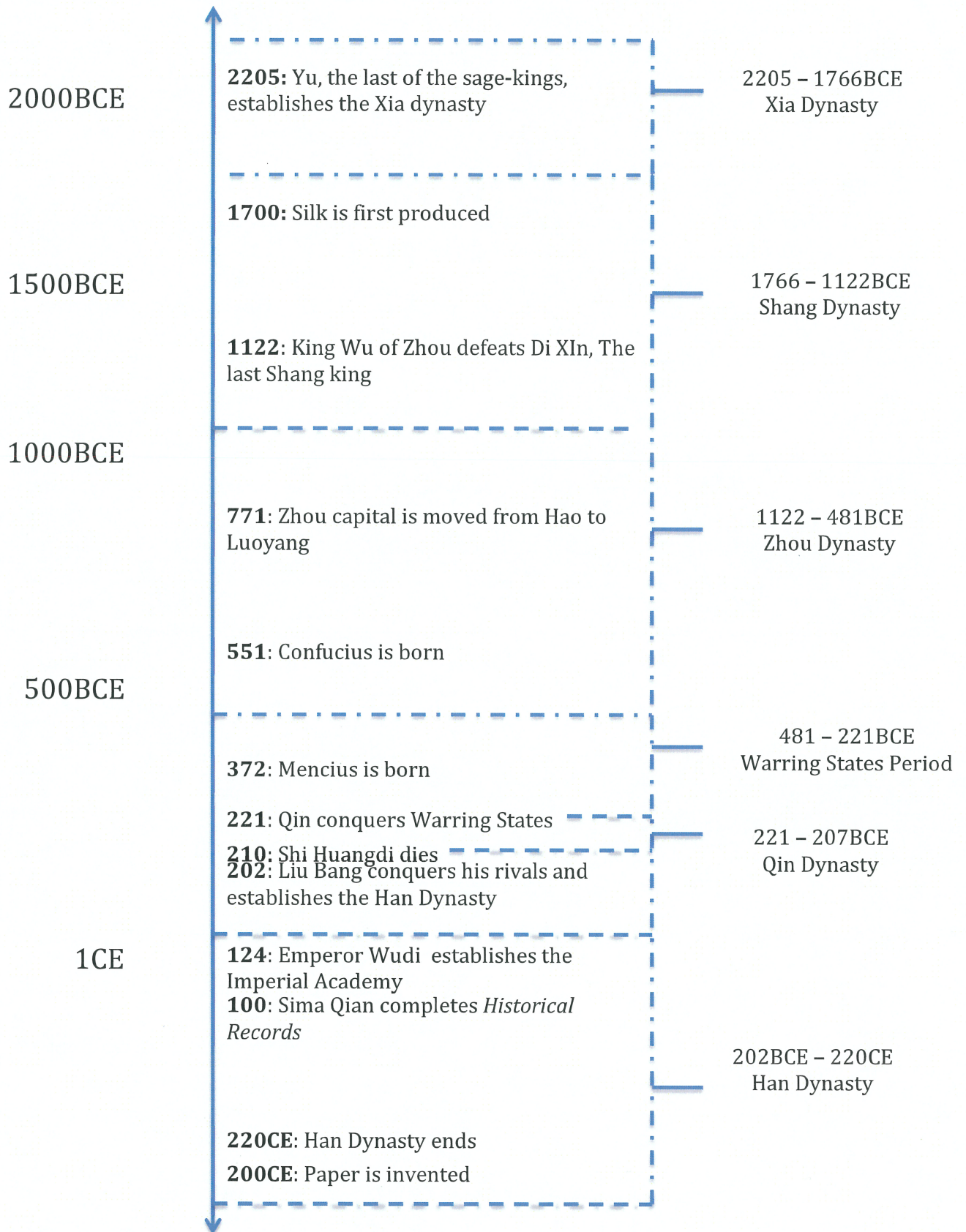


Name:

Ancient China Workbook



Timeline of Ancient China



Timeline Activity

Examine the Ancient China Timeline on the previous page and answer:

1. During which Dynasty was silk first produced? _____
2. In which year was Confucious born? _____
3. How long did the Zhou dynasty rule? _____
4. In what year was paper invented? _____
5. Who defeated Di Xinn in 1122 BCE? _____
6. Who established the Imperial Academy in 124 CE? _____
7. In which years did the Warring States Period **begin and end** ? _____

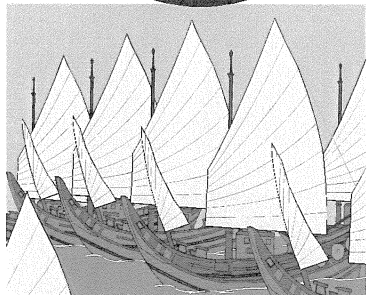
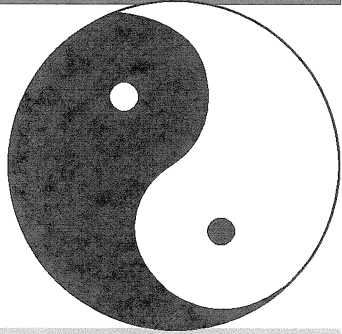


Depiction of Ancient Chinese Warriors



KEY WORDS AND TERMS

abacus	A device invented by the Chinese and used for counting and mathematics
acupuncture	A Chinese form of medicine that involves the use of long fine needles inserted into different parts of the body to relieve pain and to cure illness
astronomy	A study of the heavenly bodies and the movement of the stars
barbarian	A person who was not civilised
calligraphy	Decorative handwriting. Calligraphy was a form of art and decoration in China.
celestial	Heavenly or associated with the heavens
Celestial Empire	The Chinese regarded the emperor as the Son of Heaven and China was often called the Celestial Empire.
concubine	A woman who lives in a man's house with his wife and family but is not married to him
Confucianism	The teaching of the Chinese philosopher Confucius
elixir	A much sought after potion or mixture that was believed to have the power to prolong life or even grant immortality
excavate	To dig. Archaeologists excavate a site when they search for ancient remains.
filial piety	The respect and honour children show towards their parents. Filial piety was an important part of the teachings of Confucius.
kaolin	A clay used in the making of porcelain
legalism	The name given to the strict style of government under the first Chinese emperor
lodestone	A magnetic stone. The Chinese used it to make the first compass.
Mandate of Heaven	The belief that Chinese emperors ruled their people by the will of Heaven
Nirvana	In the Buddhist religion Nirvana is a state of peace and happiness.
nomads	People without a fixed home
plateau	An elevated or high area of land
porcelain	A white clay used to make decorative vases
reincarnation	The belief in some religions that after death a person is reborn into another form of life on earth
saltpetre	A chemical used in the production of gunpowder
terracotta	A type of baked clay



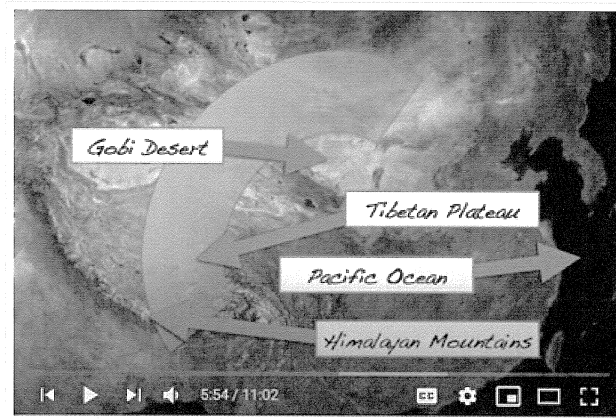
Introduction to Ancient China

Watch: Crash Course - 2,000 Years of Chinese History!

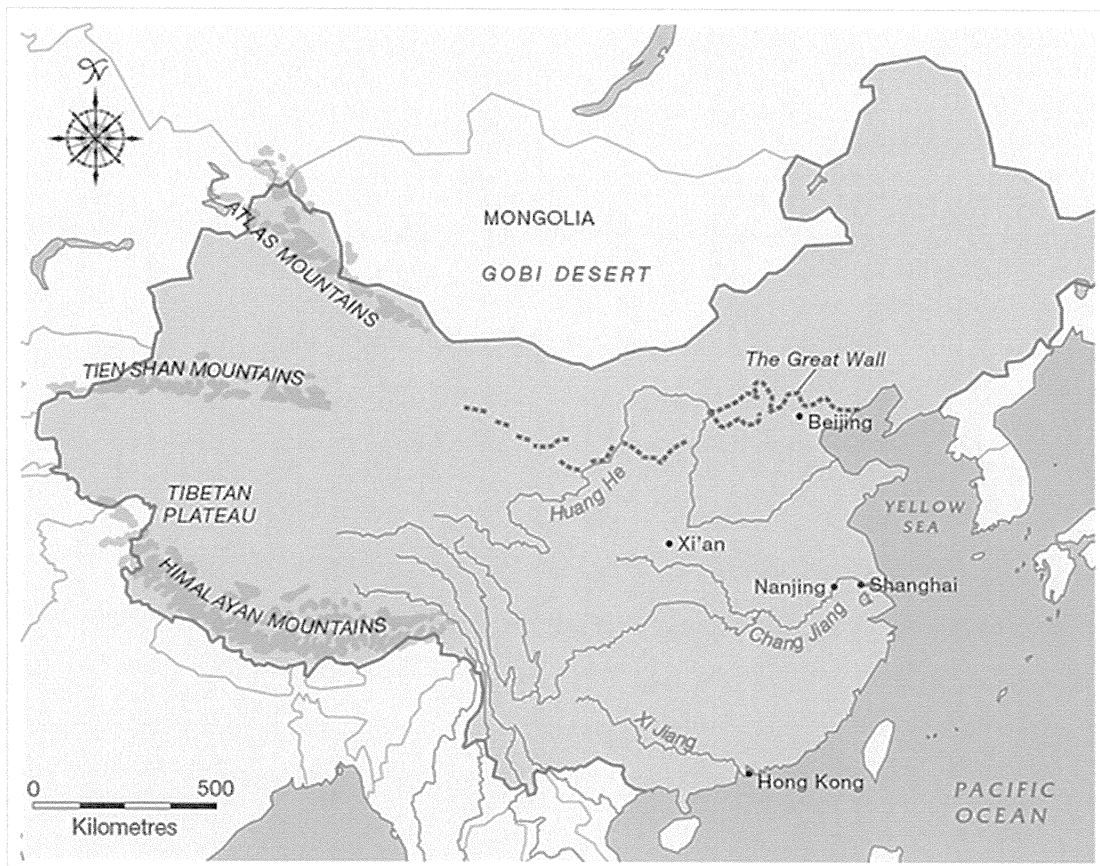


<https://tinyurl.com/mlsbl5a>

Watch: Geography of China



<https://tinyurl.com/yavm8xst>



Map showing China's geographic barriers

Geography of China

To understand Chinese civilisation it is important to look at the map. The land where people live plays a very important part in the way a civilisation develops. China is unique because of its landscape. It is a vast land, the third largest country in the world, with an area of over 9.5 million square kilometres.

To the west and south-west is the high **Tibetan plateau** and the **Himalayan mountains**, the highest mountains in the world.

To the north-west is the vast expanse of the **Gobi Desert** and the lands of Mongolia, while along China's eastern border there are over **12 000 kilometres of sea**. These all served as natural barriers and helped protect the ancient people from invasion.

This landscape also served the purpose of keeping China isolated from the rest of the world for many thousands of years.

There are also many great rivers in China. The most important are the Huang He (the Yellow River) in the north, over 5000 kilometres long, and the Chang Jiang (the Yangtze River) in the south, the longest river in China and over 6000 kilometres in length.

The Huang He river has the ominous nickname of the *River of Sorrows* because of its destructive flooding. People continue, however, to live near this river to take advantage of the fertile soil to grow crops such as rice, soybeans and millet. Loess is fertile yellow soil that blows off the plains into the rivers and is deposited on land during flooding.

Introduction to Ancient China

Where in the World is China? Shade China on the map



In what direction would you have to fly from Sydney to China? _____

What two important factors limited China's contact with outsiders?

1. _____

2. _____

Types of Natural Geographical Barriers

1. The _____ forms part on China's natural border to the west.

2. The _____ contain some of the tallest mountains in the world.

3. The _____ is a vast area stretching from Mongolia to China.

4. What formed China's natural barrier to the east? _____

How did Geography influence China's development?

In 3 minutes brainstorm some ideas with the person sitting next and write them below.

Help	Hurt

The Two Main Rivers of China are:

1. _____

2. _____

The Huang He river has the ominous nickname of _____

because of its _____.

People continue to live near this river to take advantage of the _____

to grow crops such as _____.

_____ is fertile yellow soil that blows off the plains into the rivers

and is deposited on land during a flood.

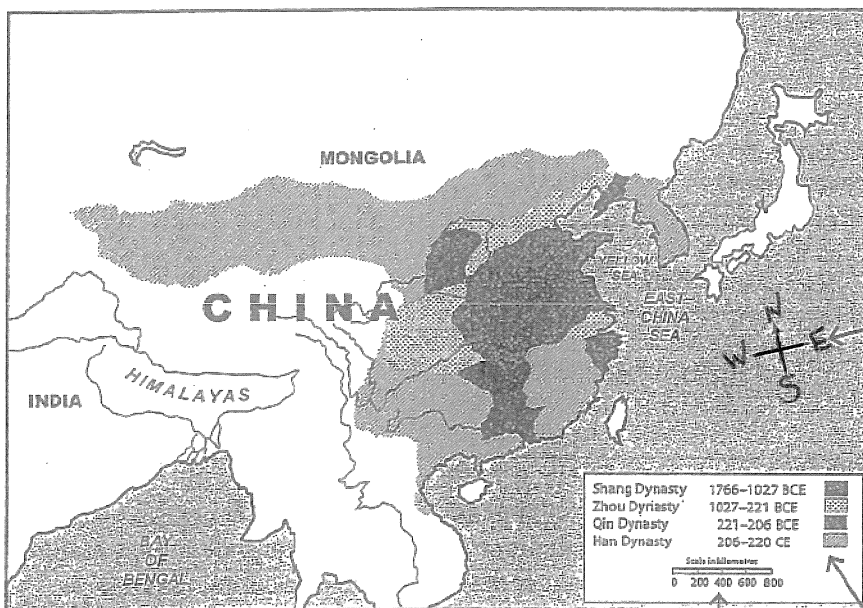
Map skills

Being able to read and create maps are important skills when studying history. When creating your own maps, you need to make sure you include the following details: border, orientation, legend, title, scale and source. These details are also known as BOLTSS.

1 Use the words in the word bank to complete the labels beside the map.

Word bank					
Border	Orientation	forests	map	east	symbols
Title	Scale	Source	know	top	

Ancient China ←



T _____ – Write a title explaining what the map shows. Be specific. This needs to appear at the t _____ of the map.

O _____ : This refers to the compass directions: north, e _____, south and west. North always points to the top of the page. Sometimes this is shown with a small arrow.

Legend: This is a little box in the corner that explains any s _____ that you have used in your map to represent natural features such as f _____ or rivers or man-made features such as roads and cities.

B _____ : This means putting a fence or border around your m _____.

Source unknown

S _____ : Under the bottom left-hand corner of the map you write where you got your map from. If you don't k _____ the source, write 'source unknown'.

S _____ : The scale explains the distances on the map. It shows the distance that your map represents in real life.

Land and climate

China is the third largest country in the world. It is bordered by a sea on one side and a large mountain range on the other. These two features made it difficult for early Chinese people to travel and trade with the other important civilisations at the time, Rome and Greece. This meant that Chinese civilisation developed separately from other countries. The Chinese had to rely on themselves to create and make important objects because it was often too difficult to access ideas and inventions from other countries.

Deserts

In the north of China there is a large desert called the Gobi Desert. The Taklamakan Desert lies in the north-west of the country. The temperature in these deserts can range from 35 degrees Celsius to minus 35 degrees Celsius – from burning heat to freezing cold.


Mountains

The Himalayas are a large mountain range in the south-west of China. In the lower parts of the mountains, the weather is tropical, but the tops of the mountains have alpine or snowy weather.

Rainforests

The south-east of China is covered by tropical rainforest, bordered by the Pacific Ocean. The tropical areas often experience **monsoon** weather. A monsoon is a period of heavy rainfall that often leads to flooding.

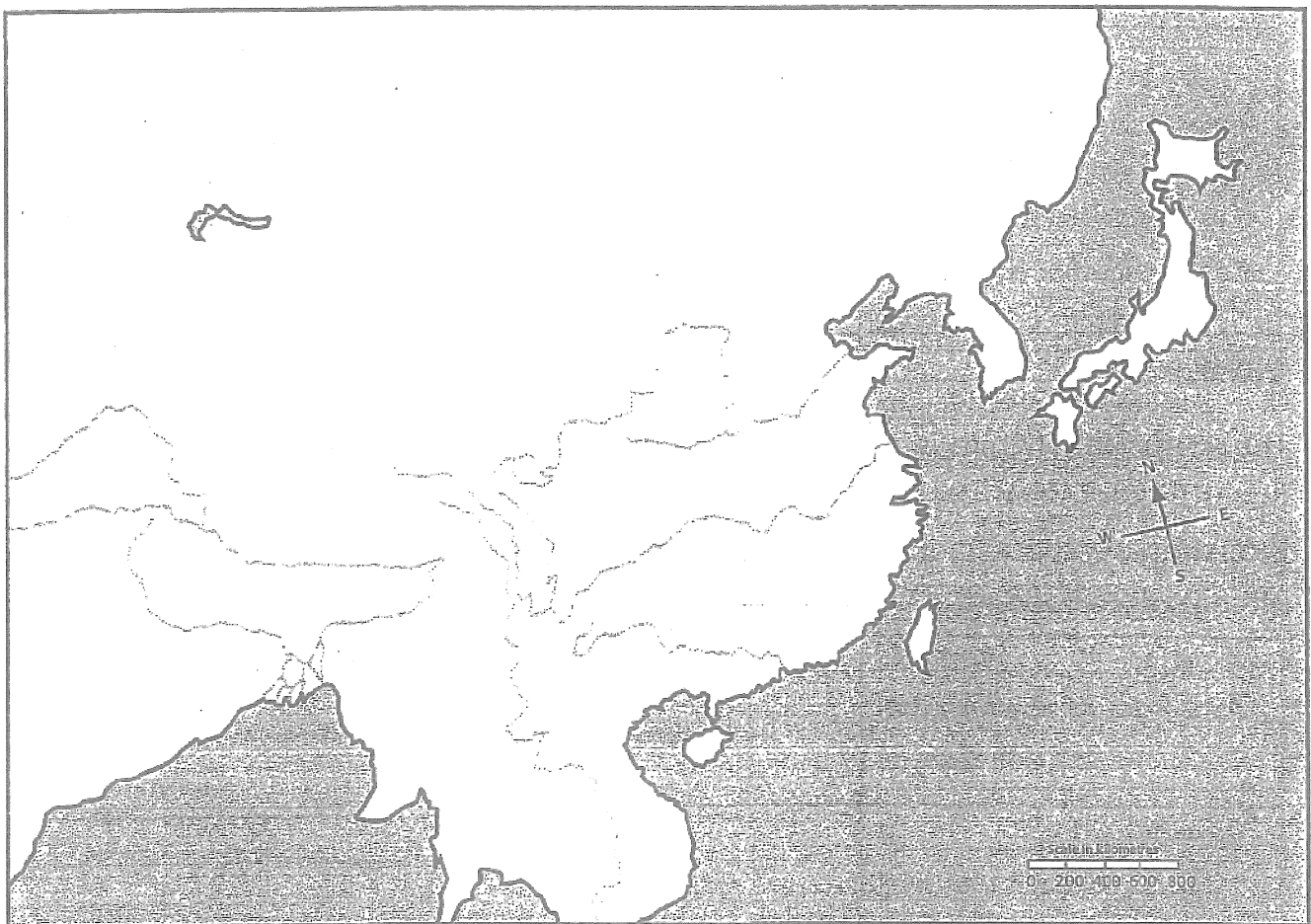
Physical features

 1 Using the Resource sheet, 'Land and climate' and an atlas, locate the following places on the map. Draw a symbol or use a colour to represent each feature.

- Gobi Desert
- Taklamakan Desert
- Himalayas
- Pacific Ocean
- Tropical rainforest region
- Huang Ho or Yellow River
- Chang Jiang or Yangtze River
- *Tibetan Plateau*

Make sure you include BOLTSS on your map: Border, Orientation, Legend, Title, Scale, Source.

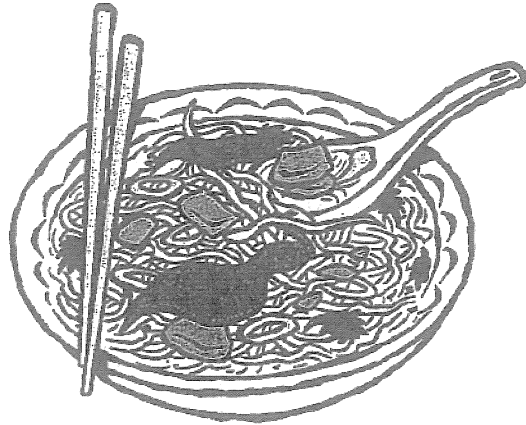
Hint: Legends can include colours, such as yellow to represent a desert, or symbols, such as a tree to represent a forest.



Growing food

Most civilisations began where people settled near water. Water is needed for so many things, such as drinking, cleaning and cooking. If a place has no easy access to water, people usually cannot live there.

The Yellow River (or Huang Ho) was one of the first places to be settled in China. It is named after the thick yellow earth surrounding it, called **loess**. When the Yellow River floods, the loess is washed over the land, where it helps crops to grow.



Although flooding is good for crops, it can damage buildings and people can drown. During the Shang Dynasty, the Chinese created **irrigation** channels to carry water to farms and stop the river flooding. There are only two main rivers in China (the Yellow River and the Yangtze), so man-made rivers called **canals** were also dug to **transport** water to other parts of the country. These canals became like highways for **trade**, enabling small boats to carry items from one place to another. They also meant people could catch fish to eat.

Access to water affects the type of food that can be grown in an area.

- In both northern and southern China people grew leeks, garlic, carrots, cabbage and fruit.
- In the south, because there was so much water, their main food was rice, which is grown in water-filled fields called paddies.
- People in the north had less access to water, so they grew barley and wheat, which they used to make noodles and bread.



Water: source of life

 Read the Resource sheet, 'Growing food', then answer the following questions.

1 Why do most civilisations begin near water? Give two reasons.

2 How did the Yellow River get its name?

3 What is the name of the other main river in China?

4 The Yellow River floods each year. Give two negative impacts of flooding.

5 Complete the following sentences:

Loess is _____, It is found _____.

Canals are _____.

The ancient Chinese used _____ to transport water to farms and help grow _____.

Water also helps us to grow food, which we need to live. The ancient Chinese ate different foods depending on where they lived and how much water was available. Our access to food today is very different. The ancient Chinese could only eat food grown near them, unless they were very rich. Nowadays we can go to a supermarket and buy food from all over the world.

6 What are some of the foods that the ancient Chinese ate?

7 What are some of the foods you eat now?

8 Why might the food you eat be different to what the ancient Chinese ate?

Social Structure in Ancient China



Emperor



scholar



land owner



nobility

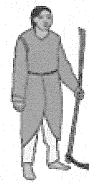


scholar



land owner

Shi



peasant farmers

Nong



priest



craftsman



priest



craftsperson



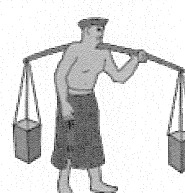
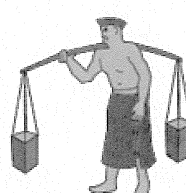
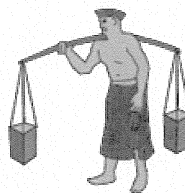
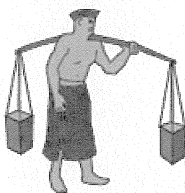
priest

Gong



traders

Shang

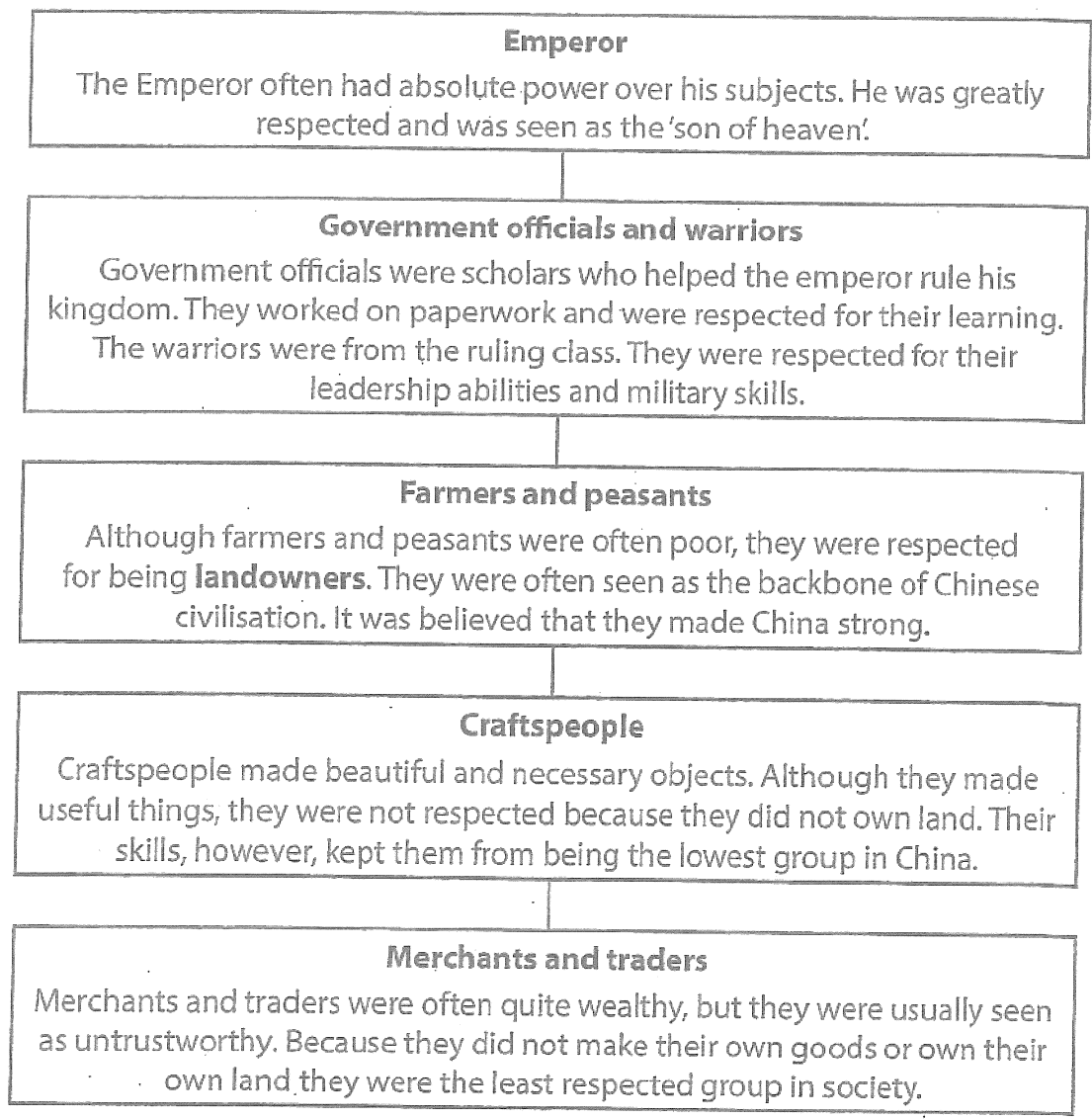


slaves


Social structure in ancient China

People in ancient China were organised into different social groups. A person's position was usually based on their job. The highest-ranking member of the society was the emperor, because he was the most respected person. The lowest-ranking group were **merchants**. This was not because they were poor, but because their job was the least respected. In ancient China, **respect** and **honour** were very important. People who contributed the most to society were seen as the most honourable. This is why farmers, although they were quite poor, were still highly ranked in the social structure.

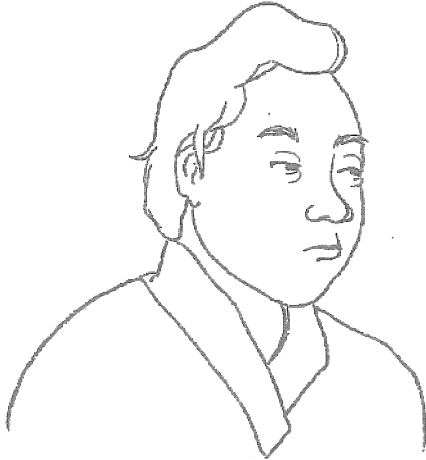
There were servants and slaves in ancient China, but they were seen as so low that they were not thought of as part of society. Some servants could gain power, however, if they worked for the emperor and became his advisors.



Makers and sellers

 Read the Resource sheet, 'Social structure in ancient China', then read the statements below and decide which group in society each man belongs to.

1



My name is Jizi.
I work hard every day to make beautiful clay figurines. Many rich people buy them from me. One day I hope to earn enough to employ some labourers to help me with my work. I sometimes wish that people respected me more. It is hard to make these figurines. Maybe if I earned enough to buy some land, people would treat me better.

The social group I belong to is _____

2



My name is Tian.
I often buy clay figures from Jizi to sell when I travel along the Silk Road to distant countries. I make a lot of money from selling other people's items. People do not respect me because I do not make anything myself, but I feel that I should be respected for making so much money. I risk my life travelling to the barbarian countries! But instead I get taxed by my emperor, and he will not let me become a government official.

The social group I belong to is _____

3 If you were the emperor of China, which social groups would you value. Why?

Farmers

 1 The information below is missing these three important words:

the were and

Fill in the blanks to make sense of the paragraphs.

Farmers _____ often among _____ poorest people in ancient China. They _____ respected for owning their own land, but they had to work hard to survive. They would weed _____ ground using hoes or metal tips attached to their fingers. _____ whole family had to help – even young children _____ elderly people. This meant that _____ family became very important in China.


There _____ three busiest times for _____ farmers _____: ploughing, sowing _____ harvesting.

- Ploughing was when they loosened _____ ground so that they could plant _____ seeds.
- Sowing was when they planted _____ seeds.
- Harvesting was when they collected _____ crops that they had grown. They would often plant more than one crop a year to make more money. This meant that they _____ often working all _____ time, on many different crops.

Farmers _____ busy even when they _____ not growing their crops. They had to look after _____ animals, repair tools _____ make cloth for their clothes. They would also fertilise _____ ground, to help _____ plants grow. They did this by putting ash, mud _____ manure on _____ fields.

Being a farmer was difficult because so many things could destroy your crops. Farmers always faced _____ possibility of floods, droughts, frost _____ bandits, who would steal their crops. When there _____ wars, peasant farmers would be called up to fight in _____ emperor's army. This meant that there _____ even less people to work on _____ farm, but they _____ still expected to produce _____ same amount of food.

Emperors

-  1 Use the words in the word bank column to complete the paragraphs below. You may want to use a dictionary to look up the meaning of some words.

Word bank	
heaven replaced kingdom rituals	In ancient China, emperors were believed to be 'sons of _____'. They were seen as half-god, half-man, chosen by the gods. Emperors had to perform important religious _____ to protect their _____. If disasters happened, the people took this as a sign that the gods had taken away the emperor's right to rule. This meant the emperor could be _____.
sacrificed sowed humans	The emperor had to identify the right times for the crops to be _____ and harvested. Sometimes he would sacrifice _____ because he thought it would protect his country. These people were usually _____ by being burnt alive or drowned.
Dowager regent current	Emperors were usually male. The position was traditionally passed down from the _____ emperor to his eldest son. If the son was too young to rule, his mother, the _____ Empress, became _____. This means she ruled until her son was old enough to rule himself. This gave some women a small amount of power.
eunuchs serve removed	In the palaces, the emperor was served by a group of people called _____. They were men whose genital organs had been _____. This was done to ensure that they could have no children or family, so they would only _____ the emperor.
concubines secondary principal legal	The emperor often had more than one wife. Some emperors had hundreds of wives, although there was usually a _____ wife, called the Empress. The emperor also often had _____, who were like _____, or lesser, wives with no _____ power. The women were often searched by eunuchs when they came to visit the emperor in case they were carrying weapons to kill him.

Women's lives

In ancient China, men were usually the head of the family. They made all the decisions and worked to support the rest of the family. A man could even legally kill his children, if he wanted to.

The birth of a female child was usually a disappointment. Her parents would often worry about how expensive her future wedding would be. Women could bring dishonour to their family by not behaving appropriately – people would believe that her parents had not taught her how a woman should behave.

As they grew up, girls and women were often seen as only temporary members of their family. This is because when girls got married, they usually left their family to live with their husband's family. The husband's mother would then treat the new bride like a servant.

Many people, including scholars such as Confucius, believed that the home was the proper place for women. Women had to:

- keep away from guests
- spin silk or hemp into cloth
- sew
- weave
- cook
- care for the children
- be respectful
- yield to others' wishes.



Women in ancient China were seen as **inferior** to men.

Some women were able to get jobs outside the house. They were usually from a scholar's family and had some education. Some women worked as scholars themselves, and even wrote books, like Ban Zhao. Others became female physicians. This was allowed in order to protect the feelings of female patients, as male physicians were not permitted to touch or talk directly to women. Women could not become teachers or politicians, as they were not allowed to speak freely around men. This made it impossible for women to gain any real power.

Now and then

Read the Resource sheet, 'Women's lives'.

 1 Draw a line to match each word to its definition.

- | | |
|-----------------|--|
| a physician | making cloth by linking the threads together |
| b inferior | a doctor |
| c weaving | your husband's mother |
| d mother-in-law | giving in to something |
| e yielding | a lesser thing |

2 Decide whether each of the following statements is true or false.

- | | |
|--|-------|
| a Women in ancient China were seen as inferior to men. | _____ |
| b No women were allowed to work outside the home. | _____ |
| c Confucius was a woman who wrote a book. | _____ |
| d A father could kill his children if he wanted to. | _____ |

3 Compare the descriptions of women's life in ancient China with how women are seen and live in Australia today.

Ancient China	Modern Australia
Women were seen as:	Women are seen as:
Women could do:	Women can do:
Women could not:	Women cannot:

Girls' lives



 Rewrite the scrambled words to complete the passage.

My name is Lihua. I am (**net**) _____ years old and live in the Sui (**aytsnyD**) _____ in China (615 CE). My father is a famous (**clrasho**) _____ and he has taught me some (**sretchacar**) _____ so that I can write a little. I do not know many other girls who can write – not even my (**hermto**) _____ can.

Only boys get to go to (**lhcoso**) _____. My brother Ao will go to school next year when he is ten. I haven't seen him much since he was (**venes**) _____ years old. Boys live

separately from their (**rsetiss**) _____ at that age. If he is smart and works hard he will (**embceo**) _____ a scholar too.


My mother has (**auhtgt**) _____ me to embroider, sew and make (**heoss**) _____. These are important (**klisls**) _____ that I will need when I get (**deirram**) _____. It is very important that my behaviour in my husband's (**usohe**) _____ does not bring disgrace to my (**lyifma**) _____. My mother-in-law would say that my (**rnsteap**) _____ did not teach me how to be a good (**fwie**) _____.

In order to make me more beautiful so I will find a (**bndashu**) _____, my mother has started binding my (**efet**) _____ to make them smaller. It hurts a lot. My (**esot**) _____ get pressed down underneath my feet until the (**nsebo**) _____ break. Then my feet are bound up to make them (**lsmla**) _____ and delicate. It is difficult to (**kwla**) _____ – my feet feel like they are on fire. Mother says it stops hurting after a couple of (**raesy**) _____, but I will have to keep (**gdinbni**) _____ them for the rest of my (**feli**) _____.

Interesting facts

Historians do not know exactly when foot binding started. Some believe that it started during the Tang Dynasty (618–907 CE), but others have suggested the Sui, Han or Qin dynasties. The aim of foot binding was to make the feet less than seven centimetres long. Foot binding was usually done by mothers or aunts, who felt that they were giving their daughters or nieces a better life. This practice was usually done to girls in wealthier families, whose parents and future husbands could afford to look after a woman who could barely walk. Some peasant girls also had their feet bound, in the hope they would get a richer husband.

Marriage and divorce

-  1 Match the synonyms in the word bank to the words in brackets and complete the information below. (A synonym is a word that has the same meaning as another word. For example, 'small' is a synonym of 'tiny'.)

Marriages were normally (arranged) _____ by parents. Girls had no say in who they married. Often the first time they met their husband was on their wedding day. Marriages were sometimes arranged with the help of a matchmaker, who helped pick the right (partner) _____.

A wedding in ancient China was different to the marriage ceremonies we have now. The bride gave (slippers) _____ to her husband and did a dance, while her husband would bring a wild goose to (symbolise) _____ true love. Then the marriage was finalised with a (feast) _____. The next morning the new bride would bow and offer tea to her husband's parents to show that she belonged to them. If her (betrothed) _____ died before they were married, the girl was married to his (memorial tablet) _____.

The bride was considered to be her mother-in-law's (slave) _____. She would only gain (respect) _____ once she had given birth to a son. If she was unable to produce a son, her husband might marry a new wife. Men could marry several wives, and also have (courtesans) _____, although only rich men could afford to do this. The marriage to the first wife, who was usually the principal wife, was seen to be more official than the man's other marriages.

Divorces were very easy to get. A man could get a divorce if his wife fought with his parents, if she couldn't have children, if she committed adultery, showed (jealousy) _____, had an incurable disease, talked too much or (committed theft) _____. They did not need to go to court to get a divorce, they could just separate, or he could (expel) _____ her from the home.

Word bank

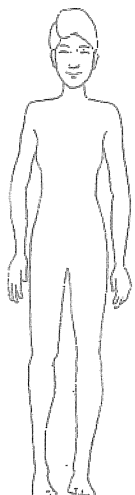
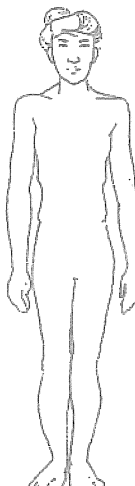
- organised
- shoes
- concubines
- envy
- spouse
- eject
- honour
- fiancé
- gravestone
- servant
- banquet
- stole
- represent

Clothing

People in ancient China wore similar styles of clothing, but there were some differences.

	Emperor and Imperial family	Nobility	Merchants/traders	Peasants/poor people
Colours	only the emperor and his relatives could wear the colour yellow	various colours, including purple, scarlet, green and blue	often wore black	often wore natural-coloured clothing (brown and dirty white)
Materials	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • silk • fox and squirrel furs 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • silk • fox and squirrel furs 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • forbidden to wear silk 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • material made from hemp or nettles • sheep skins in winter
Shoes	silk and fine leather	silk and fine leather	leather	barefoot or straw sandals
Styles	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • long tunics like dressing gowns that reached the ground, with large sleeves • trousers underneath 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • long tunics like dressing gowns that reached the ground, with large sleeves • trousers underneath 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • long tunics that reached their thighs • loose trousers and shorter jackets, like those the peasants wore, but made of better material 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • loose trousers and short jackets

 1 Draw clothes onto each of the following illustrations and label them.






















<p>A woman from the Imperial family</p> 	<p>A peasant man</p> 
---	--

Writing

Ancient Chinese language was first written over 3500 years ago. It is very different to modern Chinese. Chinese writing doesn't use an alphabet like English does. We use the 26 letters in our alphabet to make thousands of words. The Chinese use pictograms, or 'characters', instead of letters. A pictogram is a picture used to represent a word. In English, 'China' is written using five letters, but in Chinese it is shown with just one character.

When the Chinese first developed their written language there were about 3000 characters. Each character looked like the thing it represented. Over time, the shapes slowly changed so they were quicker to write. They ended up looking very different.

The following table shows how some Chinese characters have changed over time.

	Early Chinese (around 2205–1027 BCE)	Around Han Dynasty (around 206 BCE–220 CE)	Modern Chinese (around 2000 CE)
human			
fish			
mountain			
rain			
moon			
sun			
ear			

By the Han Dynasty scholars were expected to learn about 8000 characters. Scholars and the wealthy were the only people in ancient China who were able to read and write. They were mostly men, although some wealthy girls or daughters of scholars were also taught to read and write.

Strange characters

Read the Resource sheet, 'Writing', then complete the following activities.

 1 Draw the following symbols.

	Early Chinese	Around Han Dynasty	Modern Chinese
human			
sun			

2 Why do you think the early Chinese characters for 'sun' and 'human' look like they do?

3 Why did the characters change over time?

4 Imagine that you live in ancient China and need to write a letter. Create pictures to represent each of the words in your letter.

Dear	Mum	I	need	two
ox	for	my	field.	Can
you	give	me	some	money
to	buy	some?	Love	_____ (your name)

5 Which words were easy to create pictures for? Which were hard?

Sport and recreation

The Chinese played many different sports, although the poorer people didn't get much time to play because they were so busy working or farming. The Chinese enjoyed playing sports such as boxing, wrestling, polo, archery and shuttlecock. They also played a game called **Touhu** where they tried to throw arrows into a container. Sports were mostly played by men, although some women also took part.



1 Which sports are popular today? Which ones are your favourites?

Martial arts first began in China. This sport involves learning how to defend yourself without weapons. Many of the actions look like the movements of animals, which is not surprising, given the importance of farming in China.

2 Why might people in ancient China need to defend themselves without weapons? Who would have used these skills?

The ancient Chinese were very fond of music and created many musical instruments. They had one called a **qin**, which looked like a box with seven strings on it. They also played bamboo flutes and drums. Some people believe that the practice of foot binding began when dancers bound their feet to make their movements look light and graceful.

3 List two similarities and two differences between modern music you listen to and the music that the ancient Chinese listened to.

Honour and crimes

Honour was very important in ancient China. To have honour, the ancient Chinese had to earn the **respect** of the community and behave well as a member of their family. Families were the centre of ancient Chinese society. It was only by working together and following the head of the family that people were able to get things done. It was important to follow the laws in order to earn respect and have honour. People wanted to avoid breaking laws, which would bring **shame** to their family.

Many ancient Chinese laws were about respecting the family ancestors and their burial grounds. There were rules about respecting parents and doing everything they asked. The people also had to protect their emperor. If the emperor was injured or killed, the whole country would be dishonoured. People who disobeyed the emperor were punished harshly.



Many ancient Chinese could not read. This made it difficult for them to know the law. Local officials and wealthy landowners in an area were supposed to tell their people about the laws and punishments. It was felt that if people knew the shame and loss of honour that would come from breaking a law, then they would obey.

Many ancient Chinese laws were designed to protect the emperor.

Honour and dishonour

Read the Resource sheet, 'Honour and crimes', then answer the following questions.

 1 What were the two most important things in ancient Chinese society?

2 How did people find out about laws and punishments?

3 List two people/groups that the ancient Chinese had to respect.

4 What does honour mean to you?

5 Suggest four laws that you think the ancient Chinese needed to obey in order to protect their families. Explain why these laws would have been important. An example has been provided.

Laws	Explanations
Honour your mother and father.	If people do not obey their parents they may hurt themselves or their family.

Conflicts

China was involved in many early **conflicts**. Sometimes Chinese armies fought against the **nomadic** people of the deserts, the Xiongu. Because they were always moving from place to place, the nomads had excellent horse skills, which made them a feared enemy of the Chinese. The Chinese army also fought against bandits and robbers who tried to control wealthy areas, like trade routes. The Chinese believed that people who lived outside of China were barbarians, and they fought hard to prove that the Chinese were **dominant**.

Much of the time, however, the Chinese armies fought each other. In the early years of China, at the end of the Chou/Zhou period (1027–221 BCE), when the country was divided into many small kingdoms, the kings fought each other to take control of other kingdoms and make themselves more powerful. Whole cities were destroyed in these violent battles. Sometimes the leader of the losing side was killed as a human sacrifice. Troops who surrendered were often killed. Sometimes the fighting was so bad that the troops wore their armour day and night, until their bodies crawled with lice.

One of the most powerful kings was Qin Shi Huang. Once he defeated all the other kings he became known as the 'First Emperor'. From then on, the Chinese army worked to protect the emperor. This only became a problem when several different people claimed the throne. This happened often during the Three Kingdoms period (220–260 CE), as well as during the Dynasties of the North and South (317–589 CE).

Fighting fit

Read the Resource sheet 'Conflicts', then answer the following questions.

 1 Name three groups that the ancient Chinese armies fought against.

2 Why did the ancient Chinese armies fight against other Chinese armies?

3 Why were armies so important to the emperor?

4 Write down two reasons why battles were so bad for the soldiers.

5 During which time periods was there the most fighting? Why?

6 Write down two facts about conflict in ancient China that you find interesting. Explain what you find interesting about these things.

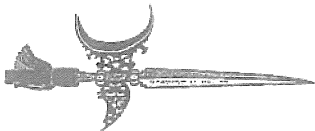
Weapons and gear

In ancient China, the most respected weapon was the bow and arrow. **Archery** was used in the armies, but it was also used in other ways. Scholars shot arrows into targets to pick the questions they would answer in their exams. In some court cases, archery was used to help work out whether people were telling the truth. If they were able to hit the target, it was believed that a god was on their side and had judged that they were telling the truth.

Soldiers used many weapons to protect themselves, such as spears for long-range fighting. Swords and sabres were also used, but because they were shorter, they were seen as more dangerous, because you had to stand closer to the enemy to fight.

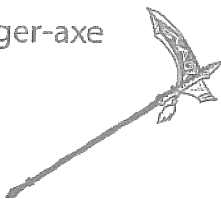
 1 Draw a line linking each weapon description with the correct picture.

Chinese halberd



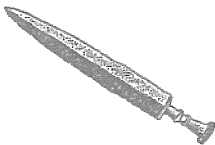
A short sword that was straight-edged.

Chinese dagger-axe



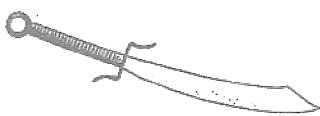
A spear that has sharp points on the end and on the side.

short sword



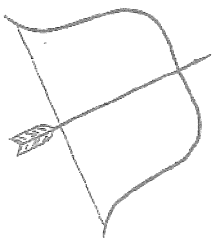
A sword with a curved blade.

sabre



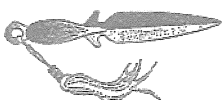
A weapon used to shoot small arrows from a distance.

bow




A short knife that is thrown from a distance.

throwing dagger



A spear that has both a dagger and an axe on the end.

Chariots

 1 Use the words in the word bank to complete the following paragraphs.

Chariots were two-wheeled wooden _____ that were pulled by horses. They were used by ancient Chinese armies to **intimidate** their _____. Most of the armies in ancient China were made up of **infantry**, which means _____ who are on _____. People driving _____ in chariots pulled by horses would have seemed very _____.

Chariots were mainly used by the _____ warriors, because they were the only people who could afford to pay for the _____. Most chariots held three people. There was a driver, who directed the horses, and a rich or noble warrior, who would usually fire _____. The third person was usually the warrior's _____, who would help by handing over arrows and protecting their master.

Sometimes chariots were used by the _____, so they could watch the battle and make plans. Some _____ had crow's-nest chariots. These had a small _____ on top so that generals could watch the battle and signal _____ to their troops. It was easier to watch the battle from high up, but it could also be more _____.

2 The generals used chariots because _____

3 Most people in the army did not use chariots because _____

4 Explain the advantages and disadvantages of using a crow's-nest chariot.

Word bank
soldiers
scary
servant
movements
richest
carts
tower
generals
foot
fast
dangerous
arrows
armies
horses
enemies

Advantages	Disadvantages

CHINESE RELIGION AND BELIEFS

INQUIRY QUESTION

What did the Chinese believe?



Confucius

In China a philosopher or a thinker is sometimes called a sage (a very wise man). The Chinese were very tolerant of different ideas and beliefs, and one of the most important of the philosophers was Confucius. He is important in Chinese history because many people followed his ideas and because the type of government China had for almost 2000 years was based on his teachings.

Confucius (551–479 BC) lived at a time before China was unified as an empire. It was a time when Chinese society was very divided and when there were many wars between the different states. Confucius thought about how societies should be governed and how people should treat each other. He understood the importance of the family, where people take care of each other and all have their place. He said that there were different types of relationships that existed within the family—father to son, husband to wife, brother to brother. These relationships were based on love and duty.

The family was the most important part of Chinese society and Confucius saw Chinese society as a kind of very large family. Just as everyone had their place in the family, so too everyone had their place in Chinese society. Children had a responsibility to obey and respect their parents. This was called **filial piety**. What was accepted in the family as obedience to your parents became, in the wider Chinese society, obedience to the emperor. The people had a responsibility to obey the emperor. As the father led his family, so the emperor led the people. As the father protected his family and worked for its good, so the emperor was expected to rule well and protect his people. Harmony and prosperity would exist when the



The Four Books of Confucianism that formed the basis of Confucian education and training for imperial officials are:

- *The Analects, ("Conversations," or "Classics")*
- *The Doctrine of the Mean*
- *The Great Learning*
- *Mencius*



1. How long ago did Confucius live? _____

2. What were Confucius's view about the Chinese family?

3. How did Confucius explain the role of the Emperor in Chinese society?

society was led by good leaders who worked for the good of the state. Confucius also believed that society should be led by men of ability who would preserve the peace and provide the people with stable and just government.

SOURCE

7.9



Using historical evidence

CONFUCIUS DID NOT WRITE ANYTHING DOWN BUT OTHERS WROTE DOWN HIS TEACHINGS. THEY WERE KNOWN AS THE ANALECTS (SAYINGS) OF CONFUCIUS. HERE ARE TWO OF THEM:

- Those who are born with the possession of knowledge are the highest class of men. Those who learn, and get possession of knowledge, are the next. Those who are dull and stupid, and yet seek the learning are another class next to these. As to those who are dull and stupid and yet do not learn—they are the lowest of the people.

- Let the prince be a prince, the minister be a minister, the father be a father, and the son be a son.

1 Which of these extracts supports the Confucian idea that all people have their place in society?

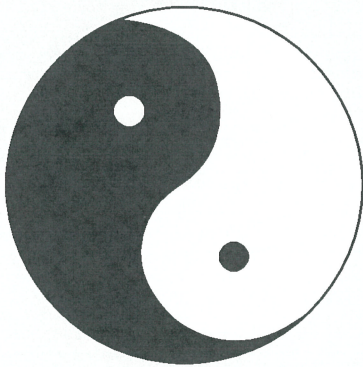
2 According to Confucius, who are the most important people in the state?

Daoism

Another important belief in China was Daoism. Unlike Confucianism, which was a philosophy or way of life, Daoism (which means the ‘way of nature’) was a religion. The founder of Daoism was the scholar Laozi (604–531 BC). Like Confucianism, Daoism was concerned with harmony and balance, but while Confucianism concentrated on relationships in society, Daoism did not put society at the centre of life. Daoists believed that it was important to lead a simple and natural life, free from ambition and the desire for power and wealth. For Daoists, everyone was part of nature in the same way that animals and trees were part of nature, and they believed that people should understand nature and seek to live in harmony with it.

Daoists also believed that the world was composed of opposites, which were called the Yin and the Yang. The Yin was the passive, female force and the Yang was the active, male force. These two forces existed in nature and Daoists believed that there should be no conflict between them. Rather, they should exist in harmony. The symbol of the Yin and the Yang shows these two forces in perfect balance.

1.

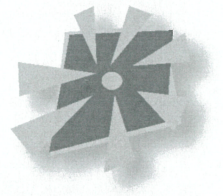


1 Explain what is meant by this symbol.

2 Prepare a list of opposites that would fit in with the concept of the Yin and the Yang (e.g. hot/cold).

SOURCE

7.10



The Yin–Yang symbol

Buddhism

The other important religion in China was Buddhism, a religion that came to China from India in the first century. The founder of Buddhism was Siddharta Gautama, who was born in 563 BC in Nepal. Siddharta spent his life seeking truth and enlightenment (wisdom). He was called the Buddha, which means ‘the enlightened one’. People who follow Buddhism and the teachings of Buddha seek to reach a state of personal happiness called *nirvana*. This is achieved by meditation (peaceful thought) and by following a life of moderation and goodness.

This old Chinese painting shows Confucius (left), Buddha (centre) and Laozi (right).



The Buddhist religion came to China along the caravan roads from India and it became a very popular religion. Buddhist temples were built and some of the Chinese emperors even followed the Buddhist religion. Buddhists do not worship a god like other religions. The statues of Buddha in the temples or carved on cliff faces are used to help people meditate on the teachings of Buddha and help them lead more perfect lives. One aspect of Buddhism was the belief in **reincarnation**, that when a person dies they are born again in another life. Buddhists also believe that the things that happen to them in life are rewards or punishments for the way they lived in earlier lives.

Ancestor worship

The Chinese treated old people with great respect, for it was believed that they had wisdom and knowledge. They also believed in ancestor worship, that the spirits of their dead ancestors could protect the family that was still living. In Chinese houses it was common to have small shrines (altars) where offerings could be made to the spirits of your ancestors. Confucius had made this a part of his philosophy. One of the reasons why Buddhism was so popular in China is that its teaching that people could be reborn to another life fitted in with the idea of ancestor spirits.

ACTIVITY


 3

GROUP WORK

The emperor has ordered his officials to prepare a report on the main belief systems of the Chinese people. He has listed four that are to be examined: Confucianism, Daoism, Buddhism and Ancestor Worship.

Imagine that you are his officials. Work in groups of four, and each member of the group is to select one of the four belief systems and prepare that part of the report. Put the four parts together to make the final document, which you should then address to the emperor. Here are four Internet sites to get you started:

<http://www.mrdowling.com/613-confucius.html>

<http://www.buddhanet.net/e-learning/guide.htm>

<http://www.travelchinaguide.com/intro/religion/>

<http://members.tripod.com/~civilizations/religion.htm>



CHECK YOUR HISTORICAL KNOWLEDGE

- 1 What is the meaning of the term 'Middle Kingdom'?
- 2 Name two of the important rivers in China.
- 3 Which great structure was begun during the Qin Dynasty?
- 4 The Chinese system of government was influenced by the ideas of which important Chinese philosopher?
- 5 The Yin and the Yang are associated with which Chinese religion?
- 6 Which religion came to China from India?

Check Your Historical Knowledge

1. *What is the meaning of the term “Middle Kingdom” in ancient Chinese history?* _____

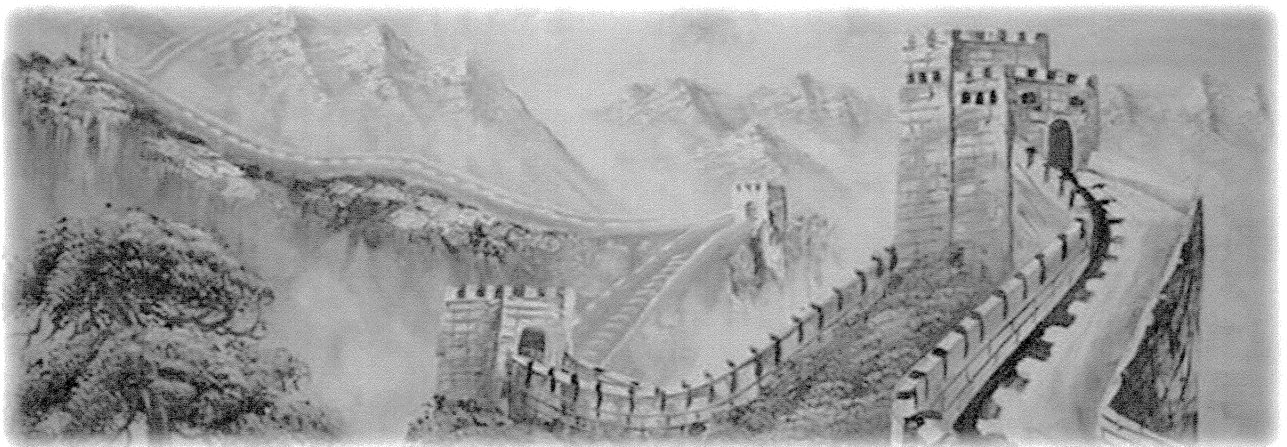
2. *Name two of the important rivers in China* _____

3. *Which great structure was begun during the Qin Dynasty?*

4. *The Chinese system of government was influenced by the ideas of which important Chinese philosopher?* _____

5. *The Yin and Yang are associated with which Chinese religion?*

6. *Which religion came to China from India?* _____



Death and ancestor worship

Ancestor worship

Many of the people in ancient China practised ancestor worship. They believed that their **deceased** ancestors, such as grandparents and great-grandparents, were looking after them. In return for this protection, the living family members had to practise special rituals to protect and worship their ancestors.

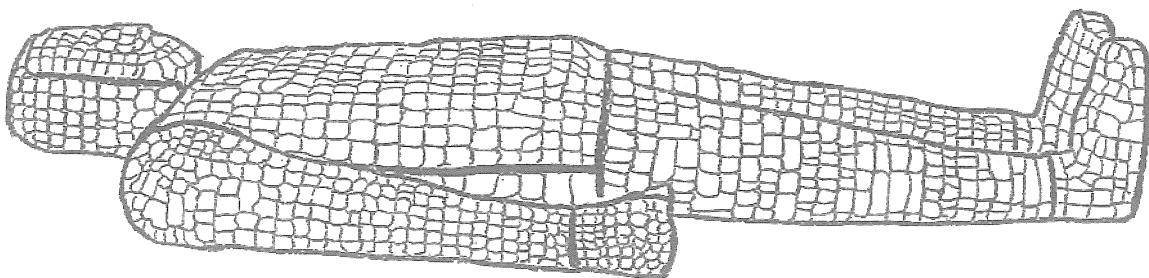
Death

The Chinese would bury their loved ones with items that they had needed in life. If they were rich this might include clothes, food, jewels and even animals. An extremely rich person might even get a **jade** suit made for their funeral. If the person was poor, though, they would be buried with clothes and food that were made out of paper. Some rich people were buried with animals and slaves to serve them in their next life. Sometimes the slaves and animals were killed and buried. Other times, however, they were buried alive.

Funerals

Family and friends would dress in white and gather at a funeral to grieve together. Rich people would pay for enormous tombs in mountainsides and hire musicians to entertain. The poor could only make little straw huts to show their respect for their relatives.

Children were expected to mourn their parents for three years. During that time they would wear only white, and would also complete special rituals for their parents.



Emperors and extremely wealthy people would sometimes be buried in a jade suit.

Death

Read the Resource sheet, 'Death and ancestor worship', then answer the following questions.

 1 Circle the correct ending to go with each sentence starter.

- a Ancient Chinese practised ancestor worship.
making straw huts.
- b Children were expected to mourn their parents for two years.
mourn their parents for three years.
- c Poor people were usually buried with slaves and the possessions they owned.
paper copies of their possessions.

2 Rearrange these fragments to form correct sentences, then write each full sentence in the space provided.

- a The ancient Chinese white at funerals. often wore


- b buried alive or Slaves could be killed before they were buried.

- c where people were buried. to cut down trees It was a crime

- d A very rich person in a jade suit. might be buried

3 Were there any similarities between funerals for the rich and the poor? What does this tell you about their beliefs regarding the afterlife?

Telling the future

 1 Use the words in the word bank to complete these paragraphs. Use a dictionary to help you.


	Word bank
<p>In ancient China there were wise men called _____ who watched over the stars and planets. They used what they saw to make _____ about the future.</p> <p>In the 300s BCE scholars made a book called <i>The Book of Silk</i>, which listed 29 different forms of comets and explained the different futures that these _____.</p>	<p>sages</p> <p>foretold</p> <p>predictions</p>
<p>Sages also believed in the power of four celestial animals, which they believed were connected to the _____ and to God. The _____ of these animals was the dragon, who took the emperors to heaven when they died. The phoenix was the second-highest animal. It was used as a _____ by the emperor. The third-highest animal was the tortoise, which was believed to be the animal that began the universe. Lastly, the unicorn was thought to be able to tell the difference between the _____ and the guilty.</p>	<p>innocent</p> <p>heavens</p> <p>highest</p> <p>symbol</p>
<p>Another important tool used to tell the future was _____ bones, such as the shoulder bones of an ox or the shell of a tortoise. The person wanting to know the future would write a _____ on the bone. The bones would then be heated and the _____ that appeared would be interpreted by the sage.</p>	<p>question</p> <p>oracle</p> <p>cracks</p>
<p>The Chinese also sometimes used the <i>I Ching</i>, or <i>Book of _____</i>, to tell their future. A set of _____ with marks were put in a container, which was shaken until a stick fell out. The marks on the stick would tell the person's _____.</p>	<p>future</p> <p>changes</p> <p>sticks</p>

Silk

Nobody knows exactly how silk was discovered. One story suggests it was discovered around 2600 BCE, when Empress Leizu was playing in the garden near some mulberry bushes. Some small caterpillars were eating the mulberry leaves, and a cocoon dropped into a bowl of hot water. A fine silk thread unwound from the cocoon. The empress was so fascinated by it that she learned to weave the strands together to make silk.

At first, silk was only for the emperor and his most prized subjects. Because it was connected to royalty, silk became very popular. Huge fields of mulberry trees were planted so more silk could be produced. The silk threads were harvested and then woven into beautiful, silky material. The Chinese also invented **looms** to make their silk finer and more luxuriant.

As silk became more popular, it was produced on an enormous scale. By around 110 BCE, the Chinese government had 5 million rolls of silk in reserve. The emperors had so much silk that they sometimes used it to pay their soldiers. The Emperor Wu Ti (140 BCE–87 BCE) handed out more than a million pieces of silk to the soldiers who worked on the Great Wall of China.

 1 Who is thought to have first discovered silk?

2 Who was silk used by when it was first discovered? Why?

3 What other thing did the Chinese invent to help them make silk?

4 How can we tell that silk became very popular?

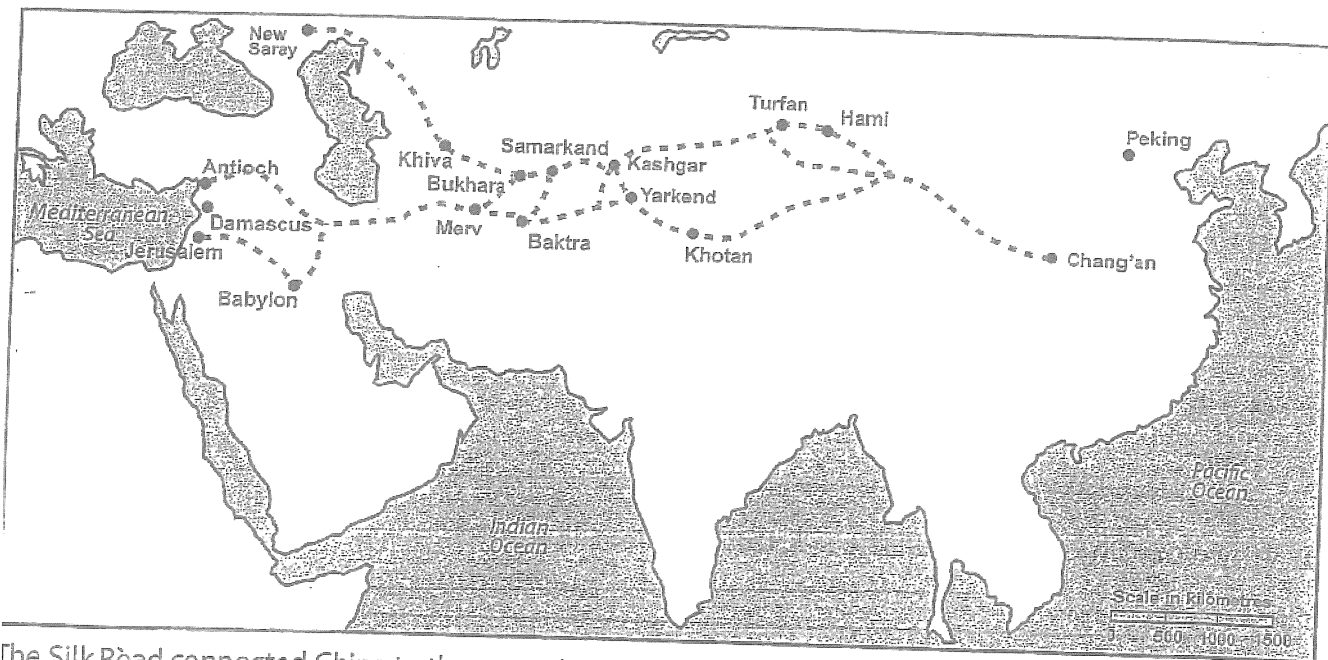
The Silk Road

Silk was one of the most important discoveries in ancient China. It led to the development of **trade** with other countries, who desperately wanted some silk to show how rich and powerful they were. The Romans and Greeks called China 'the land of silk'.

Many Chinese merchants travelled west on camels. Camels were slow – they could only travel about five kilometres an hour – but they could carry about 180 kilograms of supplies and go for 17 days without water. The merchants travelled through difficult environments and conditions, including deserts, sandstorms and cold, dangerous mountain trails, where they were constantly under threat from **bandits**.

Because so many merchants were travelling along this road to sell silk, it became known as the Silk Road. The Chinese merchants traded silk for horses, foreign foods, jewels and rare animals and birds. During the Han Dynasty (206 BCE–220 CE) silk was so popular that a special government office was set up to control sales.

Because the merchants had to travel so far, silk was extremely **expensive**. Some westerners tried to get silkworms so they could make silk themselves, but the Chinese merchants were forbidden to reveal the secret of making silk. Anyone who told foreigners how to make silk would be tortured to death.



The Silk Road connected China to the countries in the west.

Maps and trading

 Read the Resource sheet, 'The Silk Road', then complete the following tasks.

1 What did the Greeks and Romans call China? Why?

2 What kind of people travelled on the Silk Road? What was their job?

3 Why were camels used to travel on the Silk Road?

4 Use the map on the Resource sheet to work out the distance between the following locations, and how long the journey would take. Suggest the best route to take and why.

a Chang'an to New Saray

b Chang'an to Jerusalem

5 Why did silk only come from China?

6 Why would merchants sell the silk, but not the silkworms?

Contacts and conflicts

China was often a very **isolated** country. It was surrounded on all sides by mountains, deserts and treacherous seas, which made it very difficult to travel in or out.


Despite this, an increase in trade led to quite a lot of contact between China and other countries, particularly Italy, where silk became an expensive but familiar item. The Chinese called Rome 'the other China' because of the similarities between them.

It was mostly merchants who travelled to and from China, including merchants from India, Persia, Japan and Korea who bought and sold Chinese products. However, many countries also sent **envoys**. Envoys were not trying to sell a product. Instead, they were trying to learn about the other country and develop a relationship with them. Eventually, so many foreigners travelled to China that they had to make laws stating whether foreigners could own land or marry Chinese women.

Sometimes the Chinese used trade and gifts to protect their country. A **nomadic** people called the Xiongnu destroyed many areas of China. They invaded cities and towns, where they stole possessions and slaves, killed people and destroyed houses. The Chinese decided to give the Xiongnu gifts such as farm tools and seeds, as well as silk, to make peace with them. Eventually the Xiongnu stopped fighting the Chinese because they did not want to lose these gifts.

Trading with other countries

The ancient Chinese traded with many other countries. This gave them access to many new products, but it also led to a spread of ideas, religions, cultures and wealth.

 Read the Resource sheet, 'Contacts and conflicts,' and the Activity sheet, 'Maps and trading,' then complete the following activities.

- 1 Using an atlas, find China on the map below and colour it in yellow.
- 2 Find five countries that traded with China. Label each country and colour it in a different colour. These were not the only countries that traded with China, but they were some of the most important.

Hint: Persia is now called Iran.



- 3 Which countries do you think travelled to China via the Silk Road?

- 4 Which countries do you think travelled to China via the sea?

Ancient Sites: Terracotta Warriors of Xian



An Accidental Discovery

On a cool March morning in 1974, a group of farmers gathered in a rural area 40 miles east of the Chinese city of Xian and, after finding the lowest spot in the field, they began to dig. It had been a dry season, and the farmers were in danger of losing their crops. In dire need of water, they were digging a well.

Over a period of several days their well hole had reached a depth of more than 13 feet, but the ground was still dry. Then one man's shovel struck something hard. It hit a large piece of baked clay. When they unearthed it, they saw it was in the form of a human body. That collision of a farmer's shovel with terracotta baked earth would begin the excavation of what many now consider the Eighth Wonder of the World: the Terra Cotta Warriors of China's first emperor, Qin Shi Huangdi.

Unearthing an Army

The farmers reported their discovery to government officials, and the next day an archaeologist arrived from the city of Xian. The scientist drilled test holes in different locations near the well hole and discovered evidence of artefacts almost

everywhere. He recommended a full-scale excavation. By July 1974, a team of archaeologists had been assembled from universities across China, and the work began.

As archaeologists reached a depth of 8 to 10 feet (2.4 – 3m), they began to find broken pieces of many life-size statues of warriors, and to their astonishment, it appeared that each warrior was individually sculpted, with unique facial features, hairstyles, and clothing details. Later they would conclude that the figures were made from molds and given their individual details while the clay was still wet.

The sheer scale of the site also amazed archaeologists, as if the entire field covered a vast underground room. Later they would learn that this was just one of several pits at the site, the largest discovered thus far. To date, almost 8,000 Terracotta Warriors and other figures have been excavated.

Weather and security soon became obstacles to the excavation, so a structure was built over the first pit to protect it.



Attribution to an Emperor

At the time of their discovery, no one knew the purpose of the Terra Cotta Warriors or who had created them, but archaeologists very quickly suspected that the warriors were part of the burial complex of China's first emperor, Qin Shi Huangdi.

The emperor's large, unexcavated burial mound overlooks the Terracotta Warriors site from the distance of about 1.6km. The story of its creation was recorded by Sima Qian, the Grand Historian of the Han dynasty, the rulers who followed Qin.



Sima Qian wrote that more than 700,000 labourers worked to build Qin's tomb complex. The tomb was filled with models of palaces, pavilions, and offices as well as fine vessels, precious stones, and rarities he said. All the country's streams, the Yellow River, and the Yangtze were reproduced in mercury and by some mechanical means made to flow into a miniature ocean. The heavenly constellations were above and the regions of the earth below.

Although there is some debate about the origins of the Terracotta Warriors, most archaeologists believe they were created for Qin due to the proximity of his

burial mound and the fact that only a very powerful and wealthy person, such as the emperor, could afford to build such a site and command the necessary labour and supplies. Through tests of Qin's tomb mound, archaeologists know that it is intact and that the tomb contains high levels of mercury. Because mercury is poisonous, no plans have been made to excavate it.



Archaeologists believe that the Terracotta Warriors were meant to be a spiritual army that would guard the emperor in the afterlife. To date, the site has yielded nearly 8,000 figures and more than 10,000 weapons, and more pits have been discovered. Archaeologists estimate it may take 50 to 100 years to complete the excavation. Qin's tomb complex became a United Nations Educational, Scientific, and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) World Heritage Site in 1987.

Close activity

Using the words and terms in the box below, copy the following passage into your exercise books.

Emperor _____ planned for his own burial with the construction of a huge _____.

Qin's tomb is a massive _____ made of earth. It is _____ tall, and nearly _____ square.

The ceiling in the central chamber of the tomb was covered with _____ to represent the starry heavens; the stone floor formed a _____ of the Chinese kingdom.

The most remarkable aspect of his tomb was the army of _____ buried with it.

The purpose of these warriors was to _____ and _____ Qin Shi Huangdi in the _____.

76 m	350 m	afterlife	defend
map	pearls	protect	pyramid
Qin Shi Huangdi	terracotta warriors	tomb	

Chinese Culture Mary Ellen Page

Find the 20 words hidden in this grid. They may be written left to right, right to left, top to bottom, bottom to top, or on the diagonal. There are no spaces between double words.



pinyin
Tang
Confucius
emperor
rickshaw

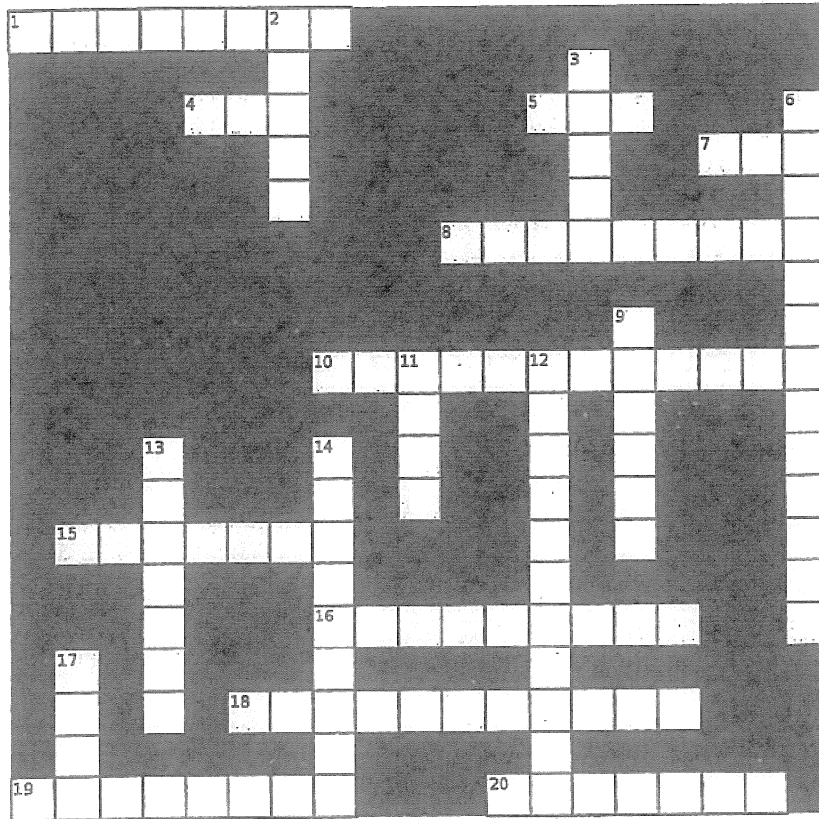
pagoda
Ming
tea
phoenix
GreatWall

yuan
Mandarin
silk
calligraphy
lychee

panda
Cantonese
dynasty
jade
sampan

Ancient China

luke chamberlain



- Across
- 1 a set of ideas made by Qin Shihuangdi
 - 4 a dynasty that took place before c. 1523 BC
 - 5 the wealthy landowners and nobles
 - 7 first empor of China
 - 8 a balance between yin and yang
 - 10 a follower of Confucius's teachings
 - 15 a Chinese martial art that has survived hundreds of years
 - 16 a ruler who has control over authority and others
 - 18 someone who studies beliefs to gain wisdom
 - 19 a religion that was founded by an indian prince
 - 20 a period of time where one family controls the government

- Down
- 2 a dynasty that took place from c. 1523 BC to c. 1027 BC
 - 3 merchants trader and money lenders
 - 6 wisdom or innerpeace
 - 9 a religion based on living simple and meditation
 - 11 peasant farmers and family vauled in name
 - 12 highly skilled pen work of chinese carecters
 - 13 a person's right to rule because the gods comanded it
 - 14 a system by providing land in exchange for work and loyalty
 - 17 a dynasty that took place from c.1029 BC to c.221 BC