Unit 4: Ancient River Valley Civilizations - China

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





Locate China on the map – Color it RED

- Classical China was centered on the <u>Huang He</u> (<u>Yellow River</u>) and was geographically isolated.
 Distance, mountains, and deserts contributed to China's <u>isolation</u>. 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 "<u>Middle Kingdom</u>". Everyone else was considered barbarians.

China's Geography



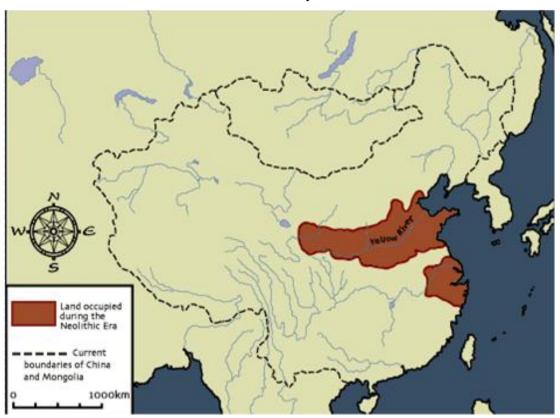
Rivers	•	Huang He River (2,900 miles)
		 Also known as <u>Yellow River</u> because of fertile yellow soil (<u>loess</u>) and <u>China's Sorrow</u> because it is prone to floods
	•	Yangtze River (3,434 miles)
		 Also known as the <u>Chang River</u> and used as a <u>commercial</u> waterway
	•	<u>Xi</u> River (1,200 miles)
		o Used as a commercial waterway
Mountains	•	West: Kunlun Shan Mountains
	•	Southwest: <u>Himalaya</u> Mountains
Deserts	•	North: <u>Gobi</u> Desert
Plains	•	Central: Plateaus and North China Plain
Bodies of Water	•	East: <u>Yellow</u> Sea, <u>East China</u> Sea, Sea of <u>Japan</u>

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 <u>written symbols</u> and advanced <u>agriculture</u> methods

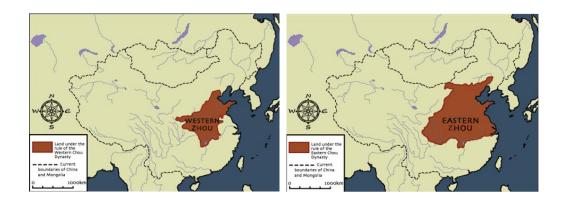
Shang Dynasty (1700 B.C. – 1027 B.C.)



Government	• <u>First</u> dynasty
	Created a complex <u>bureaucracy</u> : Warrior-nobles headed by king governed and owned land
	Built walled cities for protection
Society	Sharply divided between <u>nobles</u> and <u>peasants</u>
	• <u>Family</u> is very important – the group is more important than the individual
	The <u>elder</u> men in the family controlled the family's property and made important decisions
	Women were considered <u>inferior</u> – could improve status within family by having sons
Language	People spoke many <u>dialects</u> – developed a written language that could be used for all dialects
	• Ability to read/write was <u>limited</u> to a few people – clerks, scribes, teachers
	Writing would become an art form known as <u>calligraphy</u>
Religion	Animism – belief that spirits inhabit everything
	Ancestor worship – believed spirits of ancestors had the power to bring good/bad fortune to living members
	Polytheistic – gods were nature related
	Priests used <u>oracle bones</u> to predict the future
Economy	Based on <u>agriculture</u>

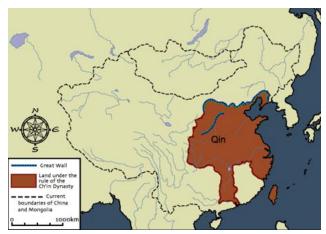
Achievements	Built <u>irrigation systems</u> to control floods
	• Raised silkworms – spun thread from the cocoons to make <u>silk</u>
	Artisans worked in bone, ivory, jade, and bronze
	• <u>Porcelain</u>
Decline	Overthrown by the <u>Zhou</u> (joh) around 1027 B.C.

<u>Zhou (joh) Dynasty (1027 B.C. – 256 B.C.)</u>



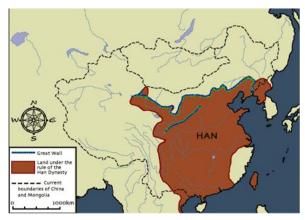
1
Longest ruling dynasty
Ruled under the <u>Mandate of Heaven</u> – idea that the right to rule came from Heaven
Justified conquest by declaring that the Shang king had been such a poor ruler that the gods had taken away their kingdom
• <u>Feudalism</u> – political system in which nobles, or lords, are 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
 Adopted much of the <u>Shang culture</u> <u>Polytheistic</u> – practiced animism and ancestor worship
Forytheistic – practiced anninsin and ancestor worship
Based on <u>agriculture</u> and <u>trade</u>
Introduced <u>coin money</u>
Five Classics – series of books used to train scholars and civil servants
<u>Kites</u> – originally used as a military weapon
Built <u>roads</u> and <u>canals</u> to stimulate trade and agriculture
Used <u>iron</u> for weapons and tools
Invasions and fighting among nobles caused decline – known as the "Warring States Period"

Qin Dynasty (221 B.C. – 206 B.C.)



Government	Shortest ruling dynasty – only lasted <u>15</u> years
	The western name " <u>China</u> " is derived from Qin
	Established by <u>Shi Huangdi</u> (Cheng) – declared himself the first emperor and employed Legalists ideas
	Autocracy – a government that has unlimited power
	Government was very <u>harsh</u> and criticism was not tolerated
Economy	Based on <u>agriculture</u> and <u>trade</u>
	Standardized <u>currency</u> and system of weights and measures
Achievements	Invented the <u>compass</u>
	Built <u>highway</u> network and <u>irrigation</u> projects
	• <u>Great Wall of China</u> – built as a line of defense against invasions
Decline	Dynasty overthrown by peasant revolt

<u>Han Dynasty (206 B.C. – 220 A.D.)</u>



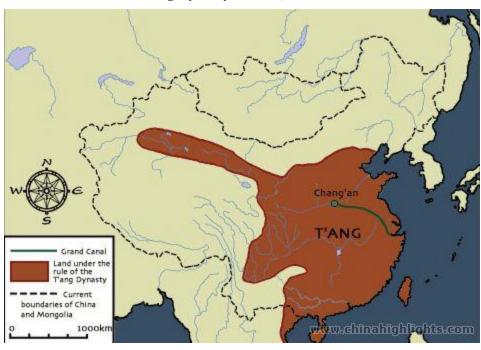
Government	• <u>Longest</u> ruling dynasty – 400 years
	Dynasty founded by <u>Liu Bang</u> – created a centralized government and was a more moderate leader
	Liu Ch'e (Wudi) – longest ruling Han emperor – his reign is called " <u>The</u> <u>Great Beginning</u> "
	Instituted a <u>civil service system</u> – influenced by Confucianism
Economy	Based on <u>agriculture</u> and <u>trade</u>
	<u>Silk Road</u> – trade route extending from China to the Mediterranean
	System of <u>Leveling</u> – government control of pricing and resources
Achievements	Expanded Great Wall
	Built roads, canals, and irrigation systems
	Invented <u>paper</u> , ink, <u>gun powder</u> , and acupuncture
	Perfected collar harness for <u>horses</u> and the <u>plow</u>
	Improved iron tools and invented the <u>wheelbarrow</u>
	Used <u>watermills</u> to grind grain
Decline	Dynasty ends due to internal conflicts

<u>Sui (Sway) Dynasty (581 – 618 A.D.)</u>



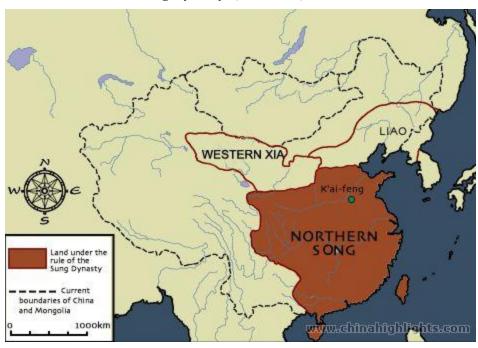
- Wendi became 1st emperor of Sui Dynasty
- Built the **Grand Canal** connects Huang He and Yangtze Rivers together
 - o Grand Canal is 1000 miles long and took peasants 5 years to build
 - o Forced labor causes people to turn against dynasty

Tang Dynasty (618 – 907 A.D.)



Government	 Empire <u>expanded</u> – armies reconquered northern and western lands lost under the Han Dynasty 1st <u>female</u> empress – Empress Wu Expanded <u>road</u> and <u>canal</u> systems Revived and expanded the <u>civil service</u> system
Economy	 Based on <u>agriculture</u> and <u>trade</u> Guarded the <u>Silk Road</u> Collected <u>taxes</u>
Achievements	 Great poetry Porcelain Mechanical clock Block printing Gunpowder/explosive powder
Decline	Dynasty ends due to rebellion

Song Dynasty (960 – 1279 A.D.)



Government	 China was united by <u>General Taizu</u> – 1st Song Emperor Attempted to buy <u>peace</u> with northern nomadic enemies, but failed Established a new capital, <u>Hangzhou</u>
Economy	 <u>Rapid</u> economic growth Based on <u>agriculture</u> and <u>trade</u>
Achievements	 Moveable type Paper money Magnetic compass Negative numbers Acupuncture Painting – Daoist influence
Decline	Dynasty falls to the Mongols

WHI.4f - Chinese Philosophies

Confucianism



Who founded the philosophy?	• Confucius
Where was the philosophy founded?	• China
Identify the sacred writings and holy books	• The Analects
Major Beliefs, Customs, and Traditions	 Belief that humans are good, not bad 5 basic relationships: ruler and subject, father and son, husband and wife, older brother and younger brother, friend and friend Code of politeness/proper conduct Filial piety – respect for parents and ancestors Emphasis on education
Importance	Became the foundation for Chinese government and society during Han Dynasty

Daoism/Taoism



Who founded the philosophy?	• <u>Laozi</u>
Where was the philosophy founded?	• China
Identify the sacred writings and holy books	• Dao De Jing (The Way of Virtue)
Major Beliefs, Customs, and Traditions	 Harmony with <u>nature</u> <u>Simple</u> life and inner <u>peace</u> <u>Humility</u> <u>Yin and Yang</u> – two powers that together represented the natural rhythms of life
Importance	Coexisted with Confucianism and Buddhism

<u>Legalism</u>



Who founded the philosophy?	• <u>Han Fei</u>
Where was the philosophy founded?	China during the Zhou Dynasty
Identify the sacred writings and holy books	• Han Feizi (Basic Writings)
Major Beliefs, Customs, and Traditions	 People are <u>evil</u> and <u>selfish</u> Laws should have clear <u>punishments</u> and <u>rewards</u> Rulers should not give into feelings or trust anyone
Importance	Adopted by the Qin Dynasty

<u>Buddhism</u>



Who founded the philosophy?	Siddhartha Gautama (Buddha)
Where was the philosophy founded?	 India – present day Nepal Spread to China by missionaries
Identify the sacred writings and holy books	• <u>Jatakas</u>
Major Beliefs, Customs, and Traditions	 Four Noble Truths Eightfold Path
Importance	 When the Han Dynasty fell many Chinese turned to Buddhism to explain the turmoil and provide comfort Mahayana Buddhism became popular – Buddha viewed as a god Spread throughout Asia along trade routes