

# Unit 4: Ancient River Valley Civilizations - China

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Standard(s) of Learning:

**WHI.4** – The student will demonstrate knowledge of the civilization of Persia, India, and China in terms of chronology, geography, social structures, government, economy, religion, and contributions to later civilizations by

- e) Describing China, with emphasis on the development of an empire and the construction of the Great Wall
  - f) Describing the impact of Confucianism, Taoism, and Buddhism
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## **WHI.4e – Location and Geography of China**



Locate China on the map – Color it RED

- Classical China was centered on the **Huang He (Yellow River)** and was geographically isolated. Distance, mountains, and deserts contributed to China's **isolation**. As a result China developed a distinct culture with a strong sense of identity and superiority.
- China felt they were the only civilized land and that the world existed around them. For this reason, they called their land the "**Middle Kingdom**". Everyone else was considered barbarians.

## China's Geography



<b>Rivers</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <b>Huang He</b> River (2,900 miles)<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>○ Also known as <b>Yellow River</b> because of fertile yellow soil (<b>loess</b>) and <b>China's Sorrow</b> because it is prone to floods</li></ul></li><li>• <b>Yangtze</b> River (3,434 miles)<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>○ Also known as the <b>Chang River</b> and used as a <b>commercial</b> waterway</li></ul></li><li>• <b>Xi</b> River (1,200 miles)<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>○ Used as a <b>commercial</b> waterway</li></ul></li></ul>
<b>Mountains</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• West: <b>Kunlun Shan</b> Mountains</li><li>• Southwest: <b>Himalaya</b> Mountains</li></ul>
<b>Deserts</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• North: <b>Gobi</b> Desert</li></ul>
<b>Plains</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Central: Plateaus and North China Plain</li></ul>
<b>Bodies of Water</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• East: <b>Yellow</b> Sea, <b>East China</b> Sea, Sea of <b>Japan</b></li></ul>

## WHI.4e – China's Dynasties



China was governed by a succession of ruling families called **dynasties**. Chinese rulers were considered divine, but they served under a mandate of Heaven only as long as their rule was just.

### Prehistory



- Chinese culture began around 1500 B.C.
- **Xia** (Shyah) ruled during the late **Neolithic Era**
- Used **written symbols** and advanced **agriculture** methods

## Shang Dynasty (1700 B.C. – 1027 B.C.)



Government	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>First</b> dynasty</li> <li>• Created a complex <b>bureaucracy</b>: Warrior-nobles headed by king governed and owned land</li> <li>• Built walled cities for protection</li> </ul>
Society	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Sharply divided between <b>nobles</b> and <b>peasants</b></li> <li>• <b>Family</b> is very important – the group is more important than the individual</li> <li>• The <b>elder</b> men in the family controlled the family’s property and made important decisions</li> <li>• Women were considered <b>inferior</b> – could improve status within family by having sons</li> </ul>
Language	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• People spoke many <b>dialects</b> – developed a written language that could be used for all dialects</li> <li>• Ability to read/write was <b>limited</b> to a few people – clerks, scribes, teachers</li> <li>• Writing would become an art form known as <b>calligraphy</b></li> </ul>
Religion	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Animism</b> – belief that spirits inhabit everything</li> <li>• <b>Ancestor worship</b> – believed spirits of ancestors had the power to bring good/bad fortune to living members</li> <li>• <b>Polytheistic</b> – gods were nature related</li> <li>• Priests used <b>oracle bones</b> to predict the future</li> </ul>
Economy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Based on <b>agriculture</b></li> </ul>

Achievements	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Built <b><u>irrigation systems</u></b> to control floods</li><li>• Raised silkworms – spun thread from the cocoons to make <b><u>silk</u></b></li><li>• Artisans worked in bone, ivory, jade, and bronze</li><li>• <b><u>Porcelain</u></b></li></ul>
Decline	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Overthrown by the <b><u>Zhou</u></b> (joh) around 1027 B.C.</li></ul>

## Zhou (joh) Dynasty (1027 B.C. – 256 B.C.)



Government	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Longest ruling dynasty</li> <li>• Ruled under the <b><u>Mandate of Heaven</u></b> – idea that the right to rule came from Heaven</li> <li>• Justified conquest by declaring that the Shang king had been such a poor ruler that the gods had taken away their kingdom</li> <li>• <b><u>Feudalism</u></b> – political system in which nobles, or lords, are granted the use of lands that legally belong to the king. In return the nobles owe loyalty and military service to the king and protection to the people who live on their estates</li> </ul>
Society & Religion	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Adopted much of the <b><u>Shang culture</u></b></li> <li>• <b><u>Polytheistic</u></b> – practiced animism and ancestor worship</li> </ul>
Economy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Based on <b><u>agriculture</u></b> and <b><u>trade</u></b></li> <li>• Introduced <b><u>coin money</u></b></li> </ul>
Achievements	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b><u>Five Classics</u></b> – series of books used to train scholars and civil servants</li> <li>• <b><u>Kites</u></b> – originally used as a military weapon</li> <li>• Built <b><u>roads</u></b> and <b><u>canals</u></b> to stimulate trade and agriculture</li> <li>• Used <b><u>iron</u></b> for weapons and tools</li> </ul>
Decline	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Invasions and fighting among nobles caused decline – known as the “Warring States Period”</li> </ul>

### Qin Dynasty (221 B.C. – 206 B.C.)



<p>Government</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Shortest ruling dynasty – only lasted <b>15</b> years</li> <li>• The western name “<b>China</b>” is derived from Qin</li> <li>• Established by <b>Shi Huangdi</b> (Cheng) – declared himself the first emperor and employed Legalists ideas</li> <li>• <b>Autocracy</b> – a government that has unlimited power</li> <li>• Government was very <b>harsh</b> and criticism was not tolerated</li> </ul>
<p>Economy</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Based on <b>agriculture</b> and <b>trade</b></li> <li>• Standardized <b>currency</b> and system of weights and measures</li> </ul>
<p>Achievements</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Invented the <b>compass</b></li> <li>• Built <b>highway</b> network and <b>irrigation</b> projects</li> <li>• <b>Great Wall of China</b> – built as a line of defense against invasions</li> </ul>
<p>Decline</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Dynasty overthrown by peasant revolt</li> </ul>

Han Dynasty (206 B.C. – 220 A.D.)



Government	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b><u>Longest</u></b> ruling dynasty – 400 years</li> <li>• Dynasty founded by <b><u>Liu Bang</u></b> – created a centralized government and was a more moderate leader</li> <li>• Liu Ch’e (Wudi) – longest ruling Han emperor – his reign is called “<b><u>The Great Beginning</u></b>”</li> <li>• Instituted a <b><u>civil service system</u></b> – influenced by Confucianism</li> </ul>
Economy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Based on <b><u>agriculture</u></b> and <b><u>trade</u></b></li> <li>• <b><u>Silk Road</u></b> – trade route extending from China to the Mediterranean</li> <li>• System of <b><u>Leveling</u></b> – government control of pricing and resources</li> </ul>
Achievements	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Expanded Great Wall</li> <li>• Built roads, canals, and irrigation systems</li> <li>• Invented <b><u>paper</u></b>, ink, <b><u>gun powder</u></b>, and acupuncture</li> <li>• Perfected collar harness for <b><u>horses</u></b> and the <b><u>plow</u></b></li> <li>• Improved iron tools and invented the <b><u>wheelbarrow</u></b></li> <li>• Used <b><u>watermills</u></b> to grind grain</li> </ul>
Decline	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Dynasty ends due to internal conflicts</li> </ul>



## Sui (Sway) Dynasty (581 – 618 A.D.)



- **Wendi** became 1<sup>st</sup> emperor of Sui Dynasty
- Built the **Grand Canal** – connects Huang He and Yangtze Rivers together
  - Grand Canal is 1000 miles long and took peasants 5 years to build
  - Forced labor causes people to turn against dynasty

Tang Dynasty (618 – 907 A.D.)



Government	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Empire <b><u>expanded</u></b> – armies reconquered northern and western lands lost under the Han Dynasty</li> <li>• 1<sup>st</sup> <b><u>female</u></b> empress – Empress Wu</li> <li>• Expanded <b><u>road</u></b> and <b><u>canal</u></b> systems</li> <li>• Revived and expanded the <b><u>civil service</u></b> system</li> </ul>
Economy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Based on <b><u>agriculture</u></b> and <b><u>trade</u></b></li> <li>• Guarded the <b><u>Silk Road</u></b></li> <li>• Collected <b><u>taxes</u></b></li> </ul>
Achievements	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Great <b><u>poetry</u></b></li> <li>• <b><u>Porcelain</u></b></li> <li>• Mechanical <b><u>clock</u></b></li> <li>• <b><u>Block</u></b> printing</li> <li>• <b><u>Gunpowder/explosive</u></b> powder</li> </ul>
Decline	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Dynasty ends due to rebellion</li> </ul>

## Song Dynasty (960 – 1279 A.D.)



Government	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• China was united by <b>General Taizu</b> – 1<sup>st</sup> Song Emperor</li> <li>• Attempted to buy <b>peace</b> with northern nomadic enemies, but failed</li> <li>• Established a new capital, <b>Hangzhou</b></li> </ul>
Economy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Rapid</b> economic growth</li> <li>• Based on <b>agriculture</b> and <b>trade</b></li> </ul>
Achievements	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Moveable</b> type</li> <li>• <b>Paper</b> money</li> <li>• Magnetic <b>compass</b></li> <li>• <b>Negative</b> numbers</li> <li>• <b>Acupuncture</b></li> <li>• <b>Painting</b> – Daoist influence</li> </ul>
Decline	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Dynasty falls to the Mongols</li> </ul>

## WHI.4f – Chinese Philosophies

### Confucianism



Who founded the philosophy?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <b><u>Confucius</u></b></li></ul>
Where was the philosophy founded?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <b><u>China</u></b></li></ul>
Identify the sacred writings and holy books	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <b><u>The Analects</u></b></li></ul>
Major Beliefs, Customs, and Traditions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Belief that humans are good, not bad</li><li>• <b><u>5 basic relationships</u></b>: ruler and subject, father and son, husband and wife, older brother and younger brother, friend and friend</li><li>• <b><u>Code of politeness</u></b>/proper conduct</li><li>• <b><u>Filial piety</u></b> – respect for parents and ancestors</li><li>• Emphasis on <b><u>education</u></b></li></ul>
Importance	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Became the foundation for Chinese government and society during Han Dynasty</li></ul>

## Daoism/Taoism



Who founded the philosophy?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <b><u>Laozi</u></b></li></ul>
Where was the philosophy founded?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <b><u>China</u></b></li></ul>
Identify the sacred writings and holy books	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <b><u>Dao De Jing (The Way of Virtue)</u></b></li></ul>
Major Beliefs, Customs, and Traditions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Harmony with <b><u>nature</u></b></li><li>• <b><u>Simple</u></b> life and inner <b><u>peace</u></b></li><li>• <b><u>Humility</u></b></li><li>• <b><u>Yin and Yang</u></b> – two powers that together represented the natural rhythms of life</li></ul>
Importance	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Coexisted with Confucianism and Buddhism</li></ul>

## Legalism



Who founded the philosophy?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <b><u>Han Fei</u></b></li></ul>
Where was the philosophy founded?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <b><u>China during the Zhou Dynasty</u></b></li></ul>
Identify the sacred writings and holy books	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <b><u>Han Feizi (Basic Writings)</u></b></li></ul>
Major Beliefs, Customs, and Traditions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• People are <b><u>evil</u></b> and <b><u>selfish</u></b></li><li>• Laws should have clear <b><u>punishments</u></b> and <b><u>rewards</u></b></li><li>• Rulers should not give into feelings or trust anyone</li></ul>
Importance	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Adopted by the <b><u>Qin</u></b> Dynasty</li></ul>

## Buddhism



Who founded the philosophy?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <b><u>Siddhartha Gautama (Buddha)</u></b></li></ul>
Where was the philosophy founded?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <b><u>India – present day Nepal</u></b></li><li>• <b><u>Spread to China by missionaries</u></b></li></ul>
Identify the sacred writings and holy books	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <b><u>Jatakas</u></b></li></ul>
Major Beliefs, Customs, and Traditions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <b><u>Four Noble Truths</u></b></li><li>• <b><u>Eightfold Path</u></b></li></ul>
Importance	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• When the Han Dynasty fell many Chinese turned to Buddhism to explain the turmoil and provide comfort</li><li>• <b><u>Mahayana</u></b> Buddhism became popular – Buddha viewed as a <b><u>god</u></b></li><li>• Spread throughout Asia along <b><u>trade routes</u></b></li></ul>