

Geography and Early China Note Guide**

- China has geographical features that separate it from neighbors
- North China – mostly Gobi desert
- South China – Mountains/Highlands
 - Himalayas – Mountains are more than 26,000 feet!
- West China - Mountains
 - Southwest China – Plateau of Tibet
- East China – Farmland
- Two major rivers in China
 - Huang He (Yellow River)
 - Chang Jiang (Yangzi River)
- Huang He
 - 3,000 miles long
 - Flooding – silt
 - China's sorrow
- Chang Jiang
 - Longest river in Asia
- Rivers connected East and West China
 - Mountain range of Qinling Shandi separates North and South China
- The Chinese began farming along Yellow and Yangzi Rivers thanks to silt
 - Grew rice and wheat
 - Hunted and fished as well
- Chinese began with small villages
 - Some had walls around them
 - Protection from floods or neighbors
- Many artifacts from early Chinese villages have been found
 - Arrowheads, fishhooks, tools, pottery
 - Suggests an advanced culture
- Burial sites have also been found
 - Provide information about culture
 - Graves contain items needed for afterlife
 - Some graves contain more stuff than others
 - Jade ornaments – hard gemstone
 - Suggests some people were richer than others - Classes
- 2200BCE – Yu the Great begins Xia Dynasty
 - Most information about Xia comes from legend
 - One legend:
 - Yellow River had a terrible flood
 - Yu the Great spent 13 years digging channels
 - Drain the water to the ocean
 - These channels became the major waterways of China
 - Legends may or may not be accurate
 - But they do show people working together
 - Also explained how geography influenced the people
- The Shang Dynasty is the first Dynasty that we have clear evidence for
 - Began in 1700's BCE
 - Huang He River Valley

- The Shang Dynasty had very organized social classes
 - Royal Family at the top
 - Nobles/Warriors second
 - Craftspeople third
 - Farmers fourth
 - Slaves last
- Many advances made during this period
 - China's first writing system
 - Predecessor to today's Chinese writing
 - Oracle bones
 - Oracle – prediction about the future
 - Bronze Pottery/Tools
 - Military achievements
 - Chariot, bows, bronze armor
 - Astrologers created a calendar based on the moon
- Group of people called the Zhou come to power in 1000's BCE
- Overthrow Shang Dynasty
- The Zhou Dynasty becomes the longest dynasty in Chinese history
 - 1046 BCE – 256 BCE (790 years)
- Zhou believed Kings had the Mandate of Heaven
 - Heaven approved their rule
- The Zhou used the Mandate of Heaven to take over Shang
 - And to expand their empire
- Land was considered as wealth
 - Land was traded for work
 - On the land or in the military
- The Zhou brought a new Social Order:
 - Kings
 - Lords and Warriors
 - Lords – people of high rank
 - Peasants – farmers with small farms
- New order provides stability
 - However, eventually this order breaks down
- Lords eventually became less loyal to the king
 - Refuse to fight enemies for the king
- 771 BCE – Group of invaders reach capital
 - New Zhou king put in power and capital city moved
- Now the lords begin to fight each other
- 481 BCE – Warring States period begins
 - Wars grow – fights become brutal and cruel
- While Zhou declines, so does family
 - Large families had a lot of power
 - Eventually large families fight each other
 - Were not loyal to king, why be loyal to each other?
 - Fight both other families and themselves
 - Ex: Brothers fought each other over inheritances
- No strong government to help out
- Chinese society falls into disorder

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- _____ connected East and West China
- The Chinese began _____ along Yellow and Yangzi Rivers thanks to silt
- Chinese began with small _____
- Many _____ from early Chinese villages have been found
 - _____, fishhooks, tools, _____
- _____ sites have also been found
- _____ – Yu the Great begins Xia Dynasty
 - Most information about Xia comes from _____
- The _____ Dynasty is the first Dynasty that we have clear evidence for
 - Began in _____
 - _____ River Valley
 - The Shang Dynasty had very organized _____
 - Royal _____ at the top
 - _____ second
 - _____ third
 - _____ fourth
 - _____ last

- Many advances made during the _____ Dynasty
 - China's first _____ system
 - _____ bones
 - _____ – prediction about the future
 - _____ Pottery/Tools
 - _____ achievements
 - Chariot, _____, bronze _____
 - Astrologers created a _____ based on the moon
- Group of people called the _____ come to power in 1000's BCE
 - _____ to _____ (_____ years)
- The Zhou Dynasty becomes the _____ dynasty in Chinese history
- Zhou believed Kings had the Mandate of _____
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