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.
Chapter Preview

The ancient Chinese, like the Egyptians, established long-ruling dynasties. The Chinese valued three great philosophies: Confucianism, Daoism, and Legalism.

View the Chapter 7 video in the World History: Journey Across Time Video Program.

China's First Civilizations

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

Life in Ancient China

Early Chinese society had three main social classes: aristocrats, farmers, and merchants. During periods of unrest, ideas such as Confucianism and Daoism developed.

The Qin and Han Dynasties

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.

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.

Step 2 Turn the paper and fold it into thirds.

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

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.
Headings and Punctuation

As you read this chapter, pay attention to bold headings and punctuation. They are used by authors to help you better understand what you are reading. Look at the heading on page 235, **Chinese Thinkers**. By putting these words in red, the author lets you know, even before you begin reading, that this part of the chapter is about famous thinkers in Chinese history. Paying attention to punctuation marks also can help you understand the text. Look at the punctuation marks in the paragraph below.

---

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.”

— from page 236

---

Read a section out loud. Say the names of the punctuation marks as you read. This will help you remember why certain punctuation marks are used.

A colon (:) tells you that the words that follow are an illustration or an explanation of the first part of the sentence.

Quotation marks have several uses. Here they are used to set off words taken from another source.
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.”

—from page 231

1. Based on the heading, what do you think this section will be about?
2. Why do you think the phrase “Period of the Warring States” is in quotation marks?
3. How will you know when a new paragraph begins?
China’s First Civilizations

What’s the Connection?

In earlier chapters, you learned that many civilizations developed in river valleys. The civilizations of China also began in river valleys. However, other features of the land, such as mountains and deserts, affected China’s history as well.

Focusing on the Main Ideas

- Rivers, mountains, and deserts helped shape China’s civilization. (page 225)
- Rulers known as the Shang became powerful because they controlled land and had strong armies. (page 226)
- Chinese rulers claimed that the Mandate of Heaven gave them the right to rule. (page 229)

Locating Places

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

Meeting People

Wu Wang (WOO WAHNG)

Building Your 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)

Reading Strategy

Summarizing Information

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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Dates</th>
<th>Shang Dynasty</th>
<th>Zhou Dynasty</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>224-231</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1045 B.C.</td>
<td>Wu Wang</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>221 B.C.</td>
<td>Qin dynasty</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Locating Places

1750 B.C.

Shang dynasty begins

c. 1750 B.C.

1045 B.C.

Wu Wang creates Zhou dynasty

975 B.C.

221 B.C.

Qin dynasty begins

Luoyang

Anyang

When & Where?
China’s Geography

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

Reading Focus 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 HYUH), 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 flooded the land. The flooding was good and bad for the Chinese. When the river overflowed, many people drowned and many homes were destroyed. As a result, the Chinese called the Huang He “China’s sorrow.”

The river, however, also brought a gift. When the river flooded, it left behind rich topsoil in the Huang He valley. As a result, farmers could 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 is even longer than the Huang He. It 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 valley of the Chang Jiang also has rich soil for farming.

Using Geography Skills

While the country of China has one of the world’s largest populations, little of its land can be farmed.

1. What is the name of the desert on China’s northern border near Mongolia?
2. What effect did China’s mountains and deserts have on its history?

Find NGS online map resources @ 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 probably built the first Chinese cities.

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

The Shang Dynasty

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

Reading Focus 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 rose, 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.
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.

**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. 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.

**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.
These copies represent things that their departed relatives need in the afterlife.

**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. Scratches on oracle bones are the earliest known examples of Chinese writing.

**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.

**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?

The Zhou Dynasty

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

Reading Focus  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.
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.
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.

**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.

---

**What Did You Learn?**

1. **What is a dynasty?**
2. **What were oracle bones and how were they used?**

**Critical Thinking**

3. **Analyze** How did the Mandate of Heaven allow for the overthrow of kings in ancient China?

4. **Summarizing Information** Draw a diagram like the one below. Add details that describe the members of Shang society.

---

**Reading Check** Identify What was the chief duty of Chinese kings?
What's the Connection?
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 233)
- Three Chinese philosophies, Confucianism, Daoism, and Legalism, grew out of a need for order. (page 235)

Meeting People
Confucius (kuhn • FYOO • shuhs)
Laozi (LOWD • ZOO)
Hanfeizi (HAN • fay • DZOO)

Building Your 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)

Reading Strategy
Organizing Information
Create a pyramid diagram like the one below showing the social classes in ancient China from most important (top) to least important (bottom).
Peasants planted and cultivated rice plants in large flooded fields. Villagers built walls that surrounded and protected the town. Since horses were more valuable as war animals, farmers used oxen and water buffalo to pull plows and carts.

Foot-pedaled hammers were used to remove grain and rice from their stalks. Peasants planted and cultivated rice plants in large flooded fields.

Life in Ancient China

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

**Reading Focus** 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 people 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?

Since horses were more valuable as war animals, farmers used oxen and water buffalo to pull plows and carts.
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.
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. Most women raised children and managed the household.

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.

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

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.

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?
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 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.
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).

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

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


**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. Followers of Confucius taught that people should work hard to improve the world. Daoism called on 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 • luh • 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 they needed harsh laws and stiff punishments to force them to do their duty. His followers believed that a strong ruler was needed to keep 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 the cruel laws and punishments often used to control Chinese farmers.

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

---

**Section 2 Review**

**What Did You Learn?**

1. Describe the concept of filial piety.
2. Why did many aristocrats favor the philosophy of Legalism?
3. **Compare** Draw a table to compare the three main classes of ancient Chinese society.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Chinese Society</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Aristocrats</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Farmers</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Merchants</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

4. **Contrast** How did Daoism differ from Confucianism?
5. **Writing Questions** Suppose you could interview Confucius about his concept of duty. Write five questions you might ask him about the subject. Include possible responses.
6. **Expository Writing** Do you think any of the Chinese philosophies studied in this section are reflected in our society today? Write an essay explaining your answer.
The Qin and Han Dynasties

What's the Connection?
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 241)
- Developments during the Han dynasty improved life for all Chinese. (page 244)
- The Silk Road carried Chinese goods as far as Greece and Rome. (page 246)
- Unrest in China helped Buddhism to spread. (page 248)

Locating Places
Guangzhou (GWAHNG•JOH)
Silk Road
Luoyang (loo•WOH•YAHNG)

Meeting People
Qin Shihuangdi (CHIH•SHEE•hwahng•dee)
Liu Bang (lee•OO•BAHNG)
Han Wudi (HAHN•WOO•DEE)

Building Your Vocabulary
acupuncture (AKY•PUHNGK•chuhr)

Reading Strategy
Determining Cause and Effect
Complete a diagram like the one below showing the inventions of the Han dynasty and the resulting impact on society.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Invention</th>
<th>Effect</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

When & Where?
200 B.C.
- 202 B.C.: Liu Bang founds Han dynasty
- c. A.D. 100: Silk Road established

A.D. 1

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 Focus** 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** (CHIH 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 Shihuangdi unified China. He created one currency, or type of money, to be used throughout the empire. He also ordered the building 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 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.

“I have brought order to the mass of beings.”
—Qin Shihuangdi

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

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 Focus 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, who was once a peasant, 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 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 openings in the bureaucracy. Those with the highest scores got the jobs.

In time, Wudi’s tests became the civil service examinations. This system for choosing officials remained part of Chinese civilization for 2,000 years. The system was supposed to help anyone with the right skills get a job with the government. 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, history, and the teachings of Confucius. They 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.

Because farmers had to divide their lands among more and more sons, 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 tenant farmers. Tenant farmers work on land that is owned by someone else and pay rent in crops. The aristocrats now owned thousands of acres, but 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—the Chinese lived in peace for almost 150 years.

During this period of peace, new forms of Chinese literature appeared. Scholars and historians wrote new histories of current events and made copies of old literature. The focus of art also changed during the Han dynasty. Wealthy families commissioned products made of the best quality silk and wall carvings featuring scenes of everyday life.

An Era of Inventions New inventions during the Han dynasty helped Chinese workers produce more 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 government officials to record a growing amount of information.

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
The Silk Road

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

Reading Focus  Many of the things we buy today are made in China. Read to learn how goods made in China long ago made it all the way to Europe.

Emperor Han Wudi ordered a general named Zhang Qian (JAHNG CHYEHN) to explore areas west of China. Zhang was sent on this mission to find allies for China against its enemies, especially the Xiongnu.

Reading Check  Explain  How did China’s empire increase in size during the Han dynasty?

The Silk Road allowed the transport of expensive goods all the way from China to the Middle East and beyond.

1. What were some trade goods produced by China?
2. What regions were near or along the route of the Silk Road?
The four dynasties of early China were separated by brief periods of unrest.

1. Under which dynasty was a single monetary system put in place?

2. Evaluate Which dynasty do you think contributed the most to Chinese culture? Why?

to the north. After a journey of about 13 years, Zhang returned to China. He failed to find allies, but he told 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. He had also discovered another kingdom, perhaps in Kazakhstan, where there were horses of exceptional strength and size.

Emperor Wudi was delighted to hear this because the cavalry of the Xiongnu gave them a great advantage over his army, which was mostly infantry. The emperor encouraged trade to get these horses. 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.

Merchants used camels to carry their goods across deserts and mountains to central Asia. From there Arabs carried the goods to the Mediterranean Sea. The trip over the Silk Road was expensive because it was difficult and dangerous. Merchants had to pay taxes to many kingdoms as they moved the goods east and west. For this reason, they carried only high-priced goods such as silk, spices, tea, and porcelain.
Major Changes in China

Unrest in China helped Buddhism to spread.

Reading Focus 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 6, 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. One of the most important reasons that the Chinese people began to believe in Buddhism was the fall 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 the stress and their fear. Even the followers of other religions found Buddhism attractive. Followers of Confucius and Daoists admired Buddhist ideas. By the 400s, Buddhism had become popular in China.

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

What Did You Learn?

1. **Why did Qin Shihuangdi have the Great Wall built?**
2. **What were civil service examinations and why were they created?**
3. **Cause and Effect Draw a diagram to show the factors that caused the Han dynasty to fall.**
4. **Geography Skills What barriers did merchants who used the Silk Road have to cross?**
5. **Explain How did Qin Shihuangdi make China’s central government stronger?**
6. **Analyze Why did the Qin dynasty fall?**
7. **Descriptive Writing Zhang Qian wrote that Romans had short hair, wore embroidered clothes, and rode in chariots. Name three things that he might have written about people in the United States after seeing them for the first time.**
Section 1 China's First Civilizations

Vocabulary
dynasty aristocrat pictograph ideograph bureaucracy mandate Dao

Focusing on the Main Ideas
• Rivers, mountains, and deserts helped shape China's civilization. (page 225)
• Rulers known as the Shang became powerful because they controlled land and had strong armies. (page 226)
• Chinese rulers claimed that the Mandate of Heaven gave them the right to rule. (page 229)

Bronze bowl and ladle from Zhou dynasty

Section 2 Life in Ancient China

Vocabulary
social class filial piety Confucianism Daoism Legalism

Focusing on the Main Ideas
• Chinese society had three main social classes: landowning aristocrats, farmers, and merchants. (page 233)
• Three Chinese philosophies, Confucianism, Daoism, and Legalism, grew out of a need for order. (page 235)

Laozi

Section 3 The Qin and Han Dynasties

Vocabulary
acupuncture

Focusing on the Main Ideas
• Qin Shihuangdi used harsh methods to unify and defend China. (page 241)
• Developments during the Han dynasty improved life for all Chinese. (page 244)
• The Silk Road carried Chinese goods as far as Greece and Rome. (page 246)
• Unrest in China helped Buddhism to spread. (page 248)
Review 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. member of the 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. medical treatment using thin needles
h. people with a similar position in society
i. The teachings of Laozi are the basis of ___.

Review Main Ideas

Section 1 • China’s First Civilizations
10. What geographical features shaped China’s civilizations?
11. Why did the Shang rulers become powerful?

Section 2 • Life in Ancient China
12. What were the three main classes in Chinese society?
13. Identify three Chinese philosophies and the reason they emerged.

Section 3 • The Qin and Han Dynasties
14. How did developments during the Han dynasty affect the Chinese people?
15. What was the purpose of the Silk Road?

Critical Thinking

16. Contrast How is the ancient Chinese writing system different from cuneiform and hieroglyphic writing?
17. Describe How did Shang artisans create bronze urns?
18. Analyze How is Daoism the opposite of Confucianism in some ways?

Headings and Punctuation

19. Read each of the headings below. Three could be subheads in a chapter about ancient China. Which one would most likely be the main head?
   a. The Ideas of Confucius
   b. Daoist Beliefs
   c. Chinese Philosophy
   d. Hanfeizi

20. What would be a good main head for these subheads: Papermaking, Civil Service Examinations, Acupuncture?
   e. The Rise of the Zhou Dynasty
   f. Inventions of the Qin Dynasty
   g. Developments of the Han Dynasty
   h. Life in the Shang Dynasty

To review this skill, see pages 222–223.
The main ideas of Daoism are explained in a book titled *Dao De Jing* (The Way of the Dao). This passage describes the Daoist position against violence.

“When leading by the way of the Tao [Dao], abominate [hate] the use of force, for it causes resistance, and loss of strength... Achieve results but not through violence, for it is against the natural way, and damages both others’ and one’s own true self... The wise leader achieves results, but does not glory in them... and does not boast of them.

He knows that boasting is not the natural way, and that he who goes against that way, will fail in his endeavours.”

—“A Caveat Against Violence,”
_The Tao Te Ching_, Stan Rosenthal, trans.

**Analyze**

28. According to Daoist thought, what is the result of using force or violence?

29. What do you think the following statement means?

“The wise leader achieves results, but does not glory in them.”

---

**Primary Source**

**Analyse the text:**

The main ideas of Daoism are explained in a book titled *Dao De Jing* (The Way of the Dao). This passage describes the Daoist position against violence.

“When leading by the way of the Tao [Dao], abominate [hate] the use of force, for it causes resistance, and loss of strength... Achieve results but not through violence, for it is against the natural way, and damages both others’ and one’s own true self... The wise leader achieves results, but does not glory in them... and does not boast of them.

He knows that boasting is not the natural way, and that he who goes against that way, will fail in his endeavours.”

—“A Caveat Against Violence,”
_The Tao Te Ching_, Stan Rosenthal, trans.

**Read to Write**

24. **Expository Writing** Imagine you are planning a trip on the Silk Road and you need someone to go with you. Write a want ad describing the type of person you need. Explain what will be expected of that person on the trip.

25. **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.

**Using Technology**

26. **Internet Research** The Chinese built the Great Wall of China to protect themselves. Use the Internet and your local library to research ways other countries have protected themselves from enemies. Describe at least two examples to your classmates.
Compare the civilizations that you have read about by reviewing the information below. Can you see how the people of these civilizations helped to build the world we live in today?

### Where did these civilizations develop?

- **Ancient Greece** (Chapters 4 & 5)
  - On Mediterranean islands and the Balkan Peninsula

- **Early India** (Chapter 6)
  - In the Indus River valley

- **Early China** (Chapter 7)
  - In the Huang He valley

### Who were some important people in these civilizations?

- **Ancient Greece** (Chapters 4 & 5)
  - Homer, c. 750 B.C.
  - Pericles, c. 495–429 B.C.
  - Socrates, c. 470–399 B.C.
  - Alexander the Great, c. 356–323 B.C.

- **Early India** (Chapter 6)
  - Siddhartha Gautama, c. 563–483 B.C.
  - Chandragupta Maurya, ruled c. 321–298 B.C.
  - Asoka, ruled c. 273–232 B.C.

- **Early China** (Chapter 7)
  - Wu Wang, ruled c. 1045–1043 B.C.
  - Confucius, 551–479 B.C.
  - Qin Shi Huangdi, ruled 221–210 B.C.
  - Liu Bang, ruled 202–195 B.C.

### Where did most of the people live?

- **Ancient Greece** (Chapters 4 & 5)
  - Early Greeks lived on estates near walled palaces
  - Later Greeks lived in a polis and in nearby farms and villages

- **Early India** (Chapter 6)
  - Many lived in farming villages and towns near major rivers
  - Some lived in very large cities

- **Early China** (Chapter 7)
  - Landowning aristocrats lived in large houses with gardens and courtyards
  - Most people were farmers living in simple houses in villages or cities
#### What were these people's beliefs?
- Greeks worshiped many gods and goddesses and believed in fate
- Hinduism: complex religion with many deities representing an eternal spirit
- Buddhism: enlightenment available to anyone
- Confucianism: duty directs your life
- Daoism: people should try to be in harmony with nature
- Legalism: people need harsh laws to be good
- Worship of ancestors

#### What was their government like?
- Early Greeks were ruled by kings
- Later, some Greeks developed governments run by citizens
- The warrior class ran the government, usually ruled by a king
- A king or emperor ruled the country
- Aristocrats ran the provinces

#### What was their language and writing like?
- Greek: used characters to form letters and words
- Sanskrit: used characters to form letters and words
- Chinese: symbols that represent objects were combined to represent ideas
- "0" is now a part of our number system
- Many people still practice Buddhism and Hinduism
- The papermaking process allows us to create books, newspapers, and other paper products
- Gunpowder and silk are still in use

#### What contributions did they make?
- Introduced democracy
- Architecture was copied by others
- Developed the idea of theater and drama
- Made advances in medicine, mathematics, science, and literature
- Developed two major religions
- Invented paper and gunpowder
- Cultivated silk

#### How do these contributions affect me? Can you add any?
- We have a democratic government in the United States
- Modern plays, movies, and television shows have their roots in Greek theater
- "0" is now a part of our number system
- Many people still practice Buddhism and Hinduism
- The papermaking process allows us to create books, newspapers, and other paper products
- Gunpowder and silk are still in use