

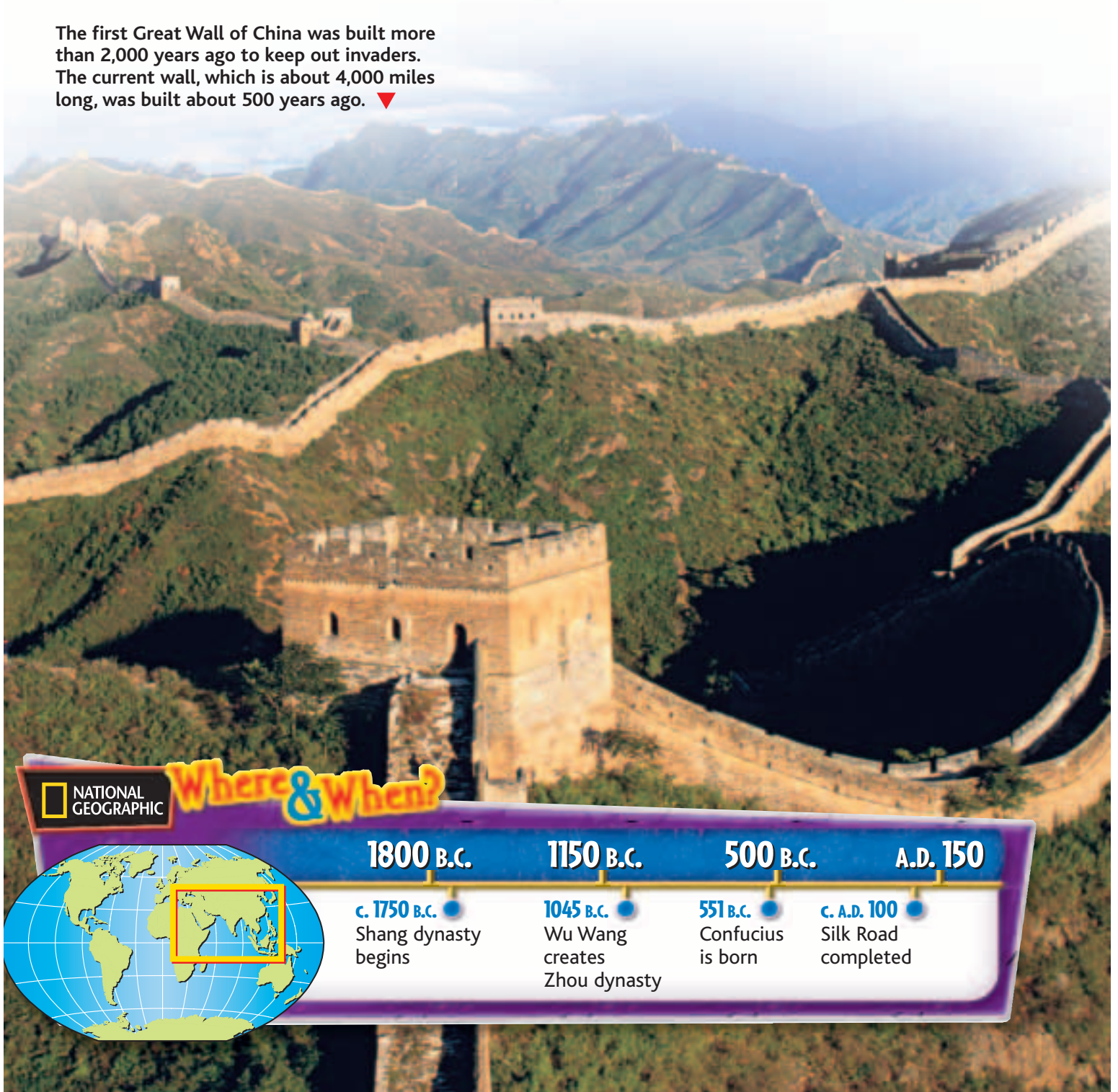
# Chapter

# 5

# Early China

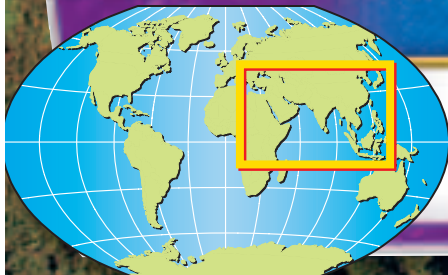
D.E. Cox/Getty Images

The first Great Wall of China was built more than 2,000 years ago to keep out invaders. The current wall, which is about 4,000 miles long, was built about 500 years ago. ▼



NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC

## Where & When?



1800 B.C.

c. 1750 B.C.  
Shang dynasty begins

1150 B.C.

1045 B.C.  
Wu Wang creates Zhou dynasty

500 B.C.

551 B.C.  
Confucius is born

A.D. 150

c. A.D. 100  
Silk Road completed

# The Big Ideas

## Section

## 1

## China's First Civilizations

**Physical geography plays a role in how civilizations develop and decline.**

Chinese civilization was shaped by geography such as mountains and large rivers. Long-lasting dynasties gained power through strong armies.

## Section

## 2

## Life in Ancient China

**People's social status affects how they live.** Early Chinese society had three main social classes: aristocrats, farmers, and merchants. During periods of unrest, ideas such as Confucianism and Daoism developed.

## Section

## 3

## The Qin and Han Dynasties

**Systems of order, such as law and government, contribute to stable societies.** Both the Qin and Han dynasties created strong central governments. New inventions developed during the Han dynasty helped to improve the lives of Chinese people.



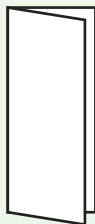
View the Chapter 5 video in the Glencoe Video Program.

### FOLDABLES

#### Study Organizer

**Organizing Information** Make this foldable to help you organize information about the important people in the early history of China.

**Step 1** Fold a sheet of paper in half from side to side.

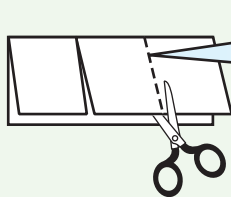


Fold it so the left edge lies about  $\frac{1}{2}$  inch from the right edge.

**Step 2** Turn the paper and fold it into thirds.



**Step 3** Unfold and cut the top layer only along both folds.



This will make three tabs.

**Step 4** Turn the paper and label it as shown.



**Reading and Writing**  
As you read the chapter, list important people and what they did or taught during these periods in Chinese history.

# Get Ready to Read

## Monitoring

### 1 Learn It!



You can use a variety of techniques to improve your reading. Look at the examples below. Monitoring is a way of discovering your reading strengths and weaknesses. Different people read differently. Some read and understand quickly, while others need to read the same material several times. Successful readers constantly monitor themselves during reading to make sure that the text makes sense.

Did you remember the definition of a *pictograph*? Reread the definition in the text or look in the glossary.

Sometimes reading ahead will help you understand the meaning. This text explains an *ideograph* more clearly by using an example and further defining the term.

**Ideographs** (IH • dee • uh • GRAFS) are another kind of character used in Chinese writing. They join two or more **pictographs** to represent an idea. For example, the ideograph for “east” relates to the idea of the sun rising in the east. It is a combination of pictographs that show the sun coming up behind trees.

— from page 280

### Reading Tip

When you study, read more slowly. When you read for pleasure, you can read more quickly.

- Does the text make sense? If not, try to identify and reread what you do not understand.
- Use any related graphs, charts, illustrations, or photographs on the page to help you find the meaning of the text.
- Is it helpful to think about what you already know about Chinese writing, based on what you may have previously read, seen, or experienced?

## 2 Practice It!

The paragraph below appears in Section 2 on page 291. Read the passage and answer the questions that follow. Discuss your answers with other students to see how they monitor their reading.

“Higher good is like water:  
the good in water benefits all,  
and does so without  
contention.  
It rests where people dislike  
to be,  
so it is close to the Way.  
Where it dwells becomes  
good ground;  
profound is the good in its  
heart,  
Benevolent the good it  
bestows.”

—Laozi, *Tao Te Ching*

- What questions do you still have after reading?
- Do you understand all the words in the passage?
- Did you read the passage differently than you would have read a short story or a newspaper article? How do you read various types of text differently?
- Did you have to stop reading often? Is the reading the appropriate level for you?

### Read to Write

As you reread a section from this chapter, monitor yourself to see how well you understand it. Then describe in a short paragraph what kind of strategies are most helpful to you before, during, and after you read.



▲ Laozi

## 3 Apply It!

As you read the chapter, identify one paragraph in each section that is difficult to understand. Discuss each paragraph with a partner to improve your understanding.

# Section

# 1

# China's First Civilizations

## Guide to Reading



### History Social Science Standards

**WH.6.6** Students analyze the geographic, political, economic, religious, and social structures of the early civilizations of China.



### Looking Back, Looking Ahead

In earlier chapters, you learned that many civilizations developed in river valleys. China's civilization also began in a river valley, but mountains and deserts affected its development.

### Focusing on the Main Ideas

- Rivers, mountains, and deserts helped shape China's civilization. (page 277)
- Rulers known as the Shang became powerful because they controlled land and had strong armies. (page 278)
- Chinese rulers claimed that the Mandate of Heaven gave them the right to rule. (page 281)

### Locating Places

Huang He (HWAHNG HUH)  
 Chang Jiang (CHAHNG JYAHNG)  
 Anyang (AHN•YAHNG)

### Meeting People

Wu Wang (WOO WAHNG)

### Content Vocabulary

**dynasty** (DY•nuh•stee)  
**aristocrat** (uh•RIHS•tuh•KRAT)  
**pictograph** (PIHK•tuh•GRAF)  
**ideograph** (IH•dee•uh•GRAF)  
**bureaucracy** (byu•RAH•kruh•see)  
**mandate** (MAN•DAYT)  
**Dao** (DOW)

### Academic Vocabulary

**recover** (rih•KUH•vuhr)  
**interpret** (ihn•TUHR•pruht)  
**link**  
**item**

### Reading Strategy

**Summarizing Information** Complete a chart like the one below describing the characteristics of the Shang and Zhou dynasties.

|                 | Shang | Zhou |
|-----------------|-------|------|
| Dates           |       |      |
| Leadership      |       |      |
| Accomplishments |       |      |



## Where & When?



1750 B.C.

c. 1750 B.C.  
 Shang dynasty begins

975 B.C.

1045 B.C.  
 Wu Wang creates Zhou dynasty

200 B.C.

221 B.C.  
 Qin dynasty begins



**WH6.6.1** Locate and describe the origins of Chinese civilization in the Huang-He Valley during the Shang Dynasty.

**WH6.6.2** Explain the geographic features of China that made governance and the spread of ideas and goods difficult and served to isolate the country from the rest of the world.

## China's Geography

**Main Idea** Rivers, mountains, and deserts helped shape China's civilization.

**Reading Connection** Why do you think so many cities and towns were built beside rivers? Read to learn why rivers were important to the development of China.

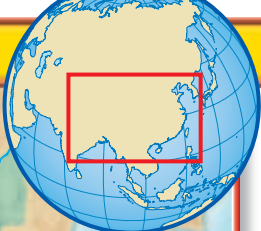
The **Huang He** (HWAHNG HUH), or Yellow River, flows across China for more than 2,900 miles (4,666 km). It gets its name from the rich yellow soil it carries from Mongolia to the Pacific Ocean. Like rivers in early Mesopotamia and Egypt, China's Huang He regularly flooded the land. These floods destroyed homes and drowned many people. As a result, the Chinese called the Huang He "China's sorrow."

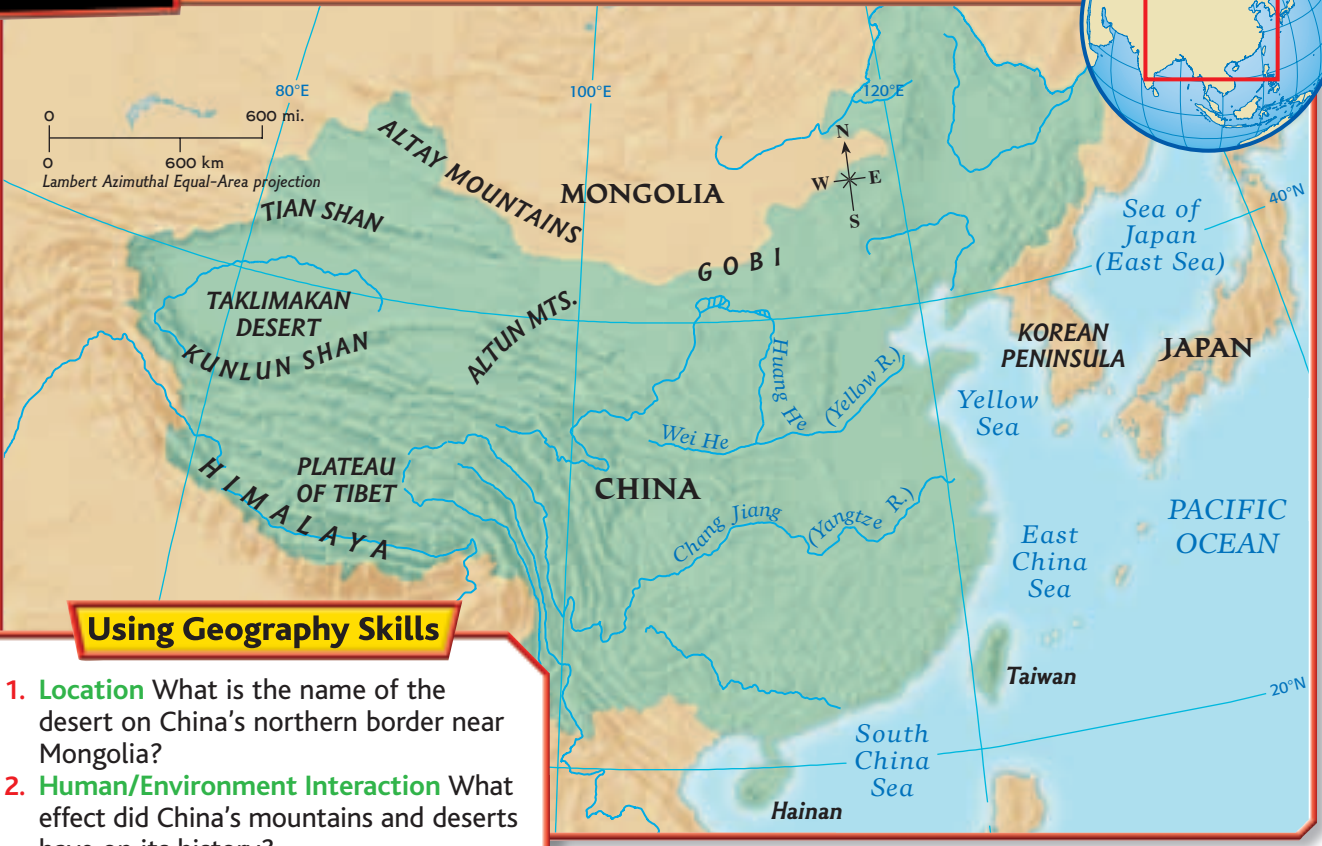
The river, however, also brought a gift. The Huang He is the muddiest river in the world. When the river floods, it leaves behind rich silt in the Huang He valley, nearly 57 pounds for every cubic yard of topsoil. By comparison, the Nile River in Egypt only leaves 2 pounds of silt per cubic yard. The soil is so rich that farmers can grow large amounts of food on very small farms.

China also has another great river, called the **Chang Jiang** (CHAHNG JYAHNG), or the Yangtze River. The Chang Jiang flows for about 3,400 miles (5,471 km) east across central China where it empties into the Yellow Sea. Like the Huang He valley, the Chang Jiang valley also has rich soil for farming.

NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC

The Geography of China





Using Geography Skills

1. **Location** What is the name of the desert on China's northern border near Mongolia?
2. **Human/Environment Interaction** What effect did China's mountains and deserts have on its history?

Find NGS online map resources @ [www.nationalgeographic.com/maps](http://www.nationalgeographic.com/maps)



Even though China has rich soil along its rivers, only a little more than one-tenth of its land can be farmed. That is because mountains and deserts cover most of the land. The towering Himalaya close off China to the southwest. The Kunlun Shan and Tian Shan are mountain ranges on China's western border. The Gobi, a vast, cold, rocky desert, spreads east from the mountains. These mountains and deserts shaped much of Chinese history. They were like a wall around the Chinese, separating them from most other peoples.

Over time, the Chinese people united to form one kingdom. They called their homeland "the Middle Kingdom." To them, it was the world's center and its leading civilization. The Chinese developed a way of life that lasted into modern times.

**Reading Check Identify** Name two rivers important to early Chinese civilizations.

## The Shang Dynasty

**Main Idea** Rulers known as the Shang became powerful because they controlled land and had strong armies.

**Reading Connection** Who are the leaders in your community? What gives them their power? Read to learn why some people in early China had more power than others.

Little is known about how Chinese civilization began. Archaeologists, however, have found pottery in the Huang He valley dating back thousands of years. These artifacts show that the Huang He valley was the first center of Chinese civilization. Archaeologists think that people stayed in the valley and farmed the land because of rich soil. As their numbers expanded, they began building towns, and soon after, the first Chinese civilization began.

China's first rulers were probably part of the Xia (SYAH) dynasty. A **dynasty** (DY•nuh•stee) is a line of rulers who belong to the same family. Little is known about the Xia. We know more about the next dynasty, the Shang. The Shang kings ruled from about 1750 B.C. to 1045 B.C.

**Who Were the Shang?** Archaeologists have found huge walls, royal palaces, and royal tombs from the time of the Shang. These remains show that the Shang may have built the first Chinese cities. One of these cities was **Anyang** (AHN•YAHNG) in northern China. Anyang was China's first capital. From there, the Shang kings ruled the early Chinese people.

The people of the Shang dynasty were divided into groups. The most powerful group was the king and his family. The first Shang king ruled over a small area in northern China. His armies used chariots and bronze weapons to take over nearby areas.

**NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC** **Shang Empire**

**KEY**  
Shang empire, c. 1750–1045 B.C.

**Using Geography Skills**

- 1. Location** What rivers were found within the borders of the Shang dynasty?
- 2. Location** In what part of the Shang kingdom was Anyang found?

In time, the Shang kings ruled over most of the Huang He valley.

Later, Shang kings chose warlords to govern the kingdom's territories. Warlords are military leaders who command their own armies. However, the king controlled even larger armies who defended the kingdom's borders. The king's armies helped him stay in power.

Under the king, the warlords and other royal officials made up the upper class. They were **aristocrats** (uh•RIHS•tuh•KRATS), nobles whose wealth came from the land they owned. Aristocrats passed their land and their power from one generation to the next.

In Shang China, a few people were traders and artisans. Most Chinese, however, were farmers. They worked the land that belonged to the aristocrats. They grew grains, such as millet, wheat, and rice, and raised cattle, sheep, and chickens. A small number of enslaved people captured in war also lived in Shang China.

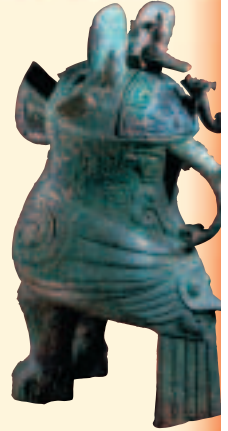
**Spirits and Ancestors** People in Shang China worshiped gods and spirits. Spirits were believed to live in mountains, rivers, and seas. The people believed that they had to keep the gods and spirits happy by making offerings of food and other goods. They believed that the gods and spirits would be angry if they were not treated well. Angry gods and spirits might cause farmers to have a poor harvest or armies to lose a battle.

People also honored their ancestors, or departed family members. Offerings were made in the hope that ancestors would help in times of need and bring good luck. To this day, many Chinese still remember their ancestors by going to temples and burning small paper copies of food and clothing. These copies represent things that their departed relatives need in the afterlife.

## Focus on Everyday Life

### The Role of Women

Zheng Zhenxiang was China's first female archaeologist. In 1976 she found the tomb of Fu Hao, China's first female general. In the tomb were more than 2,000 artifacts from the Shang dynasty, including weapons, bronze vessels, jade objects, and bones with Chinese characters carved on them.



▲ Bronze vessel

Fu Hao, the wife of King Wu Ding, was given a royal burial. She was famous for her strength, martial arts skills, and military strategies. She often helped her husband defeat their enemies on the battlefield. Fu Hao was the first female in China's history to receive the highest military rank.

Her tomb and its artifacts reveal the grand civilization of China's Shang dynasty. During this period, the Chinese developed writing, a calendar, and musical instruments.



Jade sculpture of a ▲ seated human figure

### Connecting to the Past

1. What was Fu Hao famous for during her life?
2. Describe what the artifacts found in Fu Hao's tomb might reveal about life during that time.



**Telling the Future** Shang kings believed that they received power and wisdom from the gods, the spirits, and their ancestors. Shang religion and government were closely linked, just as they were in ancient Mesopotamia and Egypt. An important

duty of Shang kings was to contact the gods, the spirits, and ancestors before making important decisions.

The kings asked for the gods' help by using oracle (AWR•uh•kuhl) bones. They had priests scratch questions on the bones, such as "Will I win the battle?" and "Will I **recover** from my illness?" Then the priests placed hot metal rods inside the bones, causing them to crack. They believed that the pattern of the cracks formed answers from the gods. The priests **interpreted** the answers and wrote them down for the kings. In this way, kings could make decisions that they believed were guided by the gods and their ancestors. Scratches on oracle bones are the earliest known examples of Chinese writing.

NATIONAL  
GEOGRAPHIC

## HISTORY MAKERS

### Chinese Writing

The Chinese writing system was created nearly 3,500 years ago during the Shang dynasty. The earliest examples of Chinese writing have been found on animal bones. The carvings on these bones show that Chinese writing has always used symbols to represent words. Some of the carvings are pictures. For example, the verb *to go* was represented by a picture of a foot. The characters were carved in vertical columns and read from top to bottom, like modern Chinese writing. The writing on the bones recorded the Shang kings' questions about a wide range of topics—from the weather to good fortune. Chinese writing has changed in many ways, but it still reflects its ancient roots in pictures and symbols.



▲  
Oracle  
bone

**The Chinese Language** The scratches on oracle bones show how today's Chinese writing began. However, the modern Chinese language is much more complex.

Like many other ancient languages, early Chinese writing used pictographs and ideographs. **Pictographs** (PIHK•tuh•GRAFS) are characters that stand for objects. For example, the Chinese characters for a mountain, the sun, and the moon are pictographs. **Ideographs** (IH•dee•uh•GRAFS) are another kind of character used in Chinese writing. They join two or more pictographs to represent an idea. For example, the ideograph for "east" relates to the idea of the sun rising in the east. It is a combination of pictographs that show the sun coming up behind trees.

Unlike Chinese, English and many other languages have writing systems based on an alphabet. An alphabet uses characters that stand for sounds. The Chinese use some characters to stand for sounds, but most characters still represent whole words.



**Shang Artists** The people in Shang China developed many skills. Farmers produced silk, which weavers used to make colorful clothes. Artisans made vases and dishes from fine white clay. They also carved statues from ivory and a green stone called jade.

The Shang are best known for their works of bronze. To make bronze objects, artisans made clay molds in several sections. Next, they carved detailed designs into the clay. Then, they fit the pieces of the mold tightly together and poured in melted bronze. When the bronze cooled, the mold was removed. A beautifully decorated work of art remained.

Shang bronze objects included sculptures, vases, drinking cups, and containers called urns. The Shang used bronze urns to prepare and serve food for rituals honoring ancestors.

**Reading Check Explain** What was the role of Shang warlords?



◀ Buffalo-shaped bronze vessel from the Shang dynasty

## The Zhou Dynasty

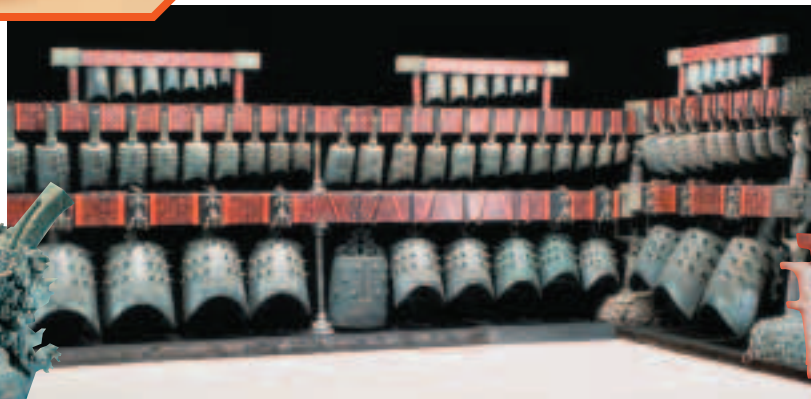
**Main Idea** Chinese rulers claimed that the Mandate of Heaven gave them the right to rule.

**Reading Connection** Who gives you permission to do the things you do? Your mother? Your teacher? Read to find out how the rulers of the Zhou dynasty turned to the heavens for permission to rule.

During the rule of the Shang, a great gap existed between the rich and the poor. Shang kings lived in luxury and began to treat people cruelly. As a result, they lost the support of the people in their kingdom. In 1045 B.C. an aristocrat named **Wu Wang** (WOO WAHNG) led a rebellion against the Shang. After defeating the Shang, Wu began a new dynasty called the Zhou (JOH).

**The Zhou Government** The Zhou dynasty ruled for more than 800 years—longer than any other dynasty in Chinese history.

Zhou kings ruled much like Shang rulers. The Zhou king was at the head of the government. Under him was a large **bureaucracy** (byu • RAH • kruh • see). A bureaucracy is made up of appointed officials who are responsible for different areas of government. Like the Shang rulers, the Zhou king was in charge of defending the kingdom.



▼ Bronze food container from the Shang dynasty



◀ Bronze bowl and ladle from Zhou dynasty

▲ These bronze bells are from the Zhou dynasty. **How long did the Zhou dynasty last?**



## Zhou Empire



### Using Geography Skills

- 1. Location** What body of water made up the eastern border of Zhou territory?
- 2. Human/Environment Interaction** Why did the Zhou divide their kingdom into smaller territories?

The Zhou kings copied the Shang system of dividing the kingdom into smaller territories. The kings put aristocrats they trusted in charge of each territory. The positions the aristocrats held were hereditary. That meant that when an aristocrat died, his son or another relative would take over as ruler of the territory.

The Chinese considered the king their **link** between heaven and earth. His chief duty was to carry out religious rituals. The Chinese believed these rituals strengthened the link between them and the gods. This belief paved the way for a new idea that the Zhou kings introduced to government. They claimed that kings ruled China because they had the Mandate of Heaven.

### What Was the Mandate of Heaven?

According to Zhou rulers, a heavenly law gave the Zhou king the power to rule. This **mandate** (MAN•DAYT), or formal order, was called the Mandate of Heaven. Based on the mandate, the king was chosen by heavenly

order because of his talent and virtue. Therefore, he would rule the people with goodness and wisdom.

The Mandate of Heaven worked in two ways. First, the people expected the king to rule according to the proper “Way,” called the **Dao** (DOW). His duty was to keep the gods happy. A natural disaster or a bad harvest was a sign that he had failed in his duty. People then had the right to overthrow and replace the king.

The Mandate of Heaven also worked another way. It gave the people, as well as the king, important rights. For example, people had the right to overthrow a dishonest or evil ruler. It also made clear that the king was not a god himself. Of course, each new dynasty claimed it had the Mandate of Heaven. The only way people could question the claim was by overthrowing the dynasty.

**New Tools and Trade** For thousands of years, Chinese farmers depended on rain to water their crops. During the Zhou dynasty, the Chinese developed irrigation and flood-control systems. As a result, farmers could grow more crops than ever before.

Improvements in farming tools also helped farmers produce more crops. By 550 B.C., the Chinese were using iron plows. These sturdy plows broke up land that had been too hard to farm with wooden plows. As a result, the Chinese could plow more and produce more crops. Because more food could support more people, the population increased. During the late Zhou dynasty, China’s population had expanded to about 50 million people.

### History online

**Web Activity** Visit [ca.hss.glencoe.com](http://ca.hss.glencoe.com) and click on *Chapter 5—Student Web Activity* to learn more about ancient China.

Trade and manufacturing grew along with farming. An important trade **item** during the Zhou dynasty was silk. Pieces of Chinese silk have been found throughout central Asia and as far away as Greece. This suggests that the Chinese traded far and wide.



◀ This statue of a winged dragon is from the Zhou dynasty. **From what metal did the Chinese make plows and weapons during the Zhou dynasty?**

**The Zhou Empire Falls** Over time, the local rulers of the Zhou territories became powerful. They stopped obeying the Zhou kings and set up their own states. In 403 B.C. fighting broke out. For almost 200 years, the states battled each other. Historians call this time the “Period of the Warring States.”

Instead of nobles driving chariots, the warring states used large armies of foot soldiers. To get enough soldiers, they issued laws forcing peasants to serve in the army.

The armies fought with swords, spears, and crossbows. A crossbow uses a crank to pull the string and shoots arrows with great force.

As the fighting went on, the Chinese invented the saddle and stirrup. These let soldiers ride horses and use spears and crossbows while riding. In 221 B.C. the ruler of Qin (CHIHN), one of the warring states, used a large cavalry force to defeat the other states and set up a new dynasty.

**Reading Check Identify** How did Zhou kings defend their right to rule?

**History Online**

**Study Central** Need help learning about China’s first civilizations? Visit [ca.hss.glencoe.com](http://ca.hss.glencoe.com) and click on Study Central.

## Section 1 Review

### Reading Summary

#### Review the Main Ideas

- China’s first civilizations formed in river valleys. The Chinese were isolated from other people by mountains and deserts.
- The rulers of the Shang dynasty controlled the area around the Huang He valley.
- The Zhou dynasty replaced the Shang and claimed to rule with the Mandate of Heaven. During the Zhou dynasty, farming methods improved and trade increased.

### What Did You Learn?

1. What is a dynasty?
2. What were oracle bones, and how were they used?
3. **The Big Ideas** How did early Chinese farmers use their natural environment to help themselves? **CA CS3.**
4. **Summarizing Information** Draw a diagram like the one below. Add details that describe the members of Shang society. **CA 6RC2.4**
5. **Evaluate** What were some important technological changes during the Zhou dynasty, and how did they lead to a larger population? **CA HIS.**
6. **Explain** How did ancient Chinese kings maintain control of their dynasties? **CA 6RC2.0**
7. **Reading Monitoring** The Mandate of Heaven is discussed on page 282. In writing, describe what words and definitions helped you to understand what this term meant. Then write a definition in your own words. **CA 6RW1.4**

#### Critical Thinking

3. **The Big Ideas** How did early Chinese farmers use their natural environment to help themselves? **CA CS3.**
4. **Summarizing Information** Draw a diagram like the one below. Add details that describe the members of Shang society. **CA 6RC2.4**



# Section

# 2

# Life in Ancient China

## Guide to Reading



### History Social Science Standards

**WH.6.6** Students analyze the geographic, political, economic, religious, and social structures of the early civilizations of China.



### Looking Back, Looking Ahead

In Section 1, you learned about the Chinese government under the Zhou dynasty. This section describes what life was like during the Zhou dynasty.

### Focusing on the Main Ideas

- Chinese society had three main social classes: landowning aristocrats, farmers, and merchants. (page 285)
- Three Chinese philosophies—Confucianism, Daoism, and Legalism—grew out of a need for order. (page 287)

### Meeting People

**Confucius** (kuhn•FYOO•shuhs)

**Laozi** (LOWD•ZOO)

**Hanfeizi** (HAN•fay•DZOO)

### Content Vocabulary

**social class**

**filial piety**

(FIH•lee•uhl PY•uh•tee)

**Confucianism**

(kuhn•FYOO•shuh•NIH•zuhm)

**Daoism** (DOW•IH•zuhm)

**Legalism** (LEE•guh•LIH•zuhm)

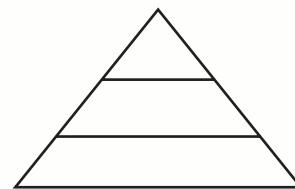
### Academic Vocabulary

**convince** (kuhn•VIHNS)

**promote** (pruh•MOHT)

### Reading Strategy

**Organizing Information** Create a pyramid diagram like the one below showing the social classes in ancient China from most powerful (top) to least powerful (bottom).



NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC

## Who & When?

600 B.C.



551 B.C.

Confucius is born

400 B.C.



c. 300 B.C.

Laozi's ideas of Daoism become popular

200 B.C.

c. 200 B.C.

Hanfeizi develops Legalism





## Life in Ancient China

**Main Idea** Chinese society had three main social classes: landowning aristocrats, farmers, and merchants.

**Reading Connection** Have you heard the terms *high society* and *working class*? They describe social classes in America. Read on to find out about social classes in early China.

A **social class** includes individuals who share a similar position in society. Early Chinese society had three main social classes:

- landowning aristocrats
- peasant farmers
- merchants

**Classes in Chinese Society** China's aristocratic families owned large estates in early

China. They lived in large houses with tile roofs, courtyards, and gardens. Fine furniture and silk hangings filled their rooms, and their houses were surrounded by walls to keep out bandits.

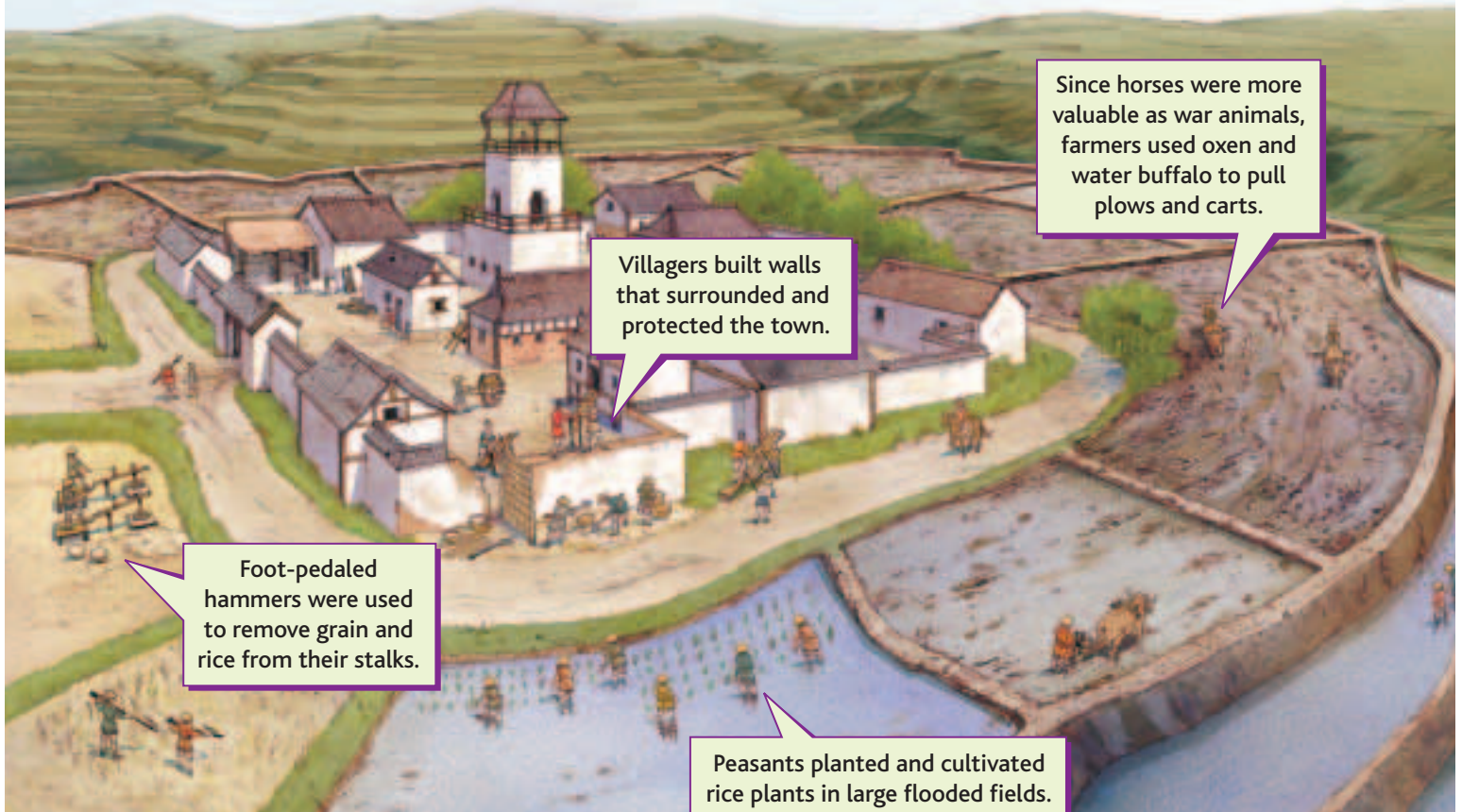
The aristocratic families did not own large estates for long. Each aristocrat divided his land among his sons. As a result, sons and grandsons owned much less property than their fathers and grandfathers had owned.

Aristocrats relied on farmers to grow the crops that made them rich. About nine out of ten Chinese were farmers. They lived in simple houses inside village walls. The aristocrats owned the fields outside the village walls. In these fields, farmers in northern China grew wheat and a grain called millet. In the south, where the climate was warmer and wetter, they were able to grow rice.

## Chinese Village

Chinese farmers lived in small villages made up of several families. They farmed fields outside the village walls.

**How did farmers pay for the use of the land they farmed?**



To pay for the use of the land, the farmers gave part of their crop to the landowners.

Most farmers also owned a small piece of land where they grew food for their family. A typical family ate fish, turnips, beans, wheat or rice, and millet. The farmers had to pay taxes and work one month each year building roads and helping on other big government projects. In wartime, the farmers also served as soldiers.

In Chinese society, farmers ranked above merchants. The merchant social class included shopkeepers, traders, and bankers. The merchants lived in towns and provided goods and services to the landowners.

Many merchants became quite rich, but landowners and farmers still looked down on them. Chinese leaders believed that government officials should not be concerned with money. As a result, merchants were not allowed to have government jobs.

## What Was Life Like in a Chinese Family?

The family was the basic building block of Chinese society. Because farming in ancient China required many workers, people had big families to help them produce more and become wealthier. Even the young children of a family worked in the fields. Older sons raised their own crops and provided food for their parents. Chinese families also took care of people in need—the aged, the young, and the sick.

Chinese families practiced **filial piety** (FIH•lee•uhl PY•uh•tee). This meant that children had to respect their parents and older relatives. Family members placed the needs and desires of the head of the family before their own. The head of the family was the oldest male, usually the father. However, a son could take on this role, and then even his mother had to obey him.

NATIONAL  
GEOGRAPHIC

## The Way It Was

### Focus on Everyday Life

**Chinese Farming** Farmers in ancient China had to find ways to grow enough food to feed their large population. It was often difficult because of the dry, mountainous land.

Over centuries, farmers learned to cut terraces—flat areas, like a series of deep steps—into the mountain slopes. Terraces made more land available for farming and kept the soil from eroding, or wearing away. Early farmers also used the terraces as a way to irrigate their crops. As rain fell, it flowed down from one terrace to the



▲ Terrace farming in China



**WH6.6.3** Know about the life of Confucius and the fundamental teachings of Confucianism and Daoism.

**WH6.6.4** Identify the political and cultural problems prevalent in the time of Confucius and how he sought to solve them.

(t)Seattle Museum of Art/Laurie Platt Winfrey, (b)Asian Art & Archaeology/CORBIS, (others)Christopher Liu/ChinaStock

Men and women had very different roles in early China. Men were respected because they grew the crops. They went to school, ran the government, and fought wars. The Chinese considered these jobs more important than the work that women did.

Chinese women could not hold government posts. However, women in the royal court could influence government decisions. Wives of rulers or women in the royal family often **convinced** men in power to see things their way. Although their role was limited, women also had an important influence in the home. Most women raised children and saw to their education. Many women also managed the family finances.

**Reading Check Explain** Why did the amount of land owned by each aristocrat decrease over time?

## Chinese Thinkers

**Main Idea** Three Chinese philosophies—Confucianism, Daoism, and Legalism—grew out of a need for order.

**Reading Connection** If people around you were arguing and fighting, what would you do? Read to learn about early Chinese ideas for restoring order.

As the Zhou kingdom weakened in the 500s B.C., violence became common. During the Period of the Warring States, rulers sent armies to destroy enemy states. Whole villages of men, women, and children were beheaded. Many Chinese began looking for ways to restore order to society.

Between 500 B.C. and 200 B.C., Chinese thinkers developed three major theories about how to create a peaceful society. These theories are called Confucianism, Daoism, and Legalism.

next, watering the crops. This method of farming, called terrace farming, is still used in China today.

Farmers in ancient China were the first to use insects to protect their crops from damage by other insects. As early as A.D. 304, Chinese farmers used ants to prevent other insects from damaging their citrus fruit trees. They also used frogs and birds for pest control.

The ancient Chinese used bronze and iron tools like these to farm their land and harvest crops.

Hoe ▶



▼ Plow blade



▲ Head of a shovel

### Connecting to the Past

1. How did farmers in ancient China increase the amount of productive farmland?
2. What three farming methods helped farmers in ancient China grow more food?



## Chinese Numbering System

| Chinese Number | English Number | Chinese Number | English Number |
|----------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|
| 零              | 0              | 七              | 7              |
| 一              | 1              | 八              | 8              |
| 二              | 2              | 九              | 9              |
| 三              | 3              | 十              | 10             |
| 四              | 4              | 百              | 100            |
| 五              | 5              | 千              | 1,000          |
| 六              | 6              | 万              | 10,000         |

### Examples:

|       |  |
|-------|--|
| 二十    | $(2 \times 10)$                          |
| 二百    | $(2 \times 100)$                         |
| 三千    | $(3 \times 1,000)$                       |
| 四百五十六 | $[(4 \times 100) + (5 \times 10) + (6)]$ |

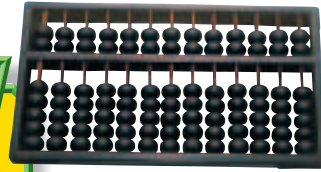
## Understanding Charts

The Chinese system of numbering is based on units of 10. It uses characters to represent 0 through 9 and the powers of 10 (10, 100, 1,000, and so forth).

- How would you write the number 328 using the Chinese numbering system?
- Analyze** What is the English number for 六百四十一?

**Who Was Confucius?** **Confucius** (kuhn • FYOO • shuhs) was ancient China's first great thinker and teacher. He wanted to end the problems in China and bring peace to society.

Confucius believed that people needed to have a sense of duty. Duty meant that a person must put the needs of family and community before his or her own needs. Each person owed a duty to another person. Parents owed their children love, and children owed their parents honor. Husbands owed their wives support, and



◀ Abacuses were used by the Chinese to solve math problems. These ancient calculators held stones on

wooden pegs. The stones would be moved up and down to add, subtract, multiply, and divide.

wives owed their husbands obedience. Above all, rulers had to set good examples. If a king ruled for the common good, his subjects would respect him and society would prosper.

Confucius believed that if each person did his or her duty, society as a whole would do well. He also urged people to be good and to seek knowledge:

“There are those who act without knowing; I will have none of this. To hear a lot, choose the good, and follow it, to see a lot and learn to recognize it: this is next to knowledge.”

—Confucius, *Analects*

To Confucius, the best way to behave was similar to an idea known as the Golden Rule: “Do unto others as you would have others do unto you.” Confucius urged people to “measure the feelings of others by one's own,” for “within the four seas all men are brothers.”

Confucius traveled through China trying to persuade government leaders to follow his ideas. **Confucianism** (kuhn • FYOO • shuh • NIH • zuhm) taught that all men with a talent for governing should take part in government. Of course, this idea was not popular with aristocrats, and few leaders listened.

Over time, Confucius won many followers who honored him as a great teacher. They wrote down his sayings and carried his message. After Confucius died in 479 B.C., his sayings spread throughout China.



**WH6.6.3** Know about the life of Confucius and the fundamental teachings of Confucianism and Taoism.

**WH6.6.4** Identify the political and cultural problems prevalent in the time of Confucius and how he sought to solve them.

## CONFUCIUS

551–479 B.C.

Historians believe that the great thinker and teacher Confucius was born in the small state of Lu and named Kong Qui. His parents were poor, although his family had probably been wealthy at one time. One record says that Confucius was only three years old when his father died. His mother may have also died when he was young, because another record describes Confucius as an orphan.

Even as a teenager, Confucius was a talented scholar with strong, fixed beliefs. He devoted himself to learning and mastered literature, history, music, and arithmetic. He served as an apprentice to a bookkeeper and a stable manager but really wanted to obtain a government position. When he was 19, Confucius married and soon had a son and a daughter.

Confucius lived in a time when many people no longer held to traditional values and the government was struggling. Because he was concerned about these problems, Confucius took a government job to help improve society. He taught that the most important thing was for people to do their duty. In addition, he taught that people should honor their promises to others, use education to improve themselves, avoid extreme actions or feelings, and avoid bad people. Confucius also wanted everyone to return to the beliefs and rituals of their ancestors.

Government officials in Lu were not interested in his ideas, so at age 30 Confucius left politics and began a teaching career. He devoted the rest of his life to improving society through learning and teaching. Confucius did not write down any of his ideas, but his followers put together a book of his sayings called the *Lun Yü* (Analects).

Confucius ▶



**“What you do not want done to yourself, do not do to others.”**

–Confucius

### Then and Now

Give an example of how the above quotation from Confucius might help society today.

## Chinese Philosophers

### Confucianism

#### Founder

Confucius



#### Main Ideas

People should put the needs of their family and community first.

#### Influence on Modern Life

Many Chinese today accept his idea of duty to family. His ideas helped open up government jobs to people with talent.

### Daoism

Laozi



People should give up worldly desires in favor of nature and the Dao.

Daoism teaches the importance of nature and encourages people to treat nature with respect and reverence.

### Legalism

Hanfeizi



Society needs a system of harsh laws and strict punishment.

Legalists developed laws that became an important part of Chinese history.

### Understanding Charts

Three philosophies developed in early China.

1. Which philosophy encourages followers to concentrate on duty and humanity?
2. **Conclude** Which of these philosophies do you think would be most popular in the world today? Explain.



▲ Some legends state that Laozi rode his water buffalo westward into a great desert and disappeared after writing *Dao De Jing*. **When did the ideas of Daoism become popular?**

**What Is Daoism?** **Daoism** (DOW • IH • zuhm) is another Chinese philosophy that **promotes** a peaceful society. Daoism (also called Taoism) is based on the teachings of **Laozi** (LOWD • ZOO). Laozi, or the Old Master, lived around the same time as Confucius. Scholars do not know if Laozi was a real person. However, the ideas credited to him became popular between 500 B.C. and 300 B.C.

The ideas of Daoism are written in *Dao De Jing* (The Way of the Dao). Like Confucianism, Daoism tells people how to behave. Daoists believed that people should give up worldly desires. They should turn to nature and the Dao—the

force that guides all things. To show how to follow the Dao, Daoists used examples from nature:

“Higher good is like water:  
the good in water benefits all,  
and does so without contention.  
It rests where people dislike to be,  
so it is close to the Way.  
Where it dwells becomes  
good ground;  
profound is the good in its heart,  
Benevolent the good it bestows.”

—Laozi, *Tao Te Ching*

In some ways, Daoism is the opposite of Confucianism. Confucius taught that people should work hard to improve the world. Daoism told people to give up their concerns about the world. It said they should seek inner peace and live in harmony with nature. Many Chinese followed both Confucianism and Daoism.

**What Is Legalism?** A third group of thinkers disagreed with the idea that honorable men in government could bring peace to society. Instead, they argued for a system of laws. People called their thinking **Legalism** (LEE • guh • LIH • zuhm), or the “School of Law.”

A scholar named **Hanfeizi** (HAN • fay • DZOO) developed the teachings of Legalism during the 200s B.C. Unlike Confucius or Laozi, Hanfeizi taught that humans were naturally evil. He believed that the government needed to issue harsh laws and stiff punishments to force them to do their duty. His followers believed that a strong ruler was needed to maintain order in society.

Many aristocrats liked Legalism because it favored force and power, and did not require rulers to show kindness or understanding. Its ideas led to cruel laws and punishments for Chinese farmers.

**Reading Check Explain** Why did Hanfeizi believe that people needed laws and punishments?

## Section 2 Review

**History Online**  
**Study Central** Need help understanding Chinese philosophies? Visit [ca.hss.glencoe.com](http://ca.hss.glencoe.com) and click on Study Central.

### Reading Summary

#### Review the Main Ideas

- Early Chinese society had three main social classes: aristocrats, farmers, and merchants. The family was the basis of Chinese society.
- During a time of disorder, three new philosophies developed in China: Confucianism, Daoism, and Legalism.

### What Did You Learn?

1. Describe the concept of filial piety.
2. Why did many aristocrats favor the philosophy of Legalism?
4. **The Big Ideas** Imagine that you are a farmer in early China. Write an essay describing how your social class affects your life. **CA 6WS1.2**

#### Critical Thinking

3. **Compare** Draw a table to compare the three main classes of ancient Chinese society. **CA 6WS1.3**
5. **Writing Questions** Suppose you could interview Confucius about duty. Write five questions you might ask him about the subject. **CA HRT.**

| Chinese Society |         |           |
|-----------------|---------|-----------|
| Aristocrats     | Farmers | Merchants |
|                 |         |           |
|                 |         |           |

6. **Expository Writing** Do you think Chinese philosophies could benefit our society today? Write an essay explaining your answer. **CA 6WA2.2**



# You Decide . . .



**WH6.6.3** Know about the life of Confucius and the fundamental teachings of Confucianism and Taoism.

**WH6.6.4** Identify the political and cultural problems prevalent in the time of Confucius and how he sought to solve them.

## Confucius: Solution to China's Problems?

### Yes

Beginning in the 500s B.C., Chinese society descended into chaos. Many different thinkers had ideas for fixing China's problems. One of them was Confucius. Were the ideas of Confucius the answer to China's problems?

Confucius believed the best way to restore order to Chinese society was for the ruling classes to return to the moral values of earlier times. When rulers behave in moral ways, he explained, they become models for the rest of society. Rulers cannot just speak about virtues. They need to act virtuously in their lives. Specifically rulers should adopt the following values.

- Rulers should act with love and kindness toward other people, as expressed in the Golden Rule.
- Rulers should follow proper rituals and behave properly when dealing

with the people. They should never be arrogant or violent.

- Rulers should love learning and respect ancient wisdom.
- Rulers should be wise and virtuous so that the people will have good examples to follow.

Here is some advice Confucius gave to rulers:

**"If you, sir, want goodness, the people will be good. The virtue of the noble person is like the wind, and the virtue of small people is like grass. When the wind blows over the grass, the grass must bend."**

**"Lead them by means of regulations and keep order among them through punishments, and the people will evade them and lack any sense of shame [or self-respect]. Lead them among them through rites, and they will have a sense of shame and will also correct themselves."**

—as quoted in *Chinese Religions*



▲ Statue of Confucius

▼ Daoist temple



## No

Not everyone agreed with the ideas of Confucius. Followers of Daoism believed that society was having problems because people had stopped living in harmony with nature. The only true model, they argued, was the natural order, not rulers of human society. A Daoist wise man explained:

**"I do nothing, and the people are transformed by themselves.**

**I value tranquility, and the people become correct by themselves.**

**I take no action, and the people become prosperous by themselves.**

**I have no desires, and the people of themselves become like uncarved wood."**

—as quoted in *Chinese Religions*

Still others believed the best way to restore order was to pass strong laws and make people obey them, by force if necessary. These ideas, known as Legalism, were based on the writings of Hanfeizi. Forget the ideas of the past, said Hanfeizi, because times were different then. A ruler must be firm and pitiless. He must trust no one and punish anyone who disobeys or performs poorly. Emperor

Qin Shihuangdi believed in Legalism. He governed ruthlessly saying "People are submissive to power, and few of them can be influenced by doctrines of righteousness."

### You Be the Historian

#### DBQ Document-Based Questions

1. Do you think a Chinese peasant would have supported Confucius's ideas of law and order? Would an aristocrat have felt the same way? Explain.  
**CA HR.5**
2. Do you think it is possible to govern a society by following nature's models? Why or why not? **CA 6RC2.0**
3. Do you think that the ideas put forth by Confucius would work well in today's society? Write an essay defending your position. Make sure to use information from the text and examples from today to support your decision.  
**CA 6WA2.5**

# Section

# 3

# The Qin and Han Dynasties

## Guide to Reading



### History Social Science Standards

**WH.6.6** Students analyze the geographic, political, economic, religious, and social structures of the early civilizations of China.



### Looking Back, Looking Ahead

Each of China's early dynasties was led by rulers who were very different. In this section, you will see how the Qin and Han dynasties differed because of their rulers.

### Focusing on the Main Ideas

- Qin Shihuangdi used harsh methods to unify and defend China. (page 295)
- Developments during the Han dynasty improved life for all Chinese. (page 298)
- The Silk Road carried Chinese goods as far as Greece and Rome. (page 300)
- Unrest in China helped Buddhism to spread. (page 303)

### Locating Places

**Guangzhou** (GWAHNG•JOH)

**Silk Road**

**Luoyang** (loo•WOH•YAHNG)

### Meeting People

**Qin Shihuangdi** (CHIHN SHEE•hwahng•dee)

**Liu Bang** (lee•OO BAHNG)

**Han Wudi** (HAHN WOO•DEE)

### Content Vocabulary

**acupuncture** (A•kyuh•PUHNGK•chuhr)

### Academic Vocabulary

**currency** (KUHR•uhn•SEE)

**civil** (SIH•vuhl)

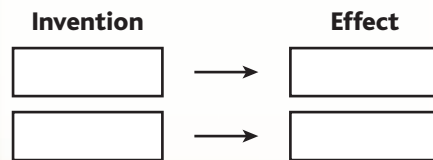
**found**

**secure** (sih•KYUR)

### Reading Strategy

#### Determining Cause and Effect

Complete a diagram like the one below showing the effect of new inventions on Chinese society.



## Where & When?



200 B.C.

202 B.C.

Liu Bang founds Han dynasty

A.D. 1

c. A.D. 100

Silk Road established

A.D. 200

A.D. 190

Rebel armies attack Han capital



## Emperor Qin Shihuangdi

**Main Idea** Qin Shihuangdi used harsh methods to unify and defend China.

**Reading Connection** Imagine your city or state without any roads. How would people get from one place to another? Read to find out how a Chinese ruler used roads and canals to unite China.

You have read about the problems in China from about 400 B.C. to 200 B.C. The rulers of powerful local states fought one another and ignored the Zhou kings. One of these states was called Qin. Its ruler took over neighboring states one by one. In 221 B.C. the Qin ruler declared himself **Qin Shihuangdi** (CHIHN SHEE • hwahng • dee),

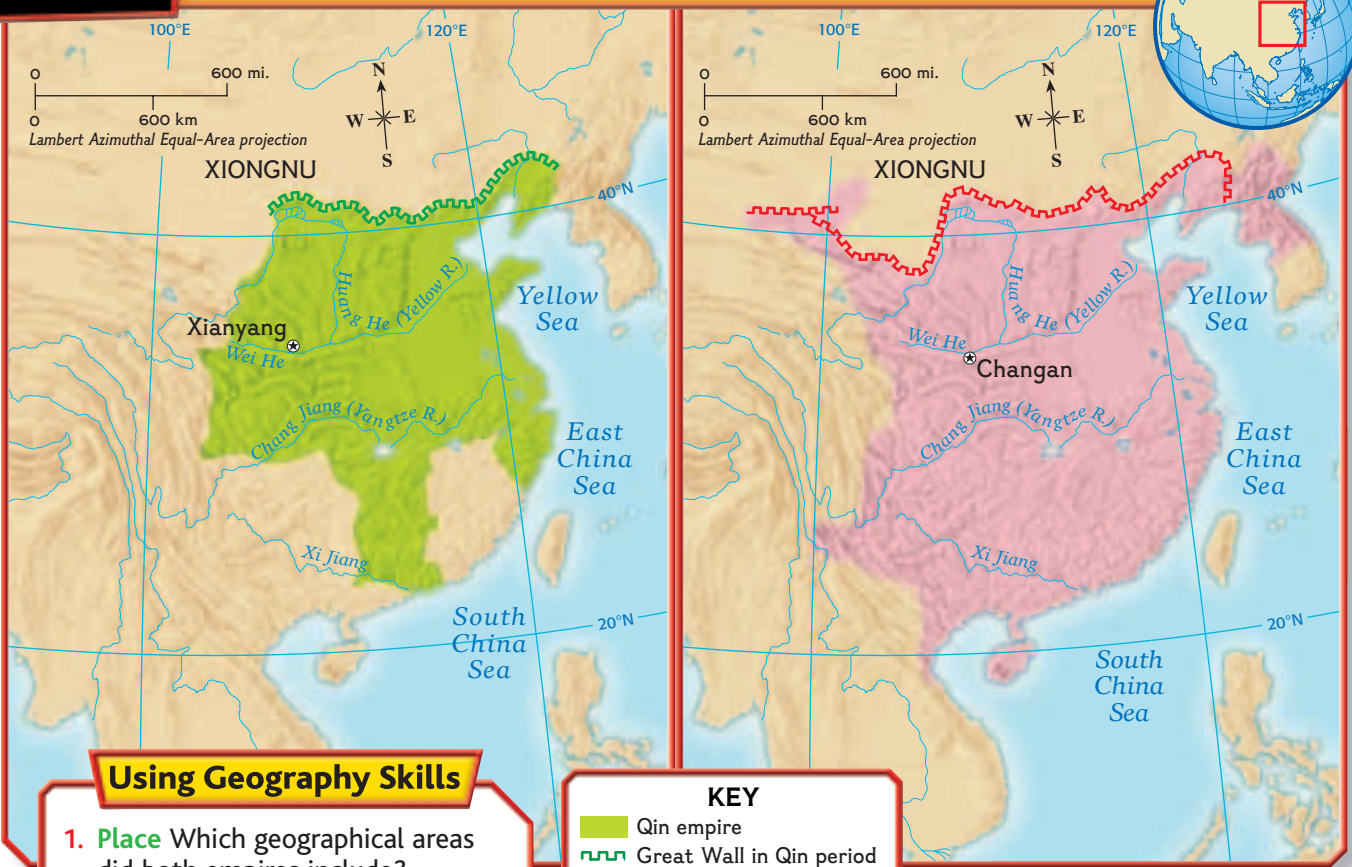
which means “the First Qin Emperor.” The Qin ruler made changes in China’s government that would last for 2,000 years.

**A Powerful Ruler** Qin based his rule on the ideas of Legalism. He had everyone who opposed him punished or killed. Books opposing his views were publicly burned. Qin made the central government stronger than ever before. He appointed government officials, called censors, to make sure government officials did their jobs.

Second in power to the central government were provinces and counties. Under Zhou kings, officials who ran these areas passed on their posts to sons or relatives. Under Qin, only he could fill these posts.



## Qin and Han Empires 221 B.C.–A.D. 220



### Using Geography Skills

- Place** Which geographical areas did both empires include?
- Location** Which empire expanded farther west?

### KEY

- Qin empire
- Great Wall in Qin period
- Han empire
- Great Wall in Han period





Qin Shihuangdi unified China. He created one **currency**, or type of money, to be used throughout the empire. He also ordered the construction of roads and a huge canal. The canal connected the Chang Jiang in central China to what is today the city of **Guangzhou** (GWAHNG•JOH) in southern China. He used the canal to ship supplies to his troops in far-off territories.

**The Great Wall** Northern China was bordered by the vast Gobi. Nomads, people who move from place to place with herds of animals, lived in the Gobi. The Chinese knew them as the Xiongnu (SYEHN•NOO). The Xiongnu were masters at fighting on horseback. They often attacked Chinese farms and villages. Several Chinese rulers in the north built walls to keep out the Xiongnu.

Qin Shihuangdi forced farmers to leave their fields and work on connecting and strengthening the walls. The result was the Great Wall of China, built with stone, sand, and piled rubble. However, Qin did not build the wall that we know today. It was built 1,500 years later.

**Why Did People Rebel?** Many Chinese viewed Qin Shihuangdi as a cruel leader. Aristocrats were angry because he reduced their power. Scholars hated him for burning their writings. Farmers hated him for forcing them to build roads and the Great Wall. Four years after the emperor died in 210 B.C., the people overthrew his dynasty. **Civil** war followed, and a new dynasty soon arose.

**Reading Check Explain** Why did Qin face little opposition during most of his reign?

- ◀ This artwork shows the Great Wall many years after the reign of Qin Shihuangdi. Most of the wall built by Qin was made of stone and rubble, and was located north of the Great Wall we see today. Little remains of Qin's wall. **Who was the wall meant to keep out?**



## QIN SHIHUANGDI

c. 259–210 B.C.

At the age 13, Ying Zheng became the leader of the Chinese state of Qin. The state was already very powerful because of Zheng's father, the previous ruler. Its government and military were well organized. With the help of his generals, young Zheng defeated Qin's six rival states. By 221 B.C., he had united all of the Chinese states under his rule. To mark a new beginning for China and to show his supremacy, Zheng gave himself the title Qin Shihuangdi—"The First Qin Emperor."

Qin Shihuangdi energetically went to work organizing his country. He divided the land into 36 districts, each with its own governor and a representative who reported directly to him. He made laws and taxes uniform throughout the country. He also standardized weights and measurements. Throughout China, the emperor had his achievements inscribed on stone tablets.



▲ Qin Shihuangdi

**"I have brought order to the mass of beings."**

—Qin Shihuangdi

Qin Shihuangdi did strengthen and organize China, but many people disliked him because of his harsh laws and punishments. Many people also disliked how he spent lavish amounts of money to build palaces and a gigantic tomb for himself. He had an entire lifelike army—over 6,000 soldiers and horses—built of clay and placed in the tomb.



▲ Part of the terra-cotta army found in Qin Shihuangdi's tomb

### Then and Now

Why do you think modern historians disagree in their evaluation of Qin Shihuangdi's leadership?



## The Han Dynasty

**Main Idea** Developments during the Han dynasty improved life for all Chinese.

**Reading Connection** How much time do you spend studying for tests? Find out why some Chinese people spent years studying for one special test.

In 202 B.C. **Liu Bang** (lee • OO BAHNG) **founded** the Han dynasty. Liu Bang was a peasant who became a military leader and defeated his rivals. He declared himself Han Gaozu—“Exalted Emperor of Han.” Although Han Gaozu threw out the harsh policies of the Qin dynasty, he continued to use censors and also divided the empire into provinces and counties.

**What Was the Civil Service?** The Han dynasty reached its peak under the leadership of **Han Wudi** (HAHN WOO • DEE), which means “Martial Emperor of Han.” He ruled from 141 B.C. to 87 B.C. Because

Wudi wanted talented people to fill government posts, job seekers had to take long, difficult tests to qualify for the bureaucracy. Those with the highest scores got the jobs.

In time, Wudi’s tests became the civil service examinations. This system for choosing Chinese officials was used for 2,000 years. The system was supposed to allow anyone with the right skills to get a government job. However, it actually favored the rich. Only wealthy families could afford to educate their sons for the difficult exams.

Students preparing for these tests learned law and history. More importantly they studied the teachings of Confucius, which had become the official teachings throughout the empire. Students began to memorize the works of Confucius at age seven. After many years of schooling, the students took their civil service examinations. Only one in five passed. Those who failed taught school, took jobs as assistants to officials, or were supported by their families.

**The Chinese Empire Grows** A large bureaucracy was needed to rule the rapidly growing empire. The population had grown from about 20 million under Han Gaozu to more than 60 million under Han Wudi. This happened in part because Chinese agriculture continued to thrive.

Over time, however, problems began to develop. When farmers died, their land was divided among their sons. When their sons died, their land was again divided among their sons. Gradually, over several generations, the amount of land a family had to farm became smaller and smaller. By the middle of the Han dynasty, the average farmer owned only about one acre of land.

With so little land, farm families could not raise enough to live. As a result, many sold their land to aristocrats and became



▲ This painting shows students taking a civil service examination. **Why did the civil service system favor rich job seekers?**

# Linking Past & Present

## Papermaking

**PAST** The Chinese were the first people to make paper. The oldest piece of paper found in China dates from the first century B.C. Papermakers soaked tree bark, hemp, and rags in water and pounded it into pulp. They lowered a bamboo screen into a vat of the pulp and then lifted it out. It held a thin sheet of pulp which dried into a single sheet of paper.



▲ A modern artist demonstrates an ancient way of making paper.

### ▼ Modern papermaking



**PRESENT** Papermaking today is a huge international industry. Most paper is made in paper mills by machines, but the basic process is the same. Instead of tree bark, rags, and hemp, most paper today is made from wood pulp. *Why do you think some modern artists continue to make paper using pulp and a frame?*

tenant farmers. Tenant farmers work on land that is owned by someone else and pay their rent with crops. Eventually, aristocrats owned thousands of acres and became very wealthy, but the peasants remained trapped in poverty.

China's empire grew in size as well as in population. Han armies added lands to the south and pushed Chinese borders westward. The Han dynasty also made the country more **secure**. After Wudi's armies drove back the Xiongnu—the

nomads to the north—China remained at peace for almost 150 years.

During this period of peace, new forms of Chinese literature and art appeared. In literature, the Chinese emphasized the recording of history. Scholars and historians wrote new histories of current events and made copies of old literature.

During the Han dynasty, the focus of art also changed. In earlier periods, artists mostly created religious works for the kings and nobles. Under the Han rulers, many



beautiful works of art were created for minor families. For example, some wall carvings in the tombs of such families feature scenes of everyday life and historical events. They also include highly decorated products made of the best quality silk.

Although the idea of filial piety had existed in the Zhou dynasty, it became very strong during the Han dynasty as the ideas of Confucius spread and became popular. The stability of the government also helped to strengthen family ties. Although the new scholar class had great influence over the government, the social classes in Chinese society remained the same, and daily life was very similar to what it had been before.

**An Era of Inventions** New inventions during the Han dynasty helped Chinese workers produce more goods and manufacture more products than ever. Millers used newly invented waterwheels to grind more grain, and miners used new iron drill bits to mine more salt. Ironworkers invented steel. Paper, another Han invention, was used by officials to keep government records.

Chinese medicine also improved under the Han. Doctors discovered that certain foods prevented disease. They used herbs to cure illnesses and eased pain by sticking thin needles into patients' skin. This treatment is known as **acupuncture** (A • kyuh • PUHNGK • chuhr).

The Chinese also invented the rudder and a new way to move the sails of ships. These changes allowed ships to sail into the wind for the first time. Chinese merchant ships could now travel to the islands of Southeast Asia and into the Indian Ocean. As a result, China established trade connections with people who lived as far away as India and the Mediterranean Sea.

**Reading Check Identify** Which inventions helped Chinese society during the Han dynasty?

## The Silk Road

**Main Idea** The Silk Road carried Chinese goods as far as Greece and Rome.

**Reading Connection** Many of the things we buy today are made in China. How do these goods get to the United States? Read to learn how goods made in China long ago made it all the way to Europe.

Chinese merchants made a lot of money by shipping expensive goods to other countries. Silk was the most valuable trade product. Some of it went by ship to Southeast Asia. However, most went overland on the **Silk Road**.

**What Was the Silk Road?** Merchants from China began traveling far westward when the emperor Han Wudi sent out a general named Zhang Qian (JAHNG CHYEHN) to explore areas west of China. Zhang had been sent on a mission to find allies for China against its enemies, especially the Xiongnu to the north.

After a journey of about 13 years, Zhang returned to China having failed to find allies for China. However, Zhang had discovered a kingdom far to the west, perhaps in modern-day Kazakhstan, where there were horses of exceptional strength and size.

Emperor Wudi was delighted to hear this because the cavalry of his enemies, the Xiongnu, gave them a great advantage over his army, which was mostly infantry. The emperor encouraged trade to get these horses so that his cavalry could defeat the Xiongnu. The result was the Silk Road, a large network of trade routes stretching 4,000 miles (6,436 km) from western China to southwest Asia. By the A.D. 100s, the various portions of the route were completed.

Merchants used camels to carry their goods across deserts and mountains to central Asia. From there Arabs carried the goods



| KEY                |                    |               |                     |
|--------------------|--------------------|---------------|---------------------|
| Silk Road          | Cloves             | Grains        | Pearls              |
| Other trade routes | Copper             | Horns/Tusks   | Sandalwood          |
| Black pepper       | Cotton cloth       | Leopard skins | Semiprecious stones |
| Cardamom           | Frankincense/Myrrh | Nutmeg        | Silk                |
| Cinnamon           | Gold               | Oils          | Teakwood            |
|                    | Ginger             | Papyrus       |                     |

**Using Geography Skills**

- Movement** What were some trade goods produced by China?
- Region** What regions were near or along the route of the Silk Road?




to the Mediterranean Sea. The trip over the Silk Road was extremely difficult, dangerous, and quite expensive.

The Silk Road was broken up into smaller segments, each traveled by different merchants. This was because the terrain was so difficult and changed so much over the course of the Silk Road. There were high, snowy mountains; vast deserts; and long regions of rocky land, as well as rivers and long plains to cross. It would have been extremely difficult for the same animals and

carts to survive the entire journey. Most merchants traveled part of the journey and then sold their goods to someone else who traveled another portion of the journey. Goods passed from one person to another until they went from China all the way to kingdoms along the Mediterranean Sea.

Merchants had to pay taxes to many kingdoms as they moved the goods east and west. Each person who bought goods then charged higher prices to the next person. For this reason, they carried mostly

## Four Chinese Dynasties

|                                       | SHANG   | ZHOU  | QIN   | HAN  |
|---------------------------------------|---|---|---|--|
| <b>When</b>                           | 1750–1045 B.C.  | 1045–256 B.C.   | 221–206 B.C.  | 202 B.C.–A.D. 220  |
| <b>Important Leaders</b>              | Numerous kings with large armies and control over the land; ruled from capital city of Anyang | <br>Wu | <br>Qin Shihuangdi            | <br>Liu Bang                  |
| <b>Main Ideas and Accomplishments</b> | Developed social classes that included farmers, merchants, aristocrats, and royal family      | Longest-lasting dynasty in Chinese history; established Mandate of Heaven               | Strengthened central government; created single monetary system   | Population and landmass grew under Han; opened China to trade and commerce by building Silk Road                 |
| <b>Influences on Chinese Culture</b>  | Influenced Chinese religion and culture; created Chinese written language                     | Developed irrigation and flood-control systems to help farmers grow more crops          | Introduced use of censors to check on government officials; Qin built the first Great Wall to keep out invaders | Created government's civil service examination; major inventions: steel, paper, acupuncture, advanced sea travel |

### Understanding Charts

The four dynasties of early China were separated by brief periods of unrest.

- Under which dynasty was a single monetary system put in place?
- Evaluate** Which dynasty do you think contributed the most to Chinese culture? Why?

high-priced goods such as silk, spices, tea, and porcelain. In return, they earned great wealth.

**The Impact of the Silk Road** General Zhang also told the emperor of a mighty empire to the west with large cities full of people “who cut their hair short, wear embroidered clothes, and ride in very small chariots.” Zhang was describing the Roman Empire.

The trade begun by the Silk Road brought China into contact with many other civilizations. Some merchants traveled by sea. This sea trade linked the

Chinese to civilizations in Southeast Asia, southern India, and Egypt. Both the sea and land trade routes led to an exchange of many different goods and ideas.

Over the years merchants traded many items in addition to silk. These included fruit, vegetables, flowers, grains, and other products. For example, China sent peaches and pears to India, while India sent cotton and spinach to China. In time, Chinese technological advances, such as paper, would also travel to other countries along the Silk Road.

**Reading Check Conclude** Why did merchants carry mostly expensive goods on the Silk Road?



## Major Changes in China

**Main Idea** Unrest in China helped Buddhism to spread.

**Reading Connection** What do you do when you feel frightened or unsafe? Read to find out how those feelings triggered the spread of Buddhism from India to China.

As you read in Chapter 4, Buddhism began in India, but it soon spread to other countries as well. Merchants and teachers from India brought Buddhism to China during the A.D. 100s. At first, only a few merchants and scholars were interested in the new religion. In time, however, Buddhism became very popular. This was due in part to the collapse of the Han dynasty.

The Han emperors after Wudi were weak and foolish. As a result, the central government lost respect and power. At the same time, as you read earlier, the aristocrats

began grabbing more land and wealth. Dishonest officials and greedy aristocrats caused unrest among the farmers.

Wars, rebellions, and plots against the emperor put an end to the Han dynasty. In A.D. 190 a rebel army attacked the Han capital, **Luoyang** (loo • WOH • YAHNG). By A.D. 220, China had plunged into civil war. To make the situation worse, the northern nomads invaded the country.

The collapse of the government and the beginning of the civil war frightened many Chinese. They felt unsafe. Buddhist ideas helped people cope with their stress and fears. Even the followers of other religions found Buddhism attractive. Followers of Confucius and Daoists admired Buddhist concepts. By the 400s, Buddhism had become popular in China.

**Reading Check Identify** What groups in China were the first to adopt Buddhism?

### History Online

**Study Central** Need help understanding the influence of Silk Road? Visit [ca.hss.glencoe.com](http://ca.hss.glencoe.com) and click on Study Central.

## Section 3 Review

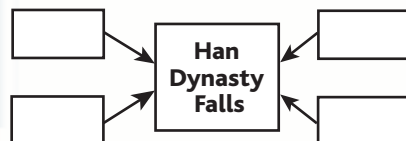
### Reading Summary

#### Review the Main Ideas

- The short-lived Qin dynasty helped to unify China.
- During the Han dynasty, people began taking tests for government jobs. New inventions, such as the waterwheel and paper, were created.
- The Silk Road was an important trade route that linked China to the West.
- As the Han dynasty lost power, many Chinese became followers of Buddhism.

### What Did You Learn?

1. Why did Qin Shihuangdi have the Great Wall built?
2. What was the purpose of the civil service examinations?
3. **Geography Skills** What geographic features made using the Silk Road difficult? **CA CS3.**
4. **Cause and Effect** Draw a diagram to show the causes of the Han dynasty's fall. **CA 6WS1.3**
5. **The Big Ideas** How did Qin Shihuangdi make China's society more stable? **CA HR3.**
6. **Expository Writing** Pretend you are Zhang Qian and have visited modern-day America. Write a letter to the emperor describing the United States. **CA 6WS1.0**
7. **Analysis Economic** Merchants on the Silk Road had to pay high taxes and pay for protection. Explain why they used the Silk Road if the costs were so high. How did they overcome the high costs? **CA HI6.**





# Analyzing Primary Sources

**WH6.6.3** Know about the life of Confucius and the fundamental teachings of Confucianism and Daoism.

## Chinese Ideas About Leadership



▲ Chinese emperor Liu Bang

*In ancient China, emperors and local rulers wielded enormous power. As you have learned, the Chinese had many different ideas about leadership. For some, leadership was about power and fame. For others, a strong leader needed to be wise and of good character.*

*Read the following passages on pages 304 and 305, and study the picture and caption below.*

### Reader's Dictionary

**magnificence** (mag•NIH•fuh•suhns): wonderful appearance

**excessive** (ihk•SEH•sihv): extreme  
**courteous** (KUHR•tee•uhs): polite

### Traveling Companions

**T**his set of bronze figures comes from the tomb of a Chinese official buried in the A.D. 100s. The entire procession included 17 soldiers, 28 attendants, 39 horses, and 14 carriages.



## Han Gaozu's Palace

The Chinese historian Sima Qian lived during the Han Dynasty. Qian recorded the following conversation between Gaozu, the first Han ruler, and Gaozu's chief minister, to illustrate why the emperor built large palaces.

Chief Minister Xiao was in charge of the construction of the Eternal Palace. . . . When Gaozu arrived and saw the **magnificence** of the buildings, he was outraged. "Warfare has kept the empire in turmoil for years, and victory is not yet assured. What is the idea of building palaces on such an **excessive** scale?"

"It is precisely because the fate of the empire is not yet settled," Xiao He responded, "that we need to build palaces and halls like these. The true Son of Heaven treats the four quarters as his family estate. If he does not dwell in magnificent quarters, he will have no way to display his authority, nor will he establish the foundation for his heirs to build on."

On hearing this, Gaozu's anger turned into delight.

—Patricia Buckley Ebrey, *The Cambridge Illustrated History of China*

## Confucius on Leadership

Confucius believed that leaders had to be good people to govern well.

"If you showed a sincere desire to be good, your people would likewise be good. The virtue of the prince is like the wind; the virtue of the people is like grass. It is the nature of grass to bend when the wind blows upon it."

—Confucius, as quoted in *Simple Confucianism*

"If leaders are **courteous**, their people will not dare to be disrespectful. If leaders are just, people will not dare to be [ungovernable]. If leaders are trustworthy, people will not dare to be dishonest."

—Confucius, *Analeets*

## Laozi's Ideal Leader

The Daoist philosopher Laozi also believed that a leader had specific qualities.

The best of all rulers is but a shadowy presence to his subjects.

.....

Hesitant, he does not utter words lightly. When his task is accomplished and his work done  
The people all say, "It happened to us naturally."

—Lao Tzu, *Tao Te Ching*, D.C. Lau, trans.

### DBQ Document-Based Questions

#### Traveling Companions

1. How important do you think an official who traveled with such a procession was? Explain.

#### Han Gaozu's Palace

2. Why did Gaozu at first object to the building of the palaces? Do you agree with Xiao He's reasons for building the palace? Explain.

#### Confucius on Leadership and Religion

3. Rewrite Confucius's sayings in your own words.

#### Laozi's Ideal Leader

4. What kind of leader is Laozi's ideal leader?

#### Read to Write

5. Imagine that you have been appointed a regional governor during the Han dynasty. Write a letter to your local officials explaining your ideas of how a leader should act. Base your arguments on these sources. Explain why you disagree with some sources and agree with others. **CA HR4. CA 6WA2.5**

# Chapter 5 Assessment

## Standard WH6.6

### Review Content Vocabulary

Match the words with the definitions below.

- \_\_\_ 1. dynasty
  - \_\_\_ 2. aristocrat
  - \_\_\_ 3. bureaucracy
  - \_\_\_ 4. mandate
  - \_\_\_ 5. social class
  - \_\_\_ 6. filial piety
  - \_\_\_ 7. acupuncture
  - \_\_\_ 8. Daoism
  - \_\_\_ 9. Confucianism
- a. right to command
  - b. line of rulers in the same family
  - c. upper class whose wealth is based on land
  - d. The ideas of \_\_\_ included a duty to participate in government.
  - e. appointed government officials
  - f. head of family honored by other members
  - g. treatment using thin needles
  - h. people with a similar position in society
  - i. The teachings of Laozi are the basis of \_\_\_.

### Review the **Main Ideas**

#### Section 1 • China's First Civilizations

- 10. What geographical features shaped China's civilizations?
- 11. Why did the Shang rulers become powerful?
- 12. Under which empire did the Mandate of Heaven begin?

#### Section 2 • Life in Ancient China

- 13. What were the three main classes in Chinese society?
- 14. Identify three Chinese philosophies and the reason they emerged.

#### Section 3 • The Qin and Han Dynasties

- 15. What methods did Qin Shihuangdi use to defend China?

- 16. How did developments during the Han dynasty affect the Chinese people?
- 17. What was the purpose of the Silk Road?
- 18. What event helped to spread Buddhism?

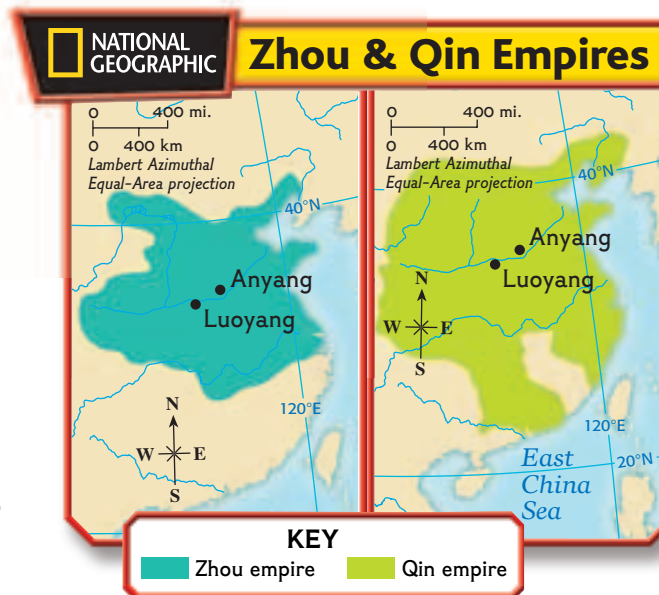
### Critical Thinking

- 19. **Contrast** How is the ancient Chinese writing system different from cuneiform and hieroglyphic writing? **CA 6RC2.2**
- 20. **Describe** How did Shang artisans create bronze urns? **CA 6RC2.0**
- 21. **Analyze** How is Daoism the opposite of Confucianism in some ways? **CA 6RC2.3**

### Geography Skills

Study the map below and answer the following questions.

- 22. **Human/Environment Interaction** Which dynasty controlled more land? **CA CS3.**
- 23. **Location** In what direction did the Qin dynasty expand farther? **CA CS3.**
- 24. **Analyze** How do you think the East China Sea affected expansion? **CA CS3.**



## Read to Write

25. **The Big Ideas Narrative Writing** Write a short story describing life in China during the Han dynasty. Describe how new policies and leaders changed the way people lived. **CA 6WA2.1**
26. **Using Your FOLDABLES** Choose one person that you included in your foldable. Write a list of 10 questions that you would ask that person in an interview. Exchange lists with a partner and play the role of the person being interviewed. **CA HRI.**

## Using Academic Vocabulary

27. Separate the words below into three categories: Verbs, Nouns, and Adjectives. Keep in mind that some of the words can be placed in more than one column.

|           |          |
|-----------|----------|
| recover   | promote  |
| interpret | currency |
| link      | civil    |
| item      | found    |
| convince  | secure   |

## Linking Past and Present

28. **Comparing** The Chinese built the Great Wall to protect themselves. Research ways that countries today protect themselves from enemies. What is similar and different about today's defenses? **CA 6WA2.3**

## Building Citizenship

29. **Plan a Debate** With your class, plan and participate in a three-way debate. Divide into three teams. One team will represent the Legalists, one will represent followers of Confucius, and one will represent Daoists. Begin the debate by asking the question "Which philosophy is best for a democratic society?" **CA 6WA2.5**

## Reviewing Skills

30. **Using Time Lines** Review the material from this chapter. Create a time line of the dynasties in early China. Under each time line entry, list the important leaders and achievements. **CA CS2.**

31. **Monitoring** Read the paragraph below. Make a list of the words to help you understand *Legalism*. **CA 6RW1.4**

[Hanfeizi] believed that the government needed to issue harsh laws and stiff punishments to force [people] to do their duty. His followers believed that a strong ruler was needed to maintain order in society.

Many aristocrats liked Legalism because it favored force and power, and did not require rulers to show kindness or understanding. Its ideas lead to cruel laws and punishments for Chinese farmers.

—from page 291



## Standards Practice

Select the best answer for each of the following questions.

32. **A follower of Confucianism would**
- A give up all concerns about the world.
  - B live in harmony with nature.
  - C agree that humans are naturally evil.
  - D put the needs of family and community first.
33. **In order to strengthen the Han government, Han Wudi used \_\_\_\_\_ to select the most talented people for government jobs.**
- A civil service exams
  - B physical labor
  - C private schools
  - D wealthy families