

Terms, People, and Places

Loess:

Clan:

Ethnocentric:

Mandate of Heaven:

Dynastic Cycle:

Feudalism:

Oracle Bone:

Character:

Calligraphy:

Lesson Objectives

- Understand how geography influenced early Chinese civilization
- Analyze how Chinese culture took shape under the Shang and Zhou dynasties
- Describe the religious and belief systems that developed in early China
- List some achievements made in early China

Summary

“Rise of Civilization in China”

Long distances and physical barriers separated China from the other ancient civilizations and contributed to the Chinese belief that it was the sole source of civilization. The dynastic cycle explained the rise and fall of many dynasties that came to rule China.

Chinese religion centered around the worship of ancestors and the balance of two opposing forces, yin and yang. During the Shang and Zhou periods, the Chinese made great strides in astronomy and bronze work, discovered how to make silk and books, and developed a complex system of writing.

CHAPTER

3

SECTION 4

Section Summary

RISE OF CIVILIZATION IN CHINA

The earliest civilization in China grew along the Huang River. This river carries **loess**, or fine windblown yellow soil, which raises the water level. People suffered from the river's frequent floods. The need to control the water likely led to the rise of government.

The Shang dynasty began about 1766 B.C. Kings ruled along with princes. The princes were probably the heads of **clans**, or groups of families claiming a common ancestor. Shang warriors used leather armor, bronze weapons, and horse-drawn chariots. They may have learned of chariots as they interacted with other Asian peoples.

The Zhou people overthrew the Shang in 1122 B.C. They promoted the Mandate of Heaven, or divine right to rule. This idea later expanded to explain the **dynastic cycle**, or rise and fall of dynasties. If rulers became corrupt, heaven would withdraw support and dynasties would fail. The Zhou established **feudalism**, where lords governed their own land but owed military service and support to a ruler. In the 600s B.C., iron tools made farming more productive and the population increased. The Zhou dynasty ended when fighting feudal lords could not be controlled.

During the Shang dynasty, the Chinese prayed to many gods and nature spirits. During the Zhou dynasty, two great thinkers emerged: **Confucius** and **Laozi**. Confucius developed a **philosophy**, or system of ideas, that greatly influenced Chinese civilization. Confucius was concerned with social order and good government. He emphasized five key relationships between people. **Filial piety**, or respect for parents, was everyone's highest duty.

Laozi founded Daoism about the same time. It emphasized that people should live in harmony with nature. They should look beyond everyday cares and focus on the Dao, or "the way."

One great achievement of early China was silk-making. The Chinese kept the technique a secret for many years. They also developed a system of writing at least 4,000 years ago. Questions were written on **oracle bones**. After heating the bones, priests interpreted the answers. Later, a writing system evolved that included thousands of **characters**, or written symbols. The Chinese then turned writing into an art called **calligraphy**.

Review Questions

1. What impact did iron tools have on China?

2. What was the focus of Confucius' teachings?

READING CHECK

What is the dynastic cycle?

VOCABULARY STRATEGY

What does the word *interacted* mean in the underlined sentence? Break the word into parts. The prefix *inter-* means "between," "among," or "with." The word *act* means "to do something." Use these word-part clues to help you figure out the meaning of *interacted*.

READING SKILL

Recognize Sequence Did Confucianism emerge before or after 1122 B.C.?

Aim #12: How did early civilizations develop in China?



Geography Influences Civilization





Yellow silt gives the Huang He a distinctive color.

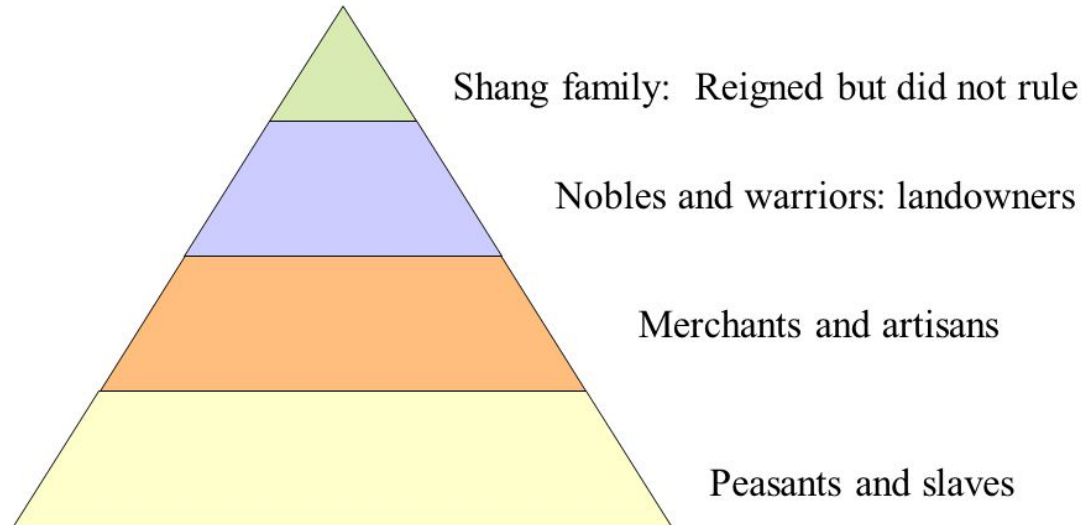




Checkpoint

How did geography influence early Chinese civilization?

Shang Dynasty (1766 – 1046 BCE)



Zhou Dynasty (1046-221 BCE)



Rise & Fall of Dynasties





Checkpoint

How did new dynasties justify their rule?

Achievements in Early China



愛 Love	命 Soul	天 Heaven
美 Beauty	祈 Pray	幸 Happy
生 Life	死 Death	神 God

“Characteristics of Shang & Zhou Dynasties”

	Shang	Zhou
Date	1766 B.C.E.-1046 B.C.E.	1046 B.C.E.-221 B.C.E.
Government	Shang kings controlled small lands; real power was in hands of princes, nobles, and heads of clans.	Set up a feudal state
Society	Royal family- Noble warriors- small artisan/merchant class- majority peasants Noble women may have had high status.	Feudal lords and Peasants
Economy	Artisans made goods for nobles Merchants exchanged goods Peasants farmed and built dikes	Produced more farming led to a population growth Economy grew in 600 B.C.E. because of iron tools Commerce grew, coins introduced, made trade easier
Decline	Overthrown by Zhou	Feudal lords ignored the emperor; Overthrown by Qin




Four Chinese Dynasties

SHANG

ZHOU

QIN

HAN

When	1750–1122 B.C.	1045–256 B.C.	221–206 B.C.	202 B.C.–A.D. 220
Important Leaders	Numerous kings with large armies and control over the land; ruled from capital city of Anyang	 <p>Wu</p>	 <p>Qin Shihuangdi</p>	 <p>Liu Bang</p>
Main Ideas and Accomplishments	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
Influences on Chinese Culture	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



Checkpoint

What achievements did the early Chinese make?



I don't get it...



I get it!

EXIT CARD
Please jot down what you
have gotten from today's
lesson and what you still
have questions on.