Student Information

Qin Dynasty

This dynasty, or family of rulers, governed China with total domination from 221 B.C. to 206 B.C.

Shi Huang was a fierce ruler. He banned books to promote obedience, and to blot out all knowledge of the past. He ordered laborers to build new walls that connected with the older Chinese border walls to keep invaders out. This was the beginning of the Great Wall of China. The name "China" came from the name of his dynasty.

Han Dynasty

This dynasty followed the Qin dynasty, and ruled China for more than 400 years. Under the Han dynasty, arts and sciences thrived, and China became as large and powerful as the Roman Empire.

Han China expanded southwest into Tibet, and conquered North Korea and Northern Vietnam. Silk and other products flowed into the Roman Empire along the famous Silk Road.

This dynasty collapsed because of disagreements among the officials.

Ming Dynasty

The Ming dynasty ruled China from 1368 A.D. until 1644 A.D. Ming rulers restored traditional institutions such as the civil service.

Ming means "bright" in Chinese, and this period was especially important because of its arts.

Ming architects built the Imperial Palace in Beijing's Forbidden City. Artists produced porcelain, bronze and lacquerware.

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THE CHINESE

The ancient Chinese civilizations began about 8,000 years ago when people settled near the Huong Ho (Yellow) River and the Yangtze River. Vast deserts and mountain ranges meant the Chinese had little contact with the rest of the world.

By 1600 B.C., the Chinese had begun to develop their own unique culture which has flourished for over 3,500 years.

Read on and complete the following activities. Find out more about this fascinating ancient culture.

Time Line — Dynasties of China

Civilizations in China were ruled by "dynasties" for nearly 3,500 years.

Each dynasty was a sequence of powerful rulers from the same family. The first Chinese dynasty was called the Shang dynasty.

1. Unjumble the names of the following Chinese dynasties shown on the time line.

1600 B.C. – 1050 B.C.	(HGNSA)	_____
1050 B.C. – 221 B.C.	(OHZU)	_____
221 B.C. – 207 B.C.	(NQI)	_____
206 B.C. – 220 A.D.	(NHA)	_____
265 A.D. – 420 A.D.	(IJN)	_____
581 A.D. – 618 A.D.	(USI)	_____
618 A.D. – 906 A.D.	(NAGT)	_____
906 A.D. – 1270	(GSNO)	_____
1279 A.D. – 1368	(UNYA)	_____
1368 A.D. – 1644	(GIMN)	_____
1644 A.D. – 1912	(QNIG)	_____

2. Choose a partner, and prepare a short report on one of the Chinese Dynasties on the time line.

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

Mapping Activity

Use the map of Ancient China to answer the following questions.

1. Name the countries which border China.

_____

_____

_____

2. What mountain range lies west of China?

_____

3. There are three seas on the east coast of China. What are their names?

_____

_____

4. Name the two deserts to the northwest of China.

_____

5. What are the names of the two rivers along which the ancient Chinese settled?

_____

6. Name three cities/towns situated along each river.

_____

_____

7. Which city is currently the capital of China?

_____

Chinese Jewelry

Wealthy Chinese men and women wore jewelry made from gold, silver, jade, pearls and rubies.

1. Design a set of beads for a necklace.

Family Life in Ancient China

Read the information below. Form a small group to discuss the questions. Record your answers and share them with the rest of the class.

The family was the most important unit in Chinese society. All the generations of one family lived in the same house.

Q. Where do your grandparents, uncles, aunts and cousins live?

A very important household rule was that the sons and daughters should always obey their parents.

Q. Is this a sensible rule? Explain.

The males in the household—fathers, grandfathers, uncles and sons—were more important than the females.

Q. Is it fair that males are more important than females? Why?

Each day, families followed a strict daily routine.

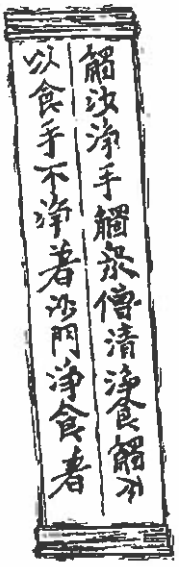
Q. What is a daily routine which occurs in your household?

Ancient Chinese families were so important that the family name, or surname, was always written first, and the given name was written last.

Q. How would you write your name in China?

Children were taught to care for their parents in sickness and old age.

Q. How will you care for your parents? Why?



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THE CHINESE

Merchant

Scholar

Artisan

Peasant

Levels of Society in Ancient China

1. Can you guess the rank, from highest to lowest, of these people in ancient Chinese society?

   1._____ 2._____

   3._____ 4._____

Read the passage below to see if you were correct!

Ancient Chinese society was divided into four classes. The scholars were in the highest class and were well respected because they could read and write.

Because the country depended on the production of food, and the peasants' work was so necessary, they were the next most important class of people. Below them were the artisans who made things that everyone needed, such as tools, cooking utensils, weapons and jewelry. The lowest class of people were the merchants. These people made nothing, but often grew wealthy from their trade of goods.

2. Write the correct order of classes in Chinese society.

   1._____ 2._____

   3._____ 4._____

3. Write one advantage and one disadvantage of being in one of these levels.

   Advantage _____

   _____

   Disadvantage _____

   _____

Chinese Inventions

Some of the world's greatest inventions originated in ancient China. The Ancient Chinese were always looking for practical ways to solve problems, and they invented many things which we still use today.

1. Match the beginnings of the names with the correct endings.

wheel	bow
ch	brella
rud	ware
fire	der
cross	barrow
com	powder
porce	work
pa	pass
mat	per
gun	ches
um	ing
lacquer	works
print	ess
clock	lain

_____ _____

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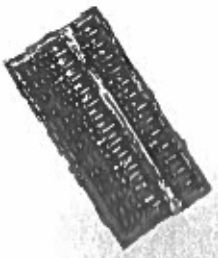

2. [redacted]

THE CHINESE

Student Information

Chinese Writing, Printing and Paper

Paper was invented by the Chinese more than 2,000 years ago. They first used the hemp plant or the inner bark of the mulberry tree for fiber. These fibers were pounded into a pulp, flattened and dried. This paper was too coarse for writing on, and it was only used for wrapping and clothing.

The Chinese probably invented block printing. They carved characters on wooden blocks, inked the raised images and transferred the ink to paper. In about 1045, a Chinese printer named Bi Sheng made the first movable type. However, the Chinese language has thousands of different characters instead of 26 letters in an alphabet like we have. Each character is a symbol that represents a complete word.

Abacus

The abacus is a device used in China to make arithmetic calculations. It can add, subtract, multiply and divide. It is a system of rows of beads on a frame. The beads represent numbers and are strung on wires so they can be moved along the wire frame.

Foods

The Chinese had two meals a day and ate their food from small bowls using chopsticks. Chinese foods were blended with herbs and spices to create different tastes and flavors.

1. Create or find a recipe for a Chinese dinner using some of the ingredients below.

fish	*ginger*	*snail*	*peanuts*	*yams*
turnips	*pork*	*tea*	*wine*	*grapes*
yams	*tofu*	*rice*	*chili*	*melons*
beans	*noodles*	*tangerines*		

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THE CHINESE

Chinese Writing, Printing and Paper

Paper was invented by the Chinese in 105 A.D.

1. Explain how paper was first made.

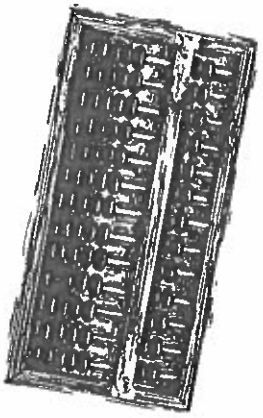
Between the 4th and 7th centuries the Chinese developed a printing process.

2. Describe how the printing process was developed.

Chinese writing uses 50,000 symbols for words instead of an alphabet. It is written vertically.

3. Write a "paragraph" using only picture symbols.

Chinese numerals are older than the earliest European number systems.



4. How was the abacus used for mathematical calculations?

The Silk Road

The "Silk Road" was the name given to the route used by Chinese merchants and traders to travel west to sell their goods in Europe. It was called the Silk Road because the traders were selling their most important export from China — silk! Traders and merchants made the dangerous and hazardous journey across the dry lands of Turkestan and Central Asia, and through Persia and Syria, to sell silks, china, bronze artifacts, jade and pottery. Camels were used to transport the heavy loads in harsh conditions.

1. Imagine! What would this journey have been like? Read more about the Silk Road and write an account of your journey along the Silk Road as a trader.

THE CHINESE

Student Information

The Silk Process

The young silkworms are put on trays. They have enormous appetites and eat continuously, night and day. The silkworms grow to 70 times their size, and shed their skin four times. When fully grown the silkworm stops eating and is ready to spin its cocoon. The silkworm spins a net made of silk to hold itself inside. The silk worker then unwinds the long delicate silk threads of the cocoon and rewinds them on to a reel. The silk is removed from the reel and twisted into skeins. Brilliant dyes may be applied to the silk yarn before it is woven. Silk yarns are woven on looms much like those used for cotton and wool. Beautiful designs and patterns can be woven on these looms.

Chinese Clothing

Generally, the more elaborate the clothing , the wealthier the Chinese person. The poorer Chinese people wore plainer materials. Women from the upper class wore more elaborate hairdos and colorful robes, and grew long fingernails. Different colors meant different messages. The color yellow was only worn by the emperor and his princes. If you wore black or blue, it meant you were an ordinary person. When you were in mourning for a dead person, you wore white.

Traditional Chinese Clothing

1. Name two differences between the clothing of the wealthy Chinese and that of the Chinese peasants.
2. Create a design on the Chi-Fu. Use color to highlight your design.
3. Find some more pictures of the traditional clothing of Chinese men and women. Make a class collage.
4. What did these colors indicate when worn in Ancient China?

Yellow _____

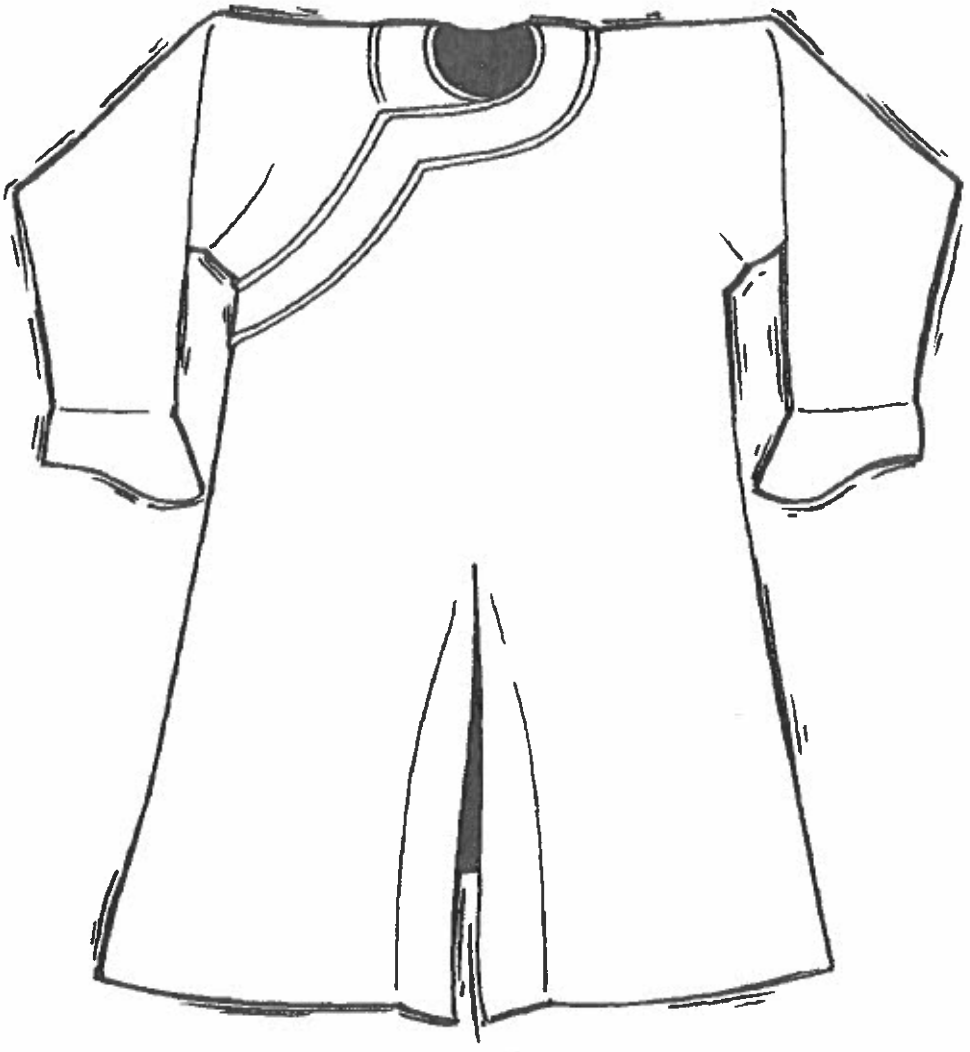
_____

Black/Blue _____

_____

White _____

_____



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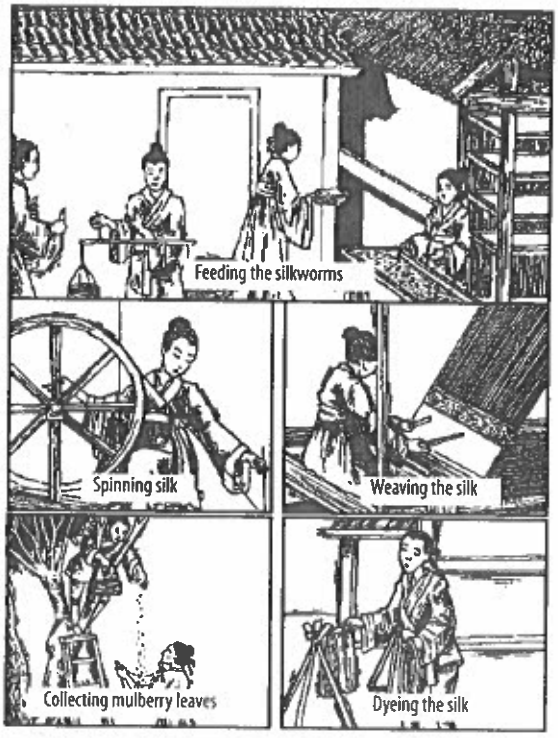
The Silk Process

The production of silk is one of China's oldest industries. Silkworm grubs are fed mulberry leaves and when the grubs have spun their silk cocoon, the thread is wound onto reels and spun into silk.

1. Explain the process of producing silk by describing these pictures in the correct order.

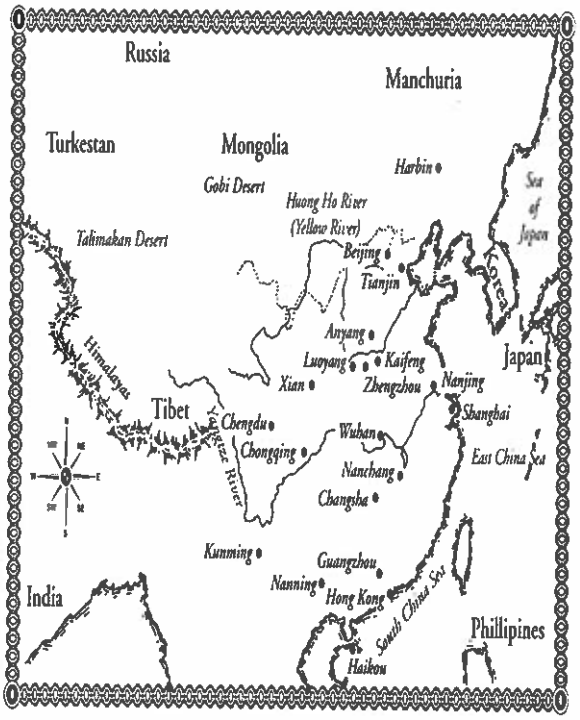


Chinese Festivals

Festival celebrations gave the Chinese people a well-earned break from their daily hard work. The Spring Festival welcomed the New Year, and lasted for several days. Families gathered to feast and watch fireworks. For the Dragonboat Festival, boats decorated with dragons' heads and tails raced on lakes and rivers.

1. [redacted]

2. Make a list of special days celebrated throughout the year with your family.



Student Information

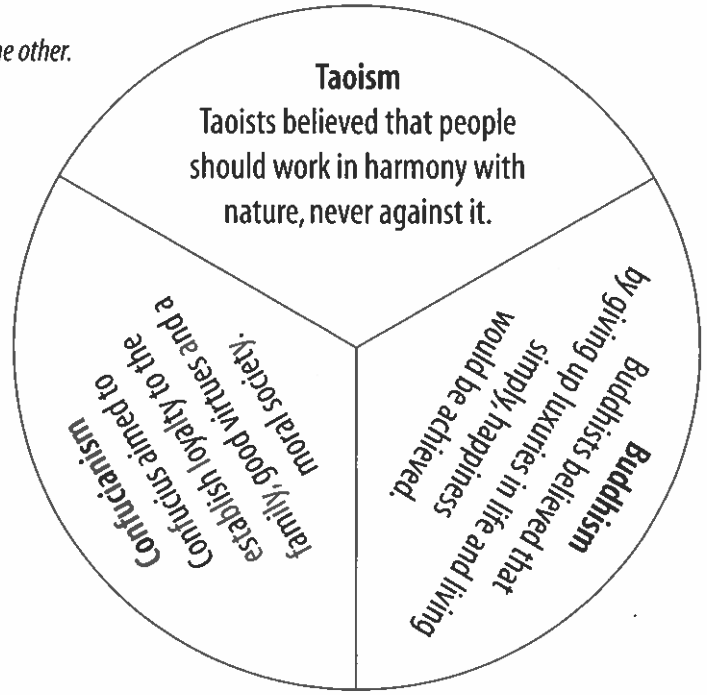
Terracotta Army

The Terracotta Army is a collection of over 6,000 life-size terracotta statues of soldiers and horses discovered in March, 1974, at Xián. These statues were found buried in an underground tomb. The figures, all facing east, were ready for battle. They appeared to be modeled on real people because they were all individual, and accompanied by real chariots and weapons. The emperor Qin Shi Huang believed that death was just a continuation of life. Therefore, his "army" was there to protect him from his enemies, just as his "real" army had done while he was alive.

The tomb was built about 2,100 years ago for the first Qin Emperor of China. This discovery gives us clues as to how people in China may have lived over 2,000 years ago.

Religious Beliefs

In China, there were three religions, or beliefs. Each complemented the other. Read about each belief below.



1. In a group, discuss the benefits of each religion. Share your ideas with the class.

   Taoism: _____

   _____

   Buddhism: _____

   _____

   Confucianism: _____

   _____

2. Research to find out the Chinese principles of "Yin" and "Yang."

   _____

   _____

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The Terracotta Army

Qin Shi Huang was the first Chinese emperor. He wanted to live forever. He did not, but his name lived on forever. From Qin (pronounced Chin) came the word "China."

Research to answer the questions below to find out how the terracotta army relates to the first Emperor of China.

1. Why was the Terracotta Army built?

2. Describe what was unearthed from the tomb and chambers.

3. When and where was the discovery made?

4. What is the importance of this discovery?

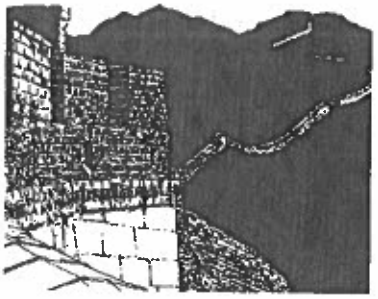
Looking for more information? Try the Internet and these keywords.

Silk Road	Dynasty	Inventions
Silk	yin and yang	
Terracotta Army	paper	abacus

The Great Wall of China

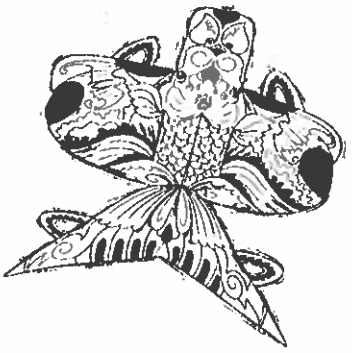
Read the following information about the Great Wall of China. Complete the sentences using the words below.

Dynasty *desert* *Wall* *Messages* *built*
Mongolia *smoke* *mountains* *Long* *enemy*



1. The Great _____ was also called the _____ Wall. It was _____ during the Qin _____ to keep out _____ invaders from _____ in the north. The wall snaked through _____ and across _____ plains. _____ were sent along the walls using flags, _____ and drums.

Kite Flying



It is said that the Chinese invented kites about 3,000 years ago and kite flying became a favorite pastime for the young and old.

1. Design your own kite.