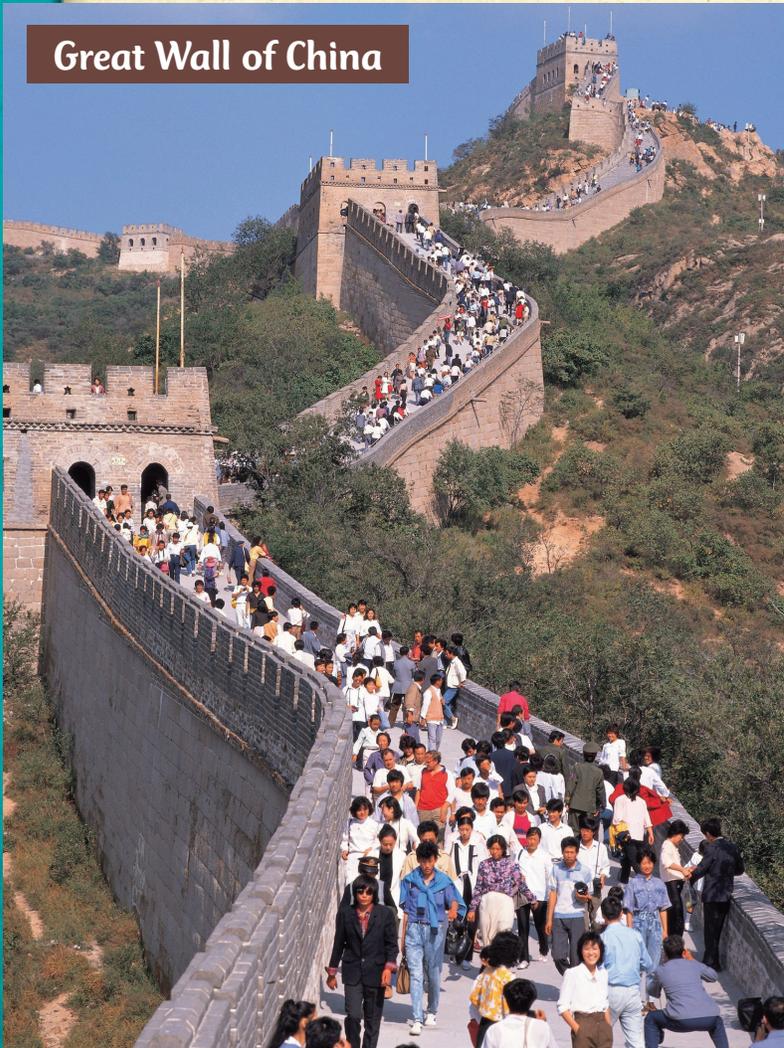
Ancient China

The first Chinese settled in the Yellow River Valley. They were farmers and craftsmen. In addition to crops, they made pottery and silk. The first society was the Xia (she-AH) dynasty (DIE-nuhs-tee). A dynasty is one family that holds the power in a nation. The Xia ruled from about 2000 to 1600 B.C. The mountains along China's border kept it separate from other nations, so there was not a lot of trade during this time.

The Shang Dynasty

The Shang dynasty held power from around 1600 to 1046 B.C. Its people used bronze to make tools and wheels. The oldest Chinese writings come from this time. The people carved words on animal shells and bones. These are called oracle (OR-uh-kuhl) bones.

Great Wall of China



Long-Lasting Zhou Dynasty

Next, the Zhou (JO) dynasty reigned for 900 years. This dynasty kept written records of what happened on a daily basis. The final Zhou emperors were weak and could not control the people. Many small states broke away. The armies of these states fought one another. Soon, civil war erupted. Thousands of men died in bloody battles. The countryside was destroyed.

At this time, Confucius (kuhn-FYOO-shuhs) was a philosopher. Philosophers want to understand life and its meaning. He said that family was of top importance. He taught that it was necessary to be honest, work hard, and obey rules.

Short but Sweet: The Qin Dynasty

The Qin (CHIN) dynasty came after the fall of the Zhou. It only lasted about 15 years. Yet Emperor Qin Shi Huang (CHIN SHE HWANG) accomplished much in this short time. He ended the constant battling and unified the nation. Qin took control of all of China.

Over the years, other leaders had built walls to protect their territories. Qin decided to join these walls and make them longer. This was the start of what became the Great Wall of China.



Terra-cotta soldiers

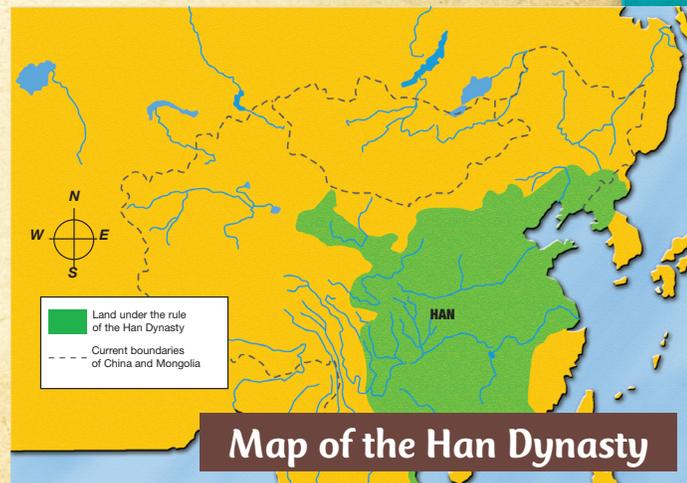
Qin set standard weights and measures. He made written language more uniform. To connect towns, he had roads and canals constructed. He formed a centralized government.

Qin wanted a tomb to display his power and importance. He had artists create over 7,000 life-sized terra-cotta (tear-ruh-KAWT-tuh) (red clay) soldiers. These soldiers had wooden weapons. After Qin died, they stood guard over his tomb.

The Han Dynasty

When Qin died, his sons lost control of the country. The Han (HAWN) dynasty began. Lasting more than 400 years, it was one of the strongest in Chinese history. During this time, China had a population of 60 million people, which made it the world's largest country. The great Silk Road, a trade route from China to Europe, was finished during this time. It was the first link between Asia and European nations.

Once the Han dynasty crumbled, wars followed. Barbarians (bawr-BER-ee-uhnz) controlled the northern part of China. These people had no culture. Different rulers controlled parts of southern China.



Map of the Han Dynasty

Comprehension Question

Describe the advantages and disadvantages of having dynasties rule a nation.



Ancient China

The first Chinese settled in the Yellow River Valley. They were farmers and craftsmen. In addition to crops, they produced pottery and silk. The mountains along China's border kept it separate from other civilizations (siv-uh-luh-ZAY-shuhnz), so there was little trade during this time.

When one family holds all the power in a nation, it is called a dynasty (DIE-nuhs-tee). The first society was the Xia (she-AH) dynasty, which lasted from about 2000 to 1600 B.C.

The Shang Dynasty

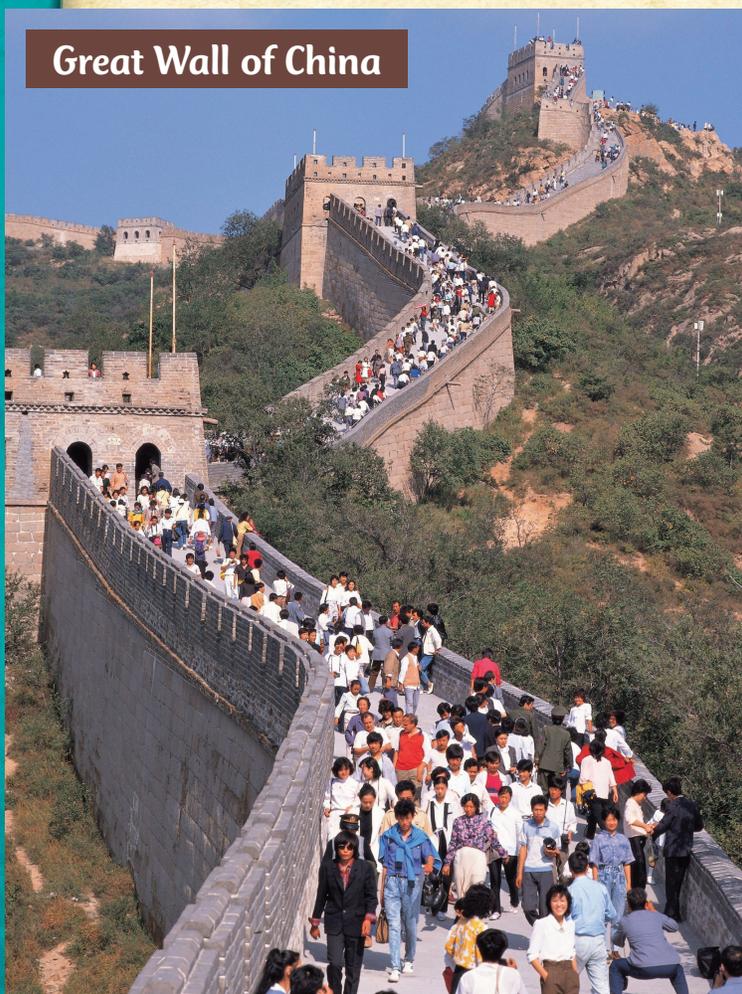
The Shang dynasty reigned from around 1600 to 1046 B.C. Its people used bronze to make tools and wheels. They also produced the oldest Chinese writings ever found. The people left records by carving words on animal shells and bones called oracle (OR-uh-kuhl) bones.

Long-Lasting Zhou Dynasty

The Zhou (JO) dynasty reigned for 900 years—the longest dynasty in Chinese history. This dynasty kept extensive written records. The late Zhou emperors grew weak and could not control the people. Smaller states broke away, and their armies fought against each other. Soon civil war erupted, and thousands of men perished in bloody battles. The Chinese countryside was destroyed.

During this time, a man named Confucius (kuhn-FYOO-shuhs) was a philosopher who wanted to understand existence and its meaning. He believed that family was of supreme importance. Confucius taught that everyone should be honest, work hard, and obey rules.

Great Wall of China



Short but Sweet: The Qin Dynasty

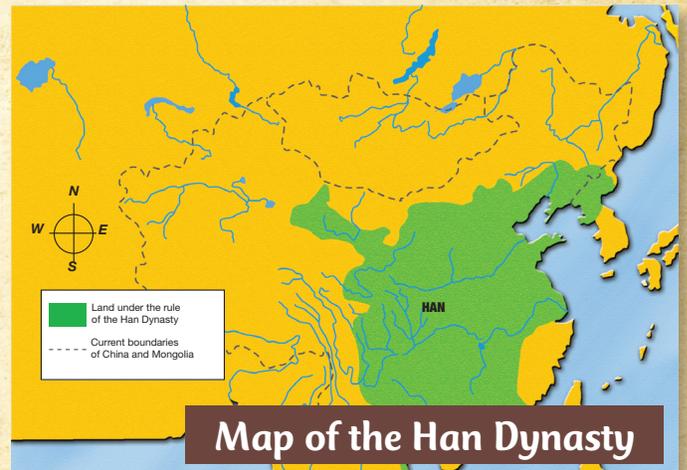
The Qin (CHIN) dynasty gained power after the Zhou's fall. Their reign only lasted about 15 years, yet Emperor Qin Shi Huang (CHIN SHE HWANG) accomplished much in this time. He ended the constant battling by unifying the nation. Qin took control of all of China. He formed a centralized government.

Over the years, other leaders had built walls to protect their territories. Emperor Qin decided to join these walls and make them longer, forming the basis of what became the Great Wall of China. Emperor Qin established standard weights and measures and made written language uniform. To connect towns, he had roads and canals constructed.

Qin wanted a magnificent tomb that displayed his power and significance. Thus, he had artists create over 7,000 life-sized terra-cotta (tear-ruh-KAWT-tuh) (red clay) warriors to stand guard over his tomb.



Terra-cotta soldiers



Map of the Han Dynasty

Prosperous Han Dynasty

After Qin died, his sons lost control. The Han (HAWN) dynasty took over. It lasted from 206 B.C. to A.D. 220 and was one of the strongest in Chinese history. During the Han reign, China was the largest country in the world, with a population of 60 million. The great Silk Road, a trade route forming the first link between Asian and European nations, was completed during this time.

Once the powerful Han dynasty crumbled, wars occurred. Barbarians (bawr-BER-ee-uhnz), uncivilized people who had no culture, seized control of the northern part of China. Different rulers controlled parts of southern China.

Comprehension Question

How did the dynasties impact Chinese history in both good and bad ways?

Ancient China

Unit Learning

Objectives ●●●●

- **Social Studies:** Students will understand what archaeological evidence reveals about Chinese history during the Shang Dynasty. McREL World History, 4.3, Level III
- **Nonfiction Reading:** Students will read the text to identify vocabulary words and determine important details in the text.
- **Nonfiction Writing:** Students will use the vocabulary words and important details found in the text to write interesting facts for the images in the text.

Materials ●●●●

- All four audio CDs
- Text of the rap (rap11.pdf)
- Electronic copies of the leveled text images to project
- Copies of the leveled text cards (card11.pdf)
- Copies of the student reproducibles (pages 153–157)
- Copies of rubric (page 159)
- Copies of the *Timeline Activity Student Response Sheet* (page 158) (*optional*)
- Interactive whiteboard file (*optional*) (filename: TCM World Cultures)
- Timer
- Markers and chart paper

Lesson Overview ●●●●

- Students will participate in a class activity that involves finding vocabulary words and important details in the text.
- Students will read leveled texts and complete tiered graphic organizers that will have them list important details about the text.
- Students will write interesting facts for the images in the text using vocabulary words and important details as an assessment. A multiple-choice quiz is also provided.
- Interactive whiteboard files available for this lesson include the rap, vocabulary words, and the three graphic organizers. Additionally, there is a *Timeline Activity* in which students will place primary sources in chronological order on a timeline.

Vocabulary Words and Concepts ●●●●

- **barbarians**—uncivilized people who had no culture
- **Confucius**—a Chinese philosopher who lived during the Zhou Dynasty
- **dynasty**—a family of rulers
- **oracle bones**—animal shells and bones on which words were carved and that told fortunes
- **philosopher**—a person who studies knowledge, reality, and existence
- **terra-cotta**—a red clay used for making statues and pottery

Introducing the Content ●●●●



1. To get students excited about the lesson, begin by playing the *Ancient China* rap (Track 21) from any one of the four audio CDs. You can display the PDF of the words (rap11.pdf) using a projector, or copy and distribute the text so that students can read or sing along with the rap. Have students visualize what they think the lesson will be about. Allow students to draw their ideas on scrap paper. Have student volunteers share their drawings with the class.

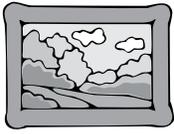


2. Write the vocabulary words and definitions on the board so all students can see them. Then discuss the definitions for each word.

3. Next, play a short game of Pictionary® to review the words and help students commit them to memory. Remove the vocabulary words from sight. Divide the class into two teams. Choose one artist from each team. Invite the artists to the front of the room and show them one of the new vocabulary words. Set a timer and have each artist draw his or her own representation of the term on the board or on chart paper. The team that first guesses correctly gets a point. Play several rounds until most students are comfortable with the new words. You could add other related words to the game to make it more challenging.



Reading the Text ●●●●



1. Display the image of the Great Wall of China from the leveled text card. This image is available on the Teacher Resource CD (*greatwal.jpg*). Tell students that this is an image of the Great Wall of China. Draw a T-chart on the board. One column should be titled *Title of Picture* and the other column titled *Interesting Facts*. Complete the organizer as a discussion guide to the picture. Interesting facts may include the following: the Great Wall of China was originally a group of smaller walls built to protect territories; the Great Wall is now connected as one large wall; the Great Wall is so large that it can be seen from space (astronauts have photographed Earth from space that reveals a line of the Great Wall); many tourists visit the Great Wall of China; the Great Wall is a symbol of Chinese history and unification.



2. Distribute copies of the appropriate leveled text card to your students based on their reading abilities. The cards are differentiated with leveled texts written at various grade levels.

▲ 6.7 grade level

■ 5.0 grade level

● 3.2 grade level

★ 1.9 grade level



3. Place students with the same leveled text into groups of three students each. Distribute copies of the *Discovering Ancient China Graphic Organizers* (pages 153–155) to students. Give above-grade-level students the triangle sheets, on-grade-level students the square sheets, and below-grade-level students the circle sheets.
4. Have students read the text in their small groups. You may wish to play the audio of the text available on the audio CD (Track 22). Be sure to match the shape on the text to the shape on the audio CD. Students should follow the directions and complete the graphic organizer as a small group.

English Language Learners Graphic Organizer Connection ●●●●



Meet with your English language learners in small groups to discuss the graphic organizers, depending on which one they will be completing. Read the directions, then show them an example of how to complete the graphic organizer. If some of these students struggle with writing the basic information, allow them to tell you their answers, pointing out where this information would go on the graphic organizer.

Assessing Their Understanding ●●●●

1. Bring the class back together and let students share their favorite things that they wrote on their graphic organizers. Remember, students' graphic organizers are slightly different, but the information each group shares can be helpful to everyone. Use a checklist to keep track of what students say by making quick annotations. This will help you to know if any of the information needs to be retaught before giving them the assessment assignment below.



2. Play the *Ancient China* rap (Track 21) again as a review.
3. As an assessment, have students choose two activities to complete from the *Ancient China Multiple Intelligences* activity sheet (page 156).
4. Be sure to share the rubric (page 159) with students before they begin their projects so that they will know how they will be graded.
5. A multiple-choice quiz is also provided (page 157).

Interactive Whiteboard Activity ●●●●

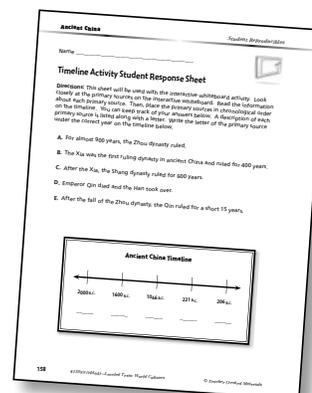


Timeline Activity (Literacy skill: Sequencing)

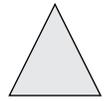
This activity is available in the interactive whiteboard file on the Teacher Resource CD (filename: TCM World Cultures). Choose the *Ancient China* lesson. Then select the activity.

In this activity, students will place primary sources in chronological order by dragging and dropping them along the timeline. Students can touch or click on a primary source to learn more about it.

This activity can be done during whole-group instruction by grouping students together and letting each group complete the timeline together or by asking individual students to come to the board. Or, allow small rotating groups of students to work together on the timeline. Have students record their answers on the *Timeline Activity Student Response Sheet* (page 158).



Name _____



Discovering Ancient China Graphic Organizer

Directions: As you read the text, complete the graphic organizer below. Include at least two interesting facts for each subtopic. Make a connection from the text showing how ancient China has influenced our world today.

Subtopics	Interesting Facts	Connections to Today

Name _____

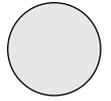


Discovering Ancient China Graphic Organizer

Directions: As you read the text, complete the graphic organizer below. Use the context clues to write definitions for any unfamiliar words. Include at least one interesting fact for each subtopic.

Subtopic	Unfamiliar Word	Definition	Interesting Fact

Name _____



Discovering Ancient China Graphic Organizer

Directions: As you read the text, complete the graphic organizer below. Use the context clues to write definitions for the vocabulary words. Use the words from the Word Box below. Include at least one interesting fact for each subtopic.

Word Box			
terra-cotta	barbarians	Confucius	oracle bones

Subtopic	Vocabulary Word	Definition	Interesting Fact
The Shang Dynasty			
The Zhou Dynasty			
The Qin Dynasty			
The Han Dynasty			