

Ancient China



California Standards

History–Social Science

6.6 Students analyze the geographic, political, economic, religious, and social structures of the early civilizations of China.

English–Language Arts

Speaking 6.2.2 Deliver informative presentations.

Reading 6.2.4 Clarify understanding by summarizing.

FOCUS ON SPEAKING

Oral Presentation In this chapter you will read about China's fascinating early years. Choose one person or event from that history. You will then tell your classmates why the person or event was important to the history of China.



CHAPTER EVENTS

c. 1500s BC

The Shang dynasty is established in China.



1600 BC

WORLD EVENTS

c. 1480 BC

Queen Hatshepsut rules Egypt.



▶ video series

Watch the video to understand the impact of Confucius on China today.

What You Will Learn...

In this chapter you will learn about the geography, history, and culture of ancient China. China was one of the early centers of civilization. China's two major rivers played key roles in Chinese history and the development of Chinese society.

1100s BC
The Zhou dynasty begins.



551 BC
Confucius is born in China.

221 BC
Shi Huangdi unites China under the Qin dynasty.

205 BC
The Han dynasty begins its rule of China.



1200 BC

800 BC

400 BC

BC 1 AD

c. 965 BC
Solomon becomes king of the Israelites.

c. 500 BC
Buddhism begins to emerge in India.



c. 100 BC
The overland Silk Road connects China and Southwest Asia.

Economics

Geography

Politics

Religion

Society
and Culture

Science and
Technology

Focus on Themes This chapter will describe the early development of China—how Chinese civilization began and took shape under early dynasties. You will see how these dynasties controlled the government and **politics**. You will

also see how the Chinese, influenced by the philosopher Confucius, established traditions such as the importance of families. They also encouraged art and learning, helping to shape the **society and culture** that would last for centuries in China.

Summarizing Historical Texts

Focus on Reading When you are reading a history book, how can you be sure that you understand everything? One way is to briefly restate what you've read in a summary.

Writing a Summary A summary is a short restatement of the most important ideas in a text. The example below shows three steps used in writing a summary. First identify important details. Then write a short summary of each paragraph. Finally, combine these paragraph summaries into a short summary of the whole passage.

Additional reading support can be found in the

Interactive



Reader and Study Guide

The first dynasty for which we have clear evidence is the Shang, which was firmly established by the 1500s BC. Strongest in the Huang He Valley, the Shang ruled a broad area of northern China. Shang rulers moved their capital several times, probably to avoid floods or attack by enemies.

The king was at the center of Shang political and religious life. Nobles served the king as advisors and helped him rule. Less important officials were also nobles. They performed specific governmental and religious duties.

Summary of Paragraph 1

China's first dynasty, the Shang, took power in northern China in the 1500s BC.

Summary of Paragraph 2

Shang politics and religion were run by the king and nobles.

Combined Summary

The Shang dynasty, which ruled northern China by the 1500s BC, was governed by a king and nobles.



ELA Reading 6.2.4 Clarify an understanding of texts by creating outlines, logical notes, summaries, or reports.

Key Terms and People

You Try It!

The following passage is from the chapter you are about to read. As you read it, think about what you would include in a summary.

Early Settlements

Archaeologists have found remains of early Chinese villages. One village site near the Huang He had more than 40 houses. Many of the houses were partly underground and may have had straw-covered roofs. The site also included animal pens, storage pits, and a cemetery.

*From
Chapter 7
p. 184*

Some of the villages along the Huang He grew into large towns. Walls surrounded these towns to defend them against floods and hostile neighbors. In towns like these, the Chinese left many artifacts, such as arrowheads, fishhooks, tools, and pottery. Some village sites even contained pieces of cloth.

After you read the passage, answer the following questions.

- Read the following summaries and decide which one is the better summary statement. Explain your answer.
 - Archaeologists have found out interesting things about the early settlements of China. For example, they have discovered that the Chinese had homes with straw-covered roofs, pens for their animals, and even cemeteries. Also, they have found that larger villages were surrounded by walls for defense. Finally, they have found tools like arrowheads and fishhooks.
 - Archaeologists have found remains of early Chinese villages, some of which grew into large walled settlements. Artifacts found there help us understand Chinese culture.
- What should be included in a good summary?

Chapter 7

Section 1

jade (p. 185)
oracle (p. 186)

Section 2

lords (p. 189)
peasants (p. 189)
Confucius (p. 191)
ethics (p. 191)
Confucianism (p. 191)
Daoism (p. 192)
Laozi (p. 192)
Legalism (p. 192)

Section 3

Shi Huangdi (p. 194)
Great Wall (p. 197)

Section 4

sundial (p. 204)
seismograph (p. 204)
acupuncture (p. 205)

Section 5

silk (p. 209)
Silk Road (p. 209)
diffusion (p. 211)

Academic Vocabulary

Success in school is related to knowing academic vocabulary—the words that are frequently used in school assignments and discussions. In this chapter, you will learn the following academic words:

vary (p. 183)
structure (p. 190)
innovation (p. 204)
procedure (p. 209)

As you read Chapter 7, think about how you would summarize the material you are reading.

Geography and Early China



What You Will Learn...

Main Ideas

1. China's physical geography made farming possible but travel and communication difficult.
2. Civilization began in China along the Huang He and Chang Jiang rivers.
3. China's first dynasties helped Chinese society develop and made many other achievements.

The Big Idea

Chinese civilization began with the Shang dynasty along the Huang He.

Key Terms

jade, p. 185

oracle, p. 186



HSS 6.6.1 Locate and describe the origins of Chinese civilization in the Huang-He Valley during the Shang Dynasty.

6.6.2 Explain the geographic features of China that made governance and the spread of ideas and goods difficult and served to isolate the country from the rest of the world.

If YOU were there...

You live along a broad river in China in about 1400 BC. Your grandfather is a farmer. He tells you wonderful stories about an ancient king. Long ago, this legendary hero tamed the river's raging floods. He even created new rivers. Without him, no one could farm or live in this rich land.

Why is this legend important to your family?

BUILDING BACKGROUND Like other river civilizations, the Chinese people had to learn to control floods and irrigate their fields. China's geographical features divided the country into distinct regions.

China's Physical Geography

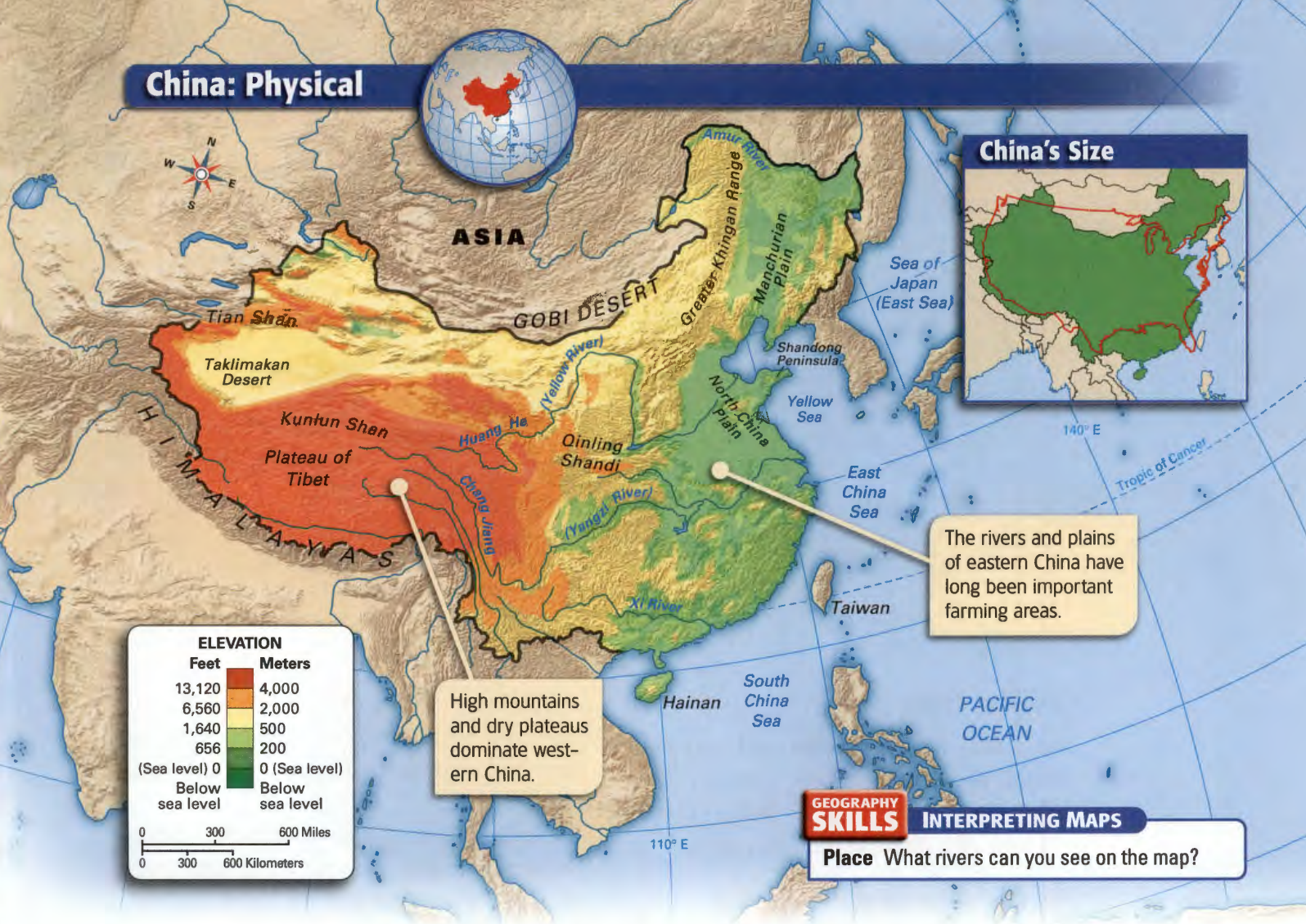
Geography played a major role in the development of Chinese civilization. China has many different geographical features. Some features separated groups of people within China. Others separated China from the rest of the world.

A Vast and Varied Land

China covers an area of nearly 4 million square miles, about the same size as the United States. One of the physical barriers that separates China from its neighbors is a harsh desert, the Gobi (GOH-bee). It spreads over much of China's north. East of the Gobi are low-lying plains. These plains, which cover most of eastern China, form one of the world's largest farming regions. The Pacific Ocean forms the country's eastern boundary.

More than 2,000 miles to the west, rugged mountains make up the western frontier. In the southwest the Plateau of Tibet has several mountain peaks that reach more than 26,000 feet. From the plateau, smaller mountain ranges spread eastward. The most important of these ranges is the Qinling Shandi (CHIN-LING shahn-DEE). It separates northern China from southern China.

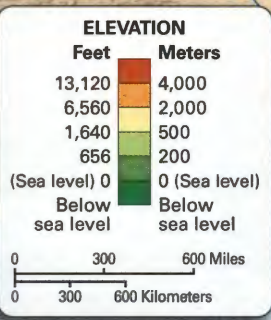
China: Physical



China's Size

The rivers and plains of eastern China have long been important farming areas.

High mountains and dry plateaus dominate western China.



GEOGRAPHY SKILLS INTERPRETING MAPS

Place What rivers can you see on the map?

Weather and temperature patterns vary widely across China. In the northeast, the climate is cold and dry. Winter temperatures drop well below 0°F. Rivers there are frozen for more than half of the year. In the northwest, the deserts are very dry. But on the eastern plains of China, heavy rains fall. The tropical southeast is the wettest region. Monsoons can bring 250 inches of rain each year. That's enough water to cover a two-story house!

The Rivers of China

Two great rivers flow from west to east in China. The Huang He, or Yellow River, stretches for nearly 3,000 miles across northern China. The river often floods, and the floods leave behind layers of silt

on the surrounding countryside. Because these floods can be very destructive, the river is sometimes called "China's Sorrow." Over the years, millions of people have died in Huang He floods.

To the south, the Chang Jiang, or Yangzi River, cuts through central China. It flows from the mountains of Tibet to the Pacific Ocean. The Chang Jiang is the longest river in Asia.

In early China, the two rivers helped link people in the eastern part of the country with those in the west. At the same time, the mountains between the rivers limited contact.

READING CHECK Summarizing What geographical features limited travel in China?

ACADEMIC VOCABULARY
vary to be different

Geography and Living

China is a large country with many different types of environments.

How do these photos show China's diverse geography?



1 In northern China, the Huang He, or Yellow River, has long been the center of civilization. The silt in the river gives it a yellow look.

Civilization Begins

Like other ancient peoples that you have studied, people in China first settled along rivers. There they farmed, built villages, and formed a civilization.

The Development of Farming

Farming in China started along the Huang He and Chang Jiang. The rivers' floods deposited fertile silt. These silt deposits made the land ideal for growing crops.

As early as 7000 BC farmers grew rice in the middle Chang Jiang Valley. North, along the Huang He, the land was better for growing cereals such as millet and wheat.

Along with farming, the early Chinese people increased their diets in other ways. They fished and hunted with bows and arrows. They also domesticated animals such as pigs and sheep. With more sources of food, the population grew.

Early Settlements

Archaeologists have found remains of early Chinese villages. One village site near the Huang He had more than 40 houses. Many

of the houses were partly underground and may have had straw-covered roofs. The site also included animal pens, storage pits, and a cemetery.

Some of the villages along the Huang He grew into large towns. Walls surrounded these towns to defend them against floods and hostile neighbors. In towns like these, the Chinese left many artifacts, such as arrowheads, fishhooks, tools, and pottery. Some village sites even contained pieces of cloth.

Separate cultures developed in southern and northeastern China. These included the Sanxingdui (sahn-shing-DWAY) and Hongshan peoples. Little is known about them, however. As the major cultures along the Huang He and Chang Jiang grew, they absorbed these other cultures.

Over time, Chinese culture became more advanced. After 3000 BC people used potter's wheels to make more types of pottery. These people also learned to dig water wells. As populations grew, villages spread out over larger areas in both northern and southeastern China.



- 2 Southern China receives more rain than northern China, and farmers can grow several crops of rice a year.



- 3 Western China's high mountains and wide deserts make travel difficult and isolate China's population centers in the east.

Burial sites have provided information about the culture of this period. Like the Egyptians, the early Chinese filled their tombs with objects. Some tombs included containers of food, suggesting a belief in an afterlife. Some graves contained many more items than others. These differences show that a social order had developed. Often the graves of rich people held beautiful jewelry and other objects made from **jade, a hard gemstone**.

READING CHECK Generalizing What were some features of China's earliest settlements?

China's First Dynasties

Societies along the Huang He grew and became more complex. They eventually formed the first Chinese civilization.

The Xia Dynasty

According to ancient stories, a series of kings ruled early China. Around 2200 BC one of them, Yu the Great, is said to have founded the Xia (SHAH) dynasty.

Writers told of terrible floods during Yu's lifetime. According to these accounts, Yu dug channels to drain the water to the ocean. This labor took him more than 10 years and is said to have created the major waterways of north China.

Archaeologists have not yet found evidence that the tales about the Xia are true. However, the stories of Xia rulers were important to the ancient Chinese because they told of kings who helped people solve problems by working together. The stories also explained the geography that had such an impact on people's lives.

The Shang Dynasty

The first dynasty for which we have clear evidence is the Shang, which was firmly established by the 1500s BC. Strongest in the Huang He Valley, the Shang ruled a broad area of northern China. Shang rulers moved their capital several times, probably to avoid floods or attack by enemies.

The king was at the center of Shang political and religious life. Nobles served the king as advisors and helped him rule.

Less important officials were also nobles. They performed specific governmental and religious duties.

The social order became more organized under the Shang. The royal family and the nobles were at the highest level. Nobles owned much land, and they passed on their wealth and power to their sons. Warrior leaders from the far regions of the empire also had high rank in society. Most people in the Shang ruling classes lived in large homes in cities.

Artisans settled outside the city walls. They lived in groups based on what they made for a living. Some artisans made weapons. Other artisans made pottery, tools, or clothing. Artisans were at a middle level of importance in Shang society.

Farmers ranked below artisans in the social order. Farmers worked long hours but had little money. Taxes claimed much

of what they earned. Slaves, who filled society's lowest rank, were an important source of labor during the Shang period.

The Shang made many advances, including China's first writing system. This system used more than 2,000 symbols to express words or ideas. Although the system has gone through changes over the years, the Chinese symbols used today are based on those of the Shang period.

Shang writing has been found on thousands of cattle bones and turtle shells. Priests had carved questions about the future on bones or shells, which were then heated, causing them to crack. The priests believed they could "read" these cracks to predict the future. The bones were called oracle bones because an **oracle** is a prediction.

In addition to writing, the Shang also made other achievements. Artisans made beautiful bronze containers for cooking and

Shang Dynasty, c. 1500–1050 BC



ASIA

GOBI DESERT

Huang He (Yellow River)

Anyang

Luoyang

Yellow Sea

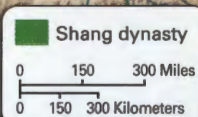
PACIFIC OCEAN

East China Sea

Chang Jiang (Yangzi River)

Xi River

South China Sea



This bronze Shang container is shaped like a tigris.

GEOGRAPHY SKILLS

INTERPRETING MAPS

Location What river flowed through the heart of Shang China?

Chinese Writing		
	Writing from Shang Period	Current Chinese Writing
sun		
rain		
field		
moon		



Like other early forms of writing, Chinese writing developed from pictographs—symbols that look like what they represent. Over time, the symbols became more complex and looked less like real objects. Many examples of early Chinese writing are carved into bones like this turtle shell.

religious ceremonies. They also made axes, knives, and ornaments from jade. The military developed war chariots, powerful bows, and bronze body armor. Shang astrologers also made an important contribution. They developed a calendar based on the cycles of the moon.

READING CHECK **Contrasting** What is a major historical difference between the Xia and Shang dynasties?

SUMMARY AND PREVIEW China is a vast land with a diverse geography. Ancient Chinese civilization developed in the fertile valleys of the Huang He and Chang Jiang. Civilization there advanced under Shang rule. People developed a social order, a writing system, and made other achievements. In the next section you will learn about new ideas in China during the rule of the Zhou dynasty.

Section 1 Assessment

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Online Quiz

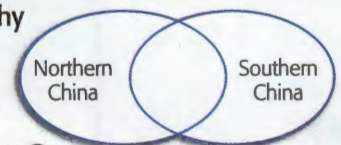
KEYWORD: SQ6 HP7

Reviewing Ideas, Terms, and People **HSS** 6.6.1, 6.6.2

- Identify** Name China's two major rivers.
 - Analyze** How did China's geography affect its development?
- Identify** In which river valley did China's civilization begin?
 - Explain** What made China's river valleys ideal for farming?
 - Elaborate** What do Chinese artifacts reveal about China's early civilization?
- Describe** How do historians know about the Xia dynasty?
 - Draw Conclusions** What does the use of oracle bones tell us about the early Chinese?

Critical Thinking

- Comparing and Contrasting** Copy the diagram shown here. Use it to show similarities and differences in the geography of northern and southern China.



FOCUS ON SPEAKING

- Thinking about Events** Look back over the section to note the important events of China's earliest times. Think about what it is that makes one event more important than another. Write down your ideas in your notebook.

The Zhou Dynasty and New Ideas

What You Will Learn...

Main Ideas

1. The Zhou dynasty expanded China but then declined.
2. Confucius offered ideas to bring order to Chinese society.
3. Daoism and Legalism also gained followers.

The Big Idea

The Zhou dynasty brought political stability and new ways to deal with political and social problems in ancient China.

Key Terms and People

lords, *p. 189*
 peasants, *p. 189*
 Confucius, *p. 191*
 ethics, *p. 191*
 Confucianism, *p. 191*
 Daoism, *p. 192*
 Laozi, *p. 192*
 Legalism, *p. 192*

If YOU were there...

You are a student of the famous teacher Confucius. Like many older Chinese, he thinks that society has changed—and not for the better. He believes in old values and a strict social order. He is trying to teach you and your fellow students how to behave as gentlemen. You must respect those who are your superiors in society. You must set a good example for others.

How will these teachings affect your life?

BUILDING BACKGROUND The people of the Shang dynasty made many advances, including beautiful metalwork, a writing system, and a calendar. The next dynasty, the Zhou, established other Chinese traditions. Some of these traditions included the importance of family and social order. Later thinkers looked back with admiration to the values of the Zhou period.

The Zhou Dynasty

In the 1100s BC the leaders of a people who came to be known as the Zhou (JOH) ruled over a kingdom in China. They joined with other nearby tribes and attacked and overthrew the Shang dynasty. The Zhou dynasty lasted longer than any other dynasty in Chinese history.

Time Line

The Zhou Dynasty



HSS 6.6.3 Know about the life of Confucius and the fundamental teachings of Confucianism and Daoism.

6.6.4 Identify the political and cultural problems prevalent in the time of Confucius and how he sought to solve them.

Zhou Dynasty, c. 1050–400 BC



QUICK FACTS

Zhou Society

King

The king led the government and gave land to lords.



Lords and Warriors

Lords paid taxes to the king and provided warriors to protect his lands.



Peasants

Peasants farmed the nobles' land.



GOBI DESERT

ASIA

Huang He (Yellow River)

Chang Jiang (Yangtze River)

Xi River

Yellow Sea

PACIFIC OCEAN

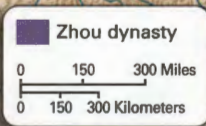
East China Sea

Shangqiu

Luoyang

Hao

Ji



GEOGRAPHY SKILLS

INTERPRETING MAPS

Region How far south did the Zhou dynasty reach?

The Zhou Political System

The Zhou kings claimed to possess the mandate of heaven. According to this idea, heaven gave power to the king or leader, and no one ruled without heaven's permission. If a king was found to be bad, heaven would support another leader.

The Zhou came from an area to the west of the Shang kingdom. Early Zhou rulers used the mandate of heaven to justify their rebellion against the Shang. Later Zhou rulers expanded their territory to the northwest and the east. Zhou soldiers then moved south, eventually expanding their rule to the Chang Jiang.

The Zhou established a new political order. They granted land to others in return for loyalty, military support, and other services. The Zhou king was at the highest level. He granted plots of land to **lords**, or people of high rank. Lords paid

taxes and provided soldiers to the king as needed. **Peasants**, or farmers with small farms, were at the bottom of the order. Each peasant family received a small plot of land and had to farm additional land for the noble. The system was described in the *Book of Songs*:

“Everywhere under vast Heaven
There is no land that is not the king's
Within the borders of those lands
There are none who are not the king's servants.”

—from the Zhou *Book of Songs*

The Zhou system brought order to China. Ruling through lords helped the Zhou control distant areas and helped ensure loyalty to the king. Over time, however, the political order broke down. Lords passed their power to their sons, who were less loyal to the king. Local rulers gained power. They began to reject the authority of the Zhou kings.

The Decline of Zhou Power

As the lords' loyalty to the Zhou king lessened, many refused to fight against invasions. In 771 BC invaders reached the capital. According to legend, the king had been lighting warning fires to entertain a friend. Each time the fires were lit, the king's armies would rush to the capital gates to protect him. When the real attack came, the men thought the fires were just another joke, and no one came. The Zhou lost the battle, but the dynasty survived.

After this defeat the lords began to fight each other. By 481 BC, China had entered an era called the Warring States period, a time of many civil wars. Armies grew. Fighting became brutal and cruel as soldiers fought for territory, not honor.

ACADEMIC VOCABULARY

structure the way something is set up or organized

Internal Problems

The decline of the Zhou took place along with important changes in the Chinese family **structure**. For many centuries the

family had been the foundation of life in China. Large families of several generations formed powerful groups. When these families broke apart, they lost their power. Close relatives became rivals.

Bonds of loyalty even weakened within small families, especially among the upper classes. Sons plotted against each other over inheritances. A wealthy father sometimes tried to maintain peace by dividing his land among his sons. But this created new problems. Each son could build up his wealth and then challenge his brothers. Some sons even killed their own fathers. During the Warring States period, China lacked a strong government to stop the power struggles within the ruling-class families. Chinese society fell into a period of disorder.

READING CHECK

Identifying Cause and Effect

How did the Zhou's decline affect Chinese society?

The Warring States Period

During China's Warring States period, thousands of armies fought each other to gain territory. The armies used new weapons and battle techniques in the civil wars that lasted more than 200 years.

Iron weapons made warfare dangerous and bloody.

Horses were now ridden instead of just being used to pull chariots.

ANALYSIS SKILL

ANALYZING VISUALS

What advantage did warriors gain by riding horses?



Confucius and Society

During the late Zhou period, thinkers came up with ideas about how to restore order to China. One such person, **Confucius**, became the most influential teacher in Chinese history. Confucius is a Western form of the Chinese title of “Master Kong” or “Kongfuzi.”

Confucius felt that China was overrun with rude and dishonest people. Upset by the disorder and people’s lack of decency, Confucius said that the Chinese needed to return to **ethics, or moral values**. The ideas of Confucius are known as **Confucianism**.

Confucius wanted China to return to ideas and practices from a time when people knew their proper roles in society. These are basic guidelines that Confucius thought would restore family order and social harmony:

- Fathers should display high moral values to inspire their families.
- Children should respect and obey their parents.
- All family members should be loyal to each other.

Confucius’s ideas about government were similar to his ideas about family:

- Moral leadership, not laws, brought order to China.
- A king should lead by example, inspiring good behavior in all of his subjects.
- The lower classes would learn by following the example of their superiors. Confucius expressed this idea when he told kings:

“Lead the people by means of government policies and regulate them through punishments, and they will be evasive and have no sense of shame. Lead them by means of virtue . . . and they will have a sense of shame and moreover have standards.”

—Confucius, from *The Analects*

BIOGRAPHY

Confucius

551–479 BC

Confucius, whose Chinese title is Kongfuzi, grew up in extreme poverty. Confucius was a dedicated student into his teenage years. Little is known about how he received his formal education, but he mastered many subjects, including music, mathematics, poetry, and history. He served in minor government positions, then he became a teacher. He never knew his teachings would transform Chinese life and thought.

Drawing Inferences How do you think Confucius’s government jobs helped shape his teachings?



As Confucius traveled to many different regions, he earned the reputation of a respected teacher. His ideas were passed down through his students and later compiled into a book called *The Analects*.

Because Confucianism focuses on morality, family, society, and government, people often think of it as a philosophy or way of thinking. But it is much more. Confucianism is a unique teaching that is both philosophical and religious. It has been a guiding force in human behavior and religious understanding in China.

Confucius believed that when people behaved well and acted morally, they were simply carrying out what heaven expected of them. Over the centuries Confucius’s ideas about virtue, kindness, and learning became the dominant beliefs in China.

READING CHECK Identifying Points of View

What did Confucius believe about good behavior?

HISTORIC DOCUMENT

The Analects

The followers of Confucius placed their teacher's sayings together in a work called in Chinese the *Lun Yü* and in English *The Analects*. The word *analects* means "writings that have been collected."

"Yu, shall I teach you what knowledge is? When you know a thing, say that you know it; when you do not know a thing, admit that you do not know it. That is knowledge."

"Is there any one word that can serve as a principle for . . . life? Perhaps the word is reciprocity [fairness]: Do not do to others what you would not want others to do to you."

"I do not enlighten anyone who is not eager to learn, nor encourage anyone who is not anxious to put his ideas into words."

—Confucius, from *The Analects*

ANALYSIS SKILL

ANALYZING PRIMARY SOURCES

What are some of the qualities that Confucius valued?

Daoism and Legalism

Other beliefs besides Confucianism influenced China during the Zhou period. Two in particular attracted many followers.

Daoism

Daoism (DOW-ih-zum) takes its name from *Dao*, meaning "the way." **Daoism stressed living in harmony with the Dao, the guiding force of all reality.** In Daoist teachings, the Dao gave birth to the universe and all things in it. Daoism developed in part as a reaction to Confucianism. Daoists didn't agree with the idea that active, involved leaders brought social harmony. Instead, they wanted the government to stay out of people's lives.

Daoists believed that people should avoid interfering with nature or each other. They should be like water and simply let things flow in a natural way. For Daoists,

Main Ideas of Confucianism

QUICK FACTS

- People should be respectful and loyal to their family members.
- Leaders should be kind and lead by example.
- Learning is a process that never ends.
- Heaven expects people to behave well and act morally.

the ideal ruler was a wise man who was in harmony with the Dao. He would govern so effortlessly that his people would not even know they were being governed.

Daoists taught that the universe is a balance of opposites: female and male, light and dark, low and high. In each case, opposing forces should be in harmony.

While Confucianism focused its followers' attention on the human world, Daoists paid more attention to the natural world. Daoists regarded humans as just a part of nature, not better than any other thing. In time the Dao, as represented by nature, became so important to the Daoists that they worshipped it.

Laozi (LOWD-zuh) was the most famous Daoist teacher. He taught that people should not try to gain wealth, nor should they seek power. Laozi is credited with writing the basic text of Daoism, *The Way and Its Power*. Later writers created many legends about Laozi's achievements.

Legalism

Legalism, the belief that people were bad by nature and needed to be controlled, contrasted with both Confucianism and Daoism. Unlike the other two beliefs, Legalism was a political philosophy without religious concerns. Instead, it dealt only with government and social

control. Followers of Legalism disagreed with the moral preaching of Confucius. Legalists also rejected Daoism because it didn't stress respect for authority.

Legalists felt that society needed strict laws to keep people in line and that punishments should fit crimes. For example, they believed that citizens should be held responsible for each other's conduct. A guilty person's relatives and neighbors should also be punished. This way, everyone would obey the laws.

Unity and efficiency were also important to Legalists. They wanted appointed officials, not nobles, to run China. Legalists wanted the empire to continue to expand. Therefore, they urged the state to always be prepared for war.

Confucianism, Daoism, and Legalism competed for followers. All three beliefs became popular, but the Legalists were the first to put their ideas into practice throughout China.

READING CHECK **Contrasting** How did Daoism and Legalism differ in their theories about government?

BIOGRAPHY

Laozi

c. 500s or 400s BC

Scholars have found little reliable information about Laozi's life. Some believe that his book on Daoism was actually the work of several different authors. Most ancient sources of information about Laozi are myths. For example, one legend states that when Laozi was born, he was already an old man. In Chinese *Laozi* can mean "Old Baby." Over the years, many Daoists have worshipped Laozi as a supernatural being.

Drawing Inferences What do you think it meant to say Laozi was born "old"?



SUMMARY AND PREVIEW When the Zhou dynasty crumbled, political and social chaos erupted. In response, the new teachings of Confucianism, Daoism, and Legalism emerged. In the next section you will learn how the Qin dynasty applied the teachings of Legalism.

Section 2 Assessment

go.hrw.com
Online Quiz
KEYWORD SQ6 HP7

Reviewing Ideas, Terms, and People **HSS** 6.6.3, 6.6.4

- Identify** What is the mandate of heaven?
 - Explain** Describe the political order used by the Zhou kings to rule distant lands.
 - Elaborate** What happened when nobles began to reject the Zhou king's authority?
- Identify** Who was **Confucius**?
 - Analyze** Why did many of the teachings of Confucius focus on the family?
- Identify** Who was the most famous Daoist teacher?
 - Summarize** What were the main ideas of **Daoism**?
 - Elaborate** What might be some disadvantages of **Legalism**?

Critical Thinking

4. Finding Main Ideas

Draw a chart like the one here. Use it to list two main ideas each about Confucianism, Daoism, and Legalism.

Confucianism	
Daoism	
Legalism	

FOCUS ON SPEAKING

5. Exploring the Importance of Historical Figures

Many important people in history are rulers or conquerors. People who think and teach, however, have also played major roles in history. How did thinkers and teachers shape China's history? Write some ideas in your notebook.

The Qin Dynasty

If YOU were there...

You are a scholar living in China in about 210 BC. You have a large library of Chinese literature, poetry, and philosophy. The new emperor is a harsh ruler with no love for learning. He says you must burn all the books that disagree with his ideas. The idea horrifies you. But if you do not obey, the punishment may be severe.

**Will you obey the order to burn your books?
Why or why not?**

BUILDING BACKGROUND Different dynasties held very different ideas about how to rule. As the Zhou period declined, putting new ideas into effect brought great changes.

The Qin Emperor's Strong Government

The Warring States period marked a time in China when several states battled each other for power. One state, the Qin (CHIN), built a strong army that defeated the armies of the rivaling states. Eventually, the Qin dynasty united the country under one government.

Shi Huangdi Takes the Throne

In 221 BC, the Qin king Ying Zheng succeeded in unifying China. He gave himself the title **Shi Huangdi** (SHEE hwahng-dee), which means "first emperor." Shi Huangdi followed Legalist political beliefs. He created a strong government with strict laws and harsh punishments.

Time Line

The Qin Dynasty

225 BC

221 BC

Emperor Shi Huangdi unifies China, beginning the Qin dynasty.

215 BC

c. 213 BC

Shi Huangdi orders book burnings.

210 BC

Shi Huangdi dies.

c. 206 BC

The Qin dynasty collapses.

205 BC

What You Will Learn...

Main Ideas

1. The first Qin emperor created a strong but strict government.
2. A unified China was created through Qin policies and achievements.

The Big Idea

The Qin dynasty unified China with a strong government and a system of standardization.

Key Terms and People

Shi Huangdi, p. 194

Great Wall, p. 197



HSS 6.6.5 List the policies and achievements of the emperor Shi Huangdi in unifying northern China under the Qin Dynasty.

Qin Dynasty, c. 221–206 BC



ASIA

GOBI DESERT

Huang He (Yellow River)

Chang Jiang (Yangzi River)

Xi River

Yellow Sea

PACIFIC OCEAN

East China Sea

South China Sea



Emperor Shi Huangdi

QUICK FACTS

Policies

- Strong government with strict laws
- Standard laws, writing system, money, and weights throughout China

Achievements

- Unified China
- Built network of roads and canals
- Built irrigation system to improve farming
- Built the Great Wall across northern China

GEOGRAPHY SKILLS

INTERPRETING MAPS

Location Where was the Great Wall located during the Qin dynasty?

Shi Huangdi demanded that everyone follow his policies. He ordered the burning of all writings that did not agree with Legalism. The only other books that were saved dealt with farming, medicine, and predicting the future. Many scholars opposed the book burnings. The emperor responded to the opposition by burying 460 scholars alive.

Shi Huangdi also used his armies to expand the empire. First, they occupied the lands around both of China's major rivers. Then his soldiers turned north and advanced almost to the Gobi Desert. To the south, they invaded more lands and advanced as far as the Xi River.

Shi Huangdi ensured that there would not be any future revolts in his new territories. When his soldiers conquered a city, he had them destroy its walls and take all the weapons.

China under the Qin

Shi Huangdi changed China's old political system. He claimed all the power and did not share it with the lords. He even took land away from them and forced thousands of nobles to move with their families to the capital so he could keep an eye on them. He also forced thousands of commoners to work on government building projects. Workers faced years of hardship, danger, and often, death.

To control China, Shi Huangdi divided it into districts, each with its own governor. Districts were subdivided into counties that were governed by appointed officials. This organization helped the emperor enforce his tax system. It also helped the Qin enforce a strict chain of command.

READING CHECK

Summarizing How did Shi Huangdi strengthen the government?

A Unified China

Qin rule brought other major changes to China. Under Shi Huangdi, new policies and achievements united the Chinese people.

Qin Policies

As you read earlier, mountains and rivers divided China into distinct regions. Customs varied, and people in each area had their own money, writing styles, and laws. Shi Huangdi wanted all Chinese people to do things the same way.

Early in his reign, the emperor set up a uniform system of law. Rules and punishments were to be the same in all parts of the empire. Shi Huangdi also standardized

the written language. People everywhere were required to write using the same set of symbols. People from different regions could now communicate with each other in writing. This gave them a sense of shared culture and a common identity.

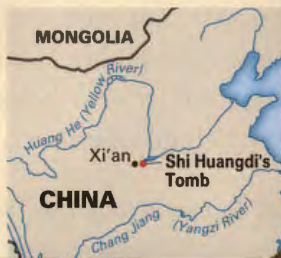
Next, the emperor set up a new money system. Standardized gold and copper coins became the currency used in all of China. Weights and measures were also standardized. Even the axle width of carts had to be the same. With all these changes and the unified writing system, trade between different regions became much easier. The Qin government strictly enforced these new standards. Any citizen who disobeyed the laws would face severe punishment.

FOCUS ON READING

How might you summarize the new Qin policies?

Guardians of Shi Huangdi's Tomb

In 1974 archaeologists found the tomb of Emperor Shi Huangdi near Xi'an and made an amazing discovery. Buried close to the emperor was an army of more than 6,000 life-size terra-cotta, or clay, soldiers. They were designed to be with Shi Huangdi in the afterlife. In other nearby chambers of the tomb there were another 1,400 clay figures of cavalry and chariots.



Qin Achievements

New, massive building projects also helped to unify the country. Under Shi Huangdi's rule, the Chinese built a network of roads that connected the capital to every part of the empire. These roads made travel easier for everyone. Each of these new roads was the same width, 50 paces wide. This design helped the army move quickly and easily to put down revolts in distant areas.

China's water system was also improved. Workers built canals to connect the country's rivers. Like the new roads, the canals improved transportation throughout the country. Using the new canals and rivers together made it easier and faster to ship goods from north to south. In addition, the

Qin built an irrigation system to make more land good for farming. Parts of that system are still in use today.

Shi Huangdi also wanted to protect the country from invasion. Nomads from the north were fierce warriors, and they were a real threat to China. Hoping to stop them from invading, the emperor built the **Great Wall**, a barrier that linked earlier walls across **China's northern frontier**. The first section of the wall had been built in the 600s BC to keep invading groups out of China. The Qin connected earlier pieces of the wall to form a long, unbroken structure. Building the wall required years of labor from hundreds of thousands of workers. Many of them died building the wall.

THE IMPACT TODAY

The Great Wall is a major tourist attraction today.



Each terra-cotta soldier was different, with its own facial features, hairstyle, and unique expression. Here, a computer model shows what a soldier might have looked like when it was created.



The Great Wall has been added to and rebuilt many times since Shi Huangdi ruled China.

The Fall of the Qin

Shi Huangdi's policies unified China. However, his policies also stirred resentment. Many peasants, scholars, and nobles hated his harsh ways.

Still, Shi Huangdi was powerful enough to hold the country together. When he died in 210 BC China was unified, but that didn't last. Within a few years, the government began to fall apart.

Rebel forces formed across the country. Each claimed to have received the mandate of heaven to replace the emperor. One of these groups attacked the Qin capital, and the new emperor surrendered. The palace was burned to the ground. Qin authority had disappeared. With no central government, the country fell into civil war.

READING CHECK **Recall** What massive building projects did Shi Huangdi order to unify China?

SUMMARY AND PREVIEW Qin emperor Shi Huangdi's policies and achievements unified China, but his harsh rule led to resentment. After his death, the dynasty fell apart. In the next section you will learn about the Han dynasty that came to power after the end of the Qin.

Section 3 Assessment

go.hrw.com
Online Quiz
 KEYWORD: SQ6 HP7

Reviewing Ideas, Terms, and People **HSS**

6.6.5

- Identify** What does the title **Shi Huangdi** mean?
 - Explain** After unifying China, why did Shi Huangdi divide the country into military districts?
 - Rate** Which of the following acts do you think best showed how powerful Shi Huangdi was—burning books, forcing nobles to move, or forcing commoners to work on government projects? Explain your answer.
- Recall** Why was the **Great Wall** built?
 - Summarize** What actions did Shi Huangdi take to unify China and standardize things within the empire?
 - Evaluate** In your opinion, was Shi Huangdi a good ruler? Explain your answer.

Critical Thinking

- Analyzing** Draw a chart like the one here. Use it to show how each improvement helped the Qin dynasty.

Improvement	Advantage
1. Road system	
2. Canals	
3. Great Wall	

FOCUS ON SPEAKING

- Evaluating Contributions to History** When evaluating a person's contribution to history, it is important to consider both the person's good impact and bad impact. In what ways was Shi Huangdi great? What negative impact did he have on China? Write down your ideas.

Emperor Shi Huangdi

If you were a powerful ruler, how would you protect yourself?

When did he live? c. 259–210 BC

Where did he live? Shi Huangdi built a new capital city at Xianyang, now called Xi'an (SHEE-AHN), in eastern China.

What did he do? Shi Huangdi didn't trust people. Several attempts were made on his life, and the emperor lived in fear of more attacks. He was constantly seeking new ways to protect himself and extend his life. By the time Shi Huangdi died, he didn't even trust his own advisors. Even in death, he surrounded himself with protectors: the famous terra-cotta army.

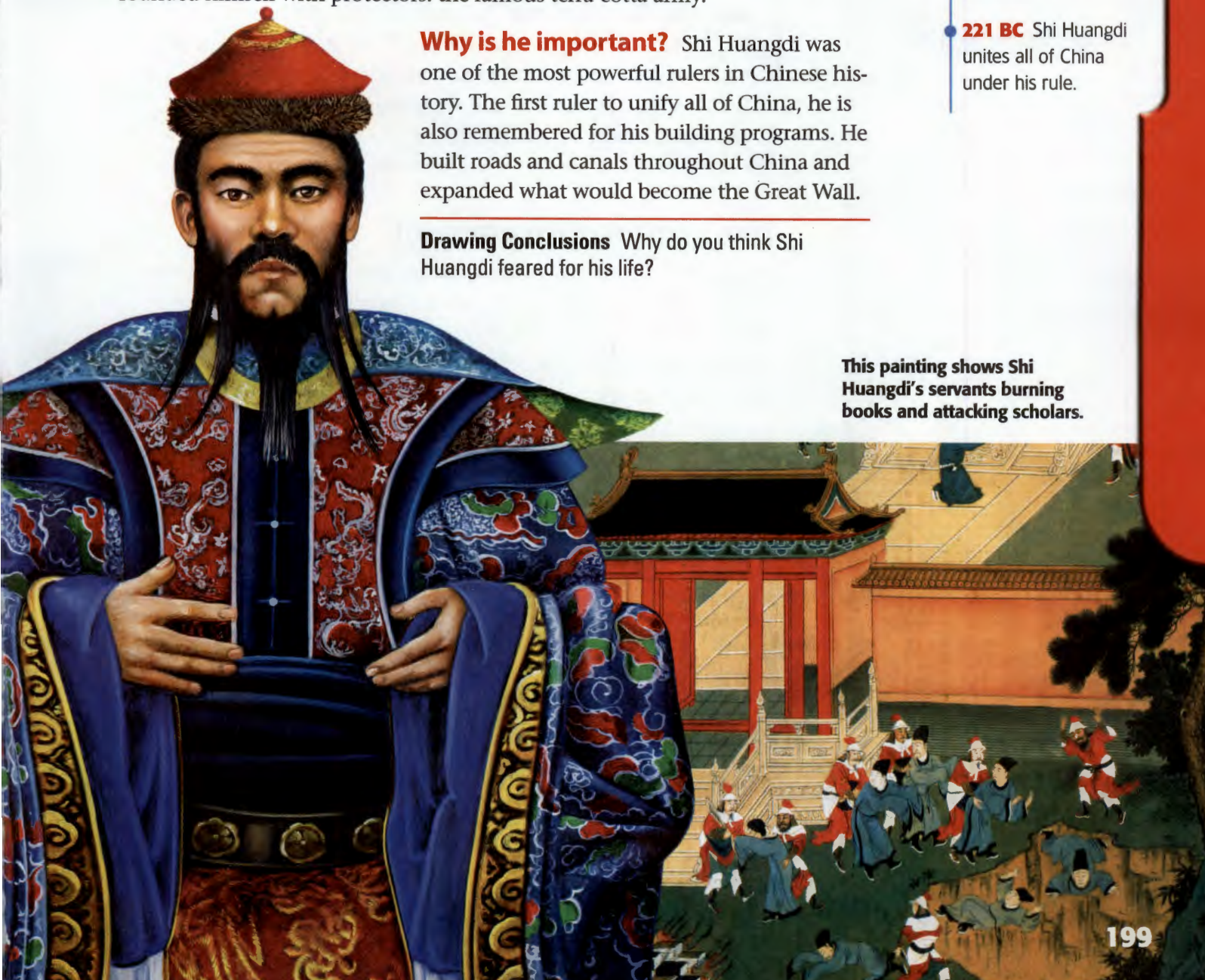
Why is he important? Shi Huangdi was one of the most powerful rulers in Chinese history. The first ruler to unify all of China, he is also remembered for his building programs. He built roads and canals throughout China and expanded what would become the Great Wall.

Drawing Conclusions Why do you think Shi Huangdi feared for his life?

KEY EVENTS

- **246 BC** Shi Huangdi becomes emperor. Because he is still young, a high official rules in his name.
- **238 BC** He exiles the official, whom he suspects of plotting against him, and rules alone.
- **227 BC** An assassination attempt adds fuel to the emperor's paranoia.
- **221 BC** Shi Huangdi unites all of China under his rule.

This painting shows Shi Huangdi's servants burning books and attacking scholars.



The Han Dynasty

If YOU were there...

You are a young Chinese student from a poor family. Your family has worked hard to give you a good education so that you can get a government job and have a great future. Your friends laugh at you. They say that only boys from wealthy families win the good jobs. They think it is better to join the army.

Will you take the exam or join the army? Why?

Main Ideas

1. Han dynasty government was based on the ideas of Confucius.
2. Family life was supported and strengthened in Han China.
3. The Han made many achievements in art, literature, and learning.

The Big Idea

The Han dynasty created a new form of government that valued family, art, and learning.

Key Terms

sundial, p. 204

seismograph, p. 204

acupuncture, p. 205

BUILDING BACKGROUND Though it was harsh, the rule of the first Qin emperor helped to unify northern China. With the building of the Great Wall, he strengthened defenses on the northern frontier. But his successor could not hold on to power. The Qin gave way to a remarkable new dynasty that would last for 400 years.

Han Dynasty Government

When the Qin dynasty collapsed in 207 BC, several different groups battled for power. After several years of fighting, an army led by Liu Bang (lee-oo bang) won control. Liu Bang became the first emperor of the Han dynasty. This Chinese dynasty lasted for more than 400 years.

The Rise of a New Dynasty

Liu Bang, a peasant, was able to become emperor in large part because of the Chinese belief in the mandate of heaven. He was the first common person to become emperor. He earned people's

Time Line

The Han Dynasty

206 BC

The Han dynasty begins.

AD 220

The Han dynasty falls.

200 BC

BC 1 AD

AD 200

140 BC

Wudi becomes emperor and tries to strengthen China's government.

AD 25

The Han move their capital east to Luoyang.



HSS 6.6.6 Detail the political contributions of the Han Dynasty to the development of the imperial bureaucratic state and the expansion of the empire.



GEOGRAPHY SKILLS **INTERPRETING MAPS**

Region What features marked the northern boundary of the Han dynasty?

loyalty and trust. In addition, he was well liked by both soldiers and peasants, which helped him to maintain control.

Liu Bang's rule was different from the strict Legalism of the Qin. He wanted to free people from harsh government policies. He lowered taxes for farmers and made punishments less severe. He gave large blocks of land to his supporters.

In addition to setting new policies, Liu Bang changed the way government worked. He set up a government structure that built on the foundation begun by the Qin. He also relied on educated officials to help him rule.

Wudi Creates a New Government

In 140 BC Emperor Wudi (woo-dee) took the throne. He wanted to create a stronger central government. To do that, he

took land from the lords, raised taxes, and placed the supply of grain under the control of the government.

Under Wudi, Confucianism became China's official government philosophy. Government officials were expected to practice Confucianism. Wudi even began a university to teach Confucian ideas.

If a person passed an exam on Confucian teachings, he could get a good position in the government. However, not just anyone could take the test. The exams were only open to people who had been recommended for government service already. As a result, wealthy or influential families continued to control the government.

READING CHECK **Analyzing** How was the Han government based on the ideas of Confucius?

Family Life

The Han period was a time of great social change in China. Class structure became more rigid. The family once again became important within Chinese society.

Social Classes

Based on the Confucian system, people were divided into four classes. The upper class was made up of the emperor, his court, and scholars who held government positions. The second class, the largest, was made up of the peasants. Next were artisans who produced items for daily life and some luxury goods. Merchants occupied the lowest class because they did not produce anything. They only bought and sold what others made. The military was not an official class in the Confucian system. Still, joining the army offered men a chance to rise in social status because the military was considered part of the government.



This Han artifact is an oil lamp held by a servant.

Lives of Rich and Poor

The classes only divided people into social rank. They did not indicate wealth or power. For instance, even though peasants made up the second highest class, they were poor. On the other hand, some merchants were wealthy and powerful despite being in the lowest class.

People's lifestyles varied according to wealth. The emperor and his court lived in a large palace. Less important officials lived in multilevel houses built around courtyards. Many of these wealthy families owned large estates and employed laborers to work the land. Some families even hired private armies to defend their estates.

The wealthy filled their homes with expensive decorations. These included paintings, pottery, bronze lamps, and jade figures. Rich families hired musicians for entertainment. Even the tombs of dead family members were filled with beautiful, expensive objects.

Most people in the Han dynasty, however, didn't live like the wealthy. Nearly 60 million people lived in China during the Han dynasty, and about 90 percent of them were peasants who lived in the countryside. Peasants put in long, tiring days working the land. Whether it was in the millet fields of the north or in the rice paddies of the south, the work was hard. In the winter, peasants were also forced to work on building projects for the government. Heavy taxes and bad weather forced many farmers to sell their land and work for rich landowners. By the last years of the Han dynasty, only a few farmers were independent.

Chinese peasants lived simple lives. They wore plain clothing made of fiber from a native plant. The main foods they ate were cooked grains like barley. Most peasants lived in small villages. Their small, wood-framed houses had walls made of mud or stamped earth.



The Importance of Family

Honoring one's family was an important duty in Han China. In this painting, people give thanks before their family shrine. Only the men participate. The women watch from inside the house.

How are these people giving thanks?

生十雨蒼天濟當年世皆
與後人祭

欽天監五官
鴻臚寺序班

The Revival of the Family

Since Confucianism was the official government philosophy during Wudi's reign, Confucian teachings about the family were also honored. Children were taught from birth to respect their elders. Disobeying one's parents was a crime. Even emperors had a duty to respect their parents.

Confucius had taught that the father was the head of the family. Within the family, the father had absolute power. The Han taught that it was a woman's duty to obey her husband, and children had to obey their father.

Han officials believed that if the family was strong and people obeyed the father, then people would obey the emperor, too. Since the Han stressed strong family ties and respect for elders, some men even gained government jobs based on the respect they showed their parents.

Children were encouraged to serve their parents. They were also expected to honor dead parents with ceremonies and offerings. All family members were expected to care for family burial sites.

Chinese parents valued boys more highly than girls. This was because sons carried on the family line and took care of their parents when they were old. On the other hand, daughters became part of their husband's family. According to a Chinese proverb, "Raising daughters is like raising children for another family." Some women, however, still gained power. They could actually influence their sons' families. An older widow could even become the head of the family.

READING CHECK Identifying Cause and Effect

Why did the family take on such importance during the Han dynasty?

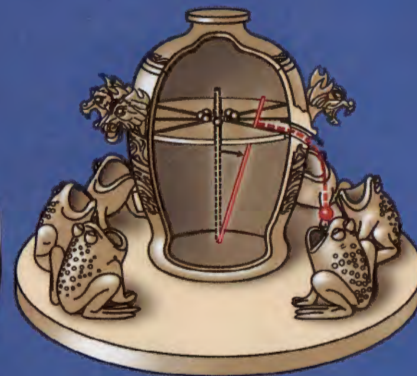
Han Achievements

During the Han dynasty, the Chinese made many advances in art and learning. Some of these advances are shown here.



Science

This is a model of an ancient Chinese seismograph. When an earthquake struck, a lever inside caused a ball to drop from a dragon's mouth into a toad's mouth, indicating the direction from which the earthquake had come.



Han Achievements

Han rule was a time of great accomplishments. Art and literature thrived, and inventors developed many useful devices.

Art and Literature

The Chinese of the Han period produced many works of art. They became experts at figure painting—a style of painting that includes portraits of people. Portraits often showed religious figures and Confucian scholars. Han artists also painted realistic scenes from everyday life. Their creations covered the walls of palaces and tombs.

In literature, Han China is known for its poetry. Poets developed new styles of verse, including the *fu* style which was the most popular. *Fu* poets combined prose and poetry to create long works of literature. Another style, called *shi*, featured short lines of verse that could be sung. Han rulers hired poets known for the beauty of their verse.

ACADEMIC VOCABULARY

innovation a new idea, method, or device

Han writers also produced important works of history. One historian by the name of Sima Qian wrote a complete history of all the dynasties through the early Han. His format and style became the model for later historical writings.

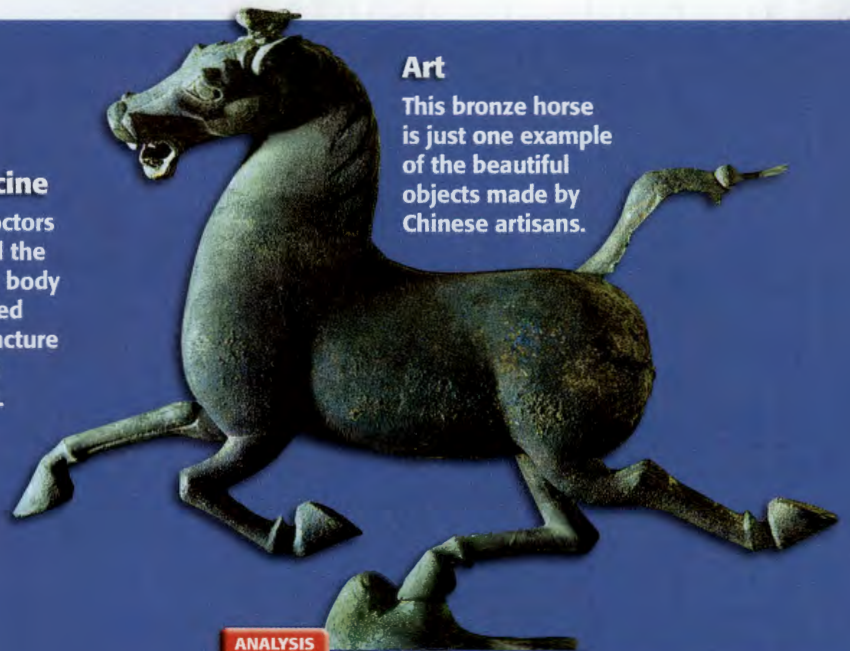
Inventions and Advances

The Han Chinese invented one item that we use every day—paper. They made it by grinding plant fibers, such as mulberry bark and hemp, into a paste. Then they let it dry in sheets. Chinese scholars produced “books” by pasting several pieces of paper together into a long sheet. Then they rolled the sheet into a scroll.

The Han also made other **innovations** in science. These included the sundial and the seismograph. A **sundial** uses the position of shadows cast by the sun to tell the time of day. The sundial was an early type of clock. A **seismograph** is a device that measures the strength of an earthquake. Han emperors were very interested



Medicine
Han doctors studied the human body and used acupuncture to heal people.



Art
This bronze horse is just one example of the beautiful objects made by Chinese artisans.

ANALYSIS
SKILL

ANALYZING VISUALS

How do these objects show the range of accomplishments in Han China?

in knowing about the movements of the earth. They believed that earthquakes were signs of future evil events.

Another Han innovation, acupuncture (AK-yoo-punk-cher), improved medicine. **Acupuncture** is the practice of inserting fine needles through the skin at specific points to cure disease or relieve pain. Many Han inventions in science and medicine are still used today.

READING CHECK **Categorizing** What advances did the Chinese make during the Han period?

SUMMARY AND PREVIEW Han rulers moved away from Legalism and based their government on Confucianism. This strengthened family bonds in Han China. In addition, art and learning thrived under Han rule. In the next section you will learn about China's contact beyond its borders.

Section 4 Assessment

go.hrw.com
Online Quiz

KEYWORD: SQ6 HP7

Reviewing Ideas, Terms, and People **HSS** 6.6.6

- a. Identify** Whose teachings were the foundation for government during the Han dynasty?

b. Summarize How did Emperor Wudi create a strong central government?

c. Evaluate Do you think that an exam system is the best way to make sure that people are fairly chosen for government jobs? Why or why not?
- a. Describe** What was the son's role in the family?

b. Contrast How did living conditions for the wealthy differ from those of the peasants during the Han dynasty?
- Identify** What device did the Chinese invent to measure the strength of earthquakes?

Critical Thinking

- Categorizing** Copy the chart below. List the four classes of Chinese society and give at least two facts about each.

Class	Facts
1.	
2.	
3.	
4.	

FOCUS ON SPEAKING

- Analyzing Impact on History** Sometimes a ruler has the biggest impact on history. Other times, ideas that develop within a society have a greater impact. Which had a greater impact on Han China? Why?

from The Shiji

by Sima Qian

Translated by Burton Watson

GUIDED READING

WORD HELP

intervals periods of time

dispatched sent

envoy representative

1 Henan (HUH-NAHN) is a region of eastern China. It is a productive agricultural region.

2 The Xiongnu were a tribe of nomads. They lived in the north and often raided towns near China's border.

3 *Why do you think the emperor invites Bu Shi to work for the government?*



ELA 6.3.0 Students read and respond to historically or culturally significant works of literature that reflect and enhance their studies of history and social science.

About the Reading *The Shiji, also called the Records of the Grand Historian, is a history that describes more than two thousand years of Chinese culture. The author, Sima Qian (soo-MAH chee-EN), held the title Grand Historian under the Han emperor Wudi. He spent 18 years of his life writing the Shiji. His hard work paid off, and his history was well received. In fact, the Shiji was so respected that it served as the model for every later official history of China. This passage describes a man named Bu Shi, who attracted the emperor's attention through his generosity and good deeds. Eventually, the emperor invited him to live in the imperial palace.*

AS YOU READ Ask yourself why Sima Qian included Bu Shi in his history.

Bu Shi was a native of Henan, where his family made a living by farming and animal raising. 1 When his parents died, Bu Shi left home, handing over the house, the lands, and all the family wealth to his younger brother, who by this time was full grown. For his own share, he took only a hundred or so of the sheep they had been raising, which he led off into the mountains to pasture. In the course of ten years or so, Bu Shi's sheep had increased to over a thousand and he had bought his own house and fields. His younger brother in the meantime had failed completely in the management of the farm, but Bu Shi promptly handed over to him a share of his own wealth. This happened several times. Just at that time the Han was sending its generals at frequent intervals to attack the Xiongnu. 2 Bu Shi journeyed to the capital and submitted a letter to the throne, offering to turn over half of his wealth to the district officials to help in the defense of the border. The emperor dispatched an envoy to ask if Bu Shi wanted a post in the government. 3

"From the time I was a child," Bu Shi replied, "I have been an animal raiser. I have had no experience in government and would certainly not want such a position" . . .

GUIDED READING

WORD HELP

objective goal

chancellor high official

accord agreement

eccentric someone who acts strangely

populace people

tutor private teacher

"If that is the case," said the envoy, "then what is your objective in making this offer?"

Bu Shi replied, "The Son of Heaven has sent out to punish the Xiongnu. 4 In my humble opinion, every worthy man should be willing to fight to the death to defend the borders, and every person with wealth ought to contribute to the expense . . ."

The emperor discussed the matter with the chancellor, but the latter said, "The proposal is simply not in accord with human nature! 5 Such eccentric people are of no use in guiding the populace, but only throw the laws into confusion. I beg Your Majesty not to accept his offer!"

For this reason the emperor put off answering Bu Shi for a long time, and finally after several years had passed, turned down the offer, whereupon Bu Shi went back to his fields and pastures . . .

The following year a number of poor people were transferred to other regions . . . At this point Bu Shi took two hundred thousand cash of his own and turned the sum over to the governor of Henan to assist the people who were emigrating to other regions . . . At this time the rich families were all scrambling to hide their wealth; only Bu Shi, unlike the others, had offered to contribute to the expenses of the government. 6 The emperor decided that Bu Shi was really a man of exceptional worth after all . . . Because of his simple, unspoiled ways and his deep loyalty, the emperor finally appointed him grand tutor to his son Liu Hong, the king of Qi.

4 The Chinese people believed that their emperor was the "Son of Heaven." They thought he received his power from heavenly ancestors.

5 The "latter" means the one mentioned last. In this case, the latter is the chancellor.

6 *What is Bu Shi's attitude toward his wealth? How is it different from the attitude of the rich families?*



In this painting from the 1600s, government officials deliver a letter.

CONNECTING LITERATURE TO HISTORY

1. **Drawing Conclusions** Like many Chinese historians, Sima Qian wanted to use history to teach lessons. What lessons could the story of Bu Shi be used to teach?

2. **Analyzing** The Emperor Wudi based his government on the teachings of Confucius. What elements of Confucianism can you see in this story?

Han Contacts with Other Cultures

What You Will Learn...

Main Ideas

1. Farming and manufacturing grew during the Han dynasty.
2. Trade routes linked China with the Middle East and Rome.
3. Buddhism came to China from India and gained many followers.

The Big Idea

Trade routes led to the exchange of new products and ideas among China, Rome, and other peoples.

Key Terms

silk, p. 209

Silk Road, p. 209

diffusion, p. 211



HSS 6.6.7 Cite the significance of the trans-Eurasian “silk roads” in the period of the Han Dynasty and Roman Empire and their locations.

6.6.8 Describe the diffusion of Buddhism northward to China during the Han Dynasty.

If YOU were there...

You are a trader traveling along the Silk Road to China. This is your first journey, but you have heard many stories about the country. You know the trip will be hard, through mountains and deserts and terrible weather. While you expect to make a good profit from silk, you are also curious about China and its people.

What do you expect to find in China?

BUILDING BACKGROUND During the Han dynasty Chinese society returned its focus to Confucian ideas, and new inventions were developed. In addition, increased trade allowed other countries to learn about the rich culture of China.

Farming and Manufacturing

Many advances in manufacturing took place during the Han dynasty. As a result, productivity increased and the empire prospered. These changes paved the way for China to make contact with people of other cultures.

Silk Production



By the Han period, the Chinese had become master ironworkers. They manufactured iron swords and armor that made the army more powerful.

Farmers also gained from advances in iron. The iron plow and the wheelbarrow, a single-wheeled cart, increased farm output. With a wheelbarrow a farmer could haul more than 300 pounds all by himself. With an iron plow, he could till more land and raise more food.

Another item that increased in production during the Han dynasty was **silk**, a soft, light, highly valued fabric. For centuries, Chinese women had known the complicated methods needed to raise silkworms, unwind the silk threads of their cocoons, and then prepare the threads for dyeing and weaving. The Chinese were determined to keep their **procedure** for making silk a secret. Revealing these secrets was punishable by death.

During the Han period, weavers used foot-powered looms to weave silk threads into beautiful fabric. Garments made from this silk were very expensive.

READING CHECK **Finding Main Ideas** How did advances in technology affect farming and silk production?

Trade Routes

Chinese goods, especially silk and fine pottery, were highly valued by people in other lands. During the Han period, the value of these goods to people outside China helped increase trade.

Expansion of Trade

Trade increased partly because Han armies conquered lands deep in Central Asia. Leaders there told the Han generals that people who lived still farther west wanted silk. At the same time, Emperor Wudi wanted strong, sturdy Central Asian horses for his army. China's leaders saw that they could make a profit by bringing silk to Central Asia and trading the cloth for the horses. The Central Asian peoples would then take the silk west and trade it for other products they wanted.

The Silk Road

Traders used a series of overland routes to take Chinese goods to distant buyers. The most famous trade route was known as the **Silk Road**. This 4,000-mile-long network of routes stretched westward from China across Asia's deserts and mountain ranges, through the Middle East, until it reached the Mediterranean Sea.

THE IMPACT TODAY

China still produces about 50 percent of the world's silk.

ACADEMIC VOCABULARY

procedure the way a task is accomplished

PHOTOGRAPH © 2004 MUSEUM OF FINE ARTS, BOSTON



The technique for making silk was a well-kept secret in ancient China, as silk was a valuable trade good in distant lands. Workers made silk from the cocoons of silkworms, just as they do today.

Chinese traders did not travel the entire Silk Road. Upon reaching Central Asia, they sold their goods to local traders who would take them the rest of the way.

Traveling the Silk Road was difficult. Hundreds of men and camels loaded down with valuable goods, including silks and jade, formed groups. They traveled the Silk Road together for protection. Armed guards were hired to protect traders from bandits who stole cargo and water, a precious necessity. Weather presented other dangers. Traders faced icy blizzards, desert heat, and blinding sandstorms.

Named after the most famous item transported along it, the Silk Road was worth its many risks. Silk was so popular in Rome, for example, that China grew wealthy from that trade relationship alone. Traders returned from Rome with silver, gold, precious stones, and horses.

READING CHECK Summarizing Why did Chinese trade expand under Han rule?

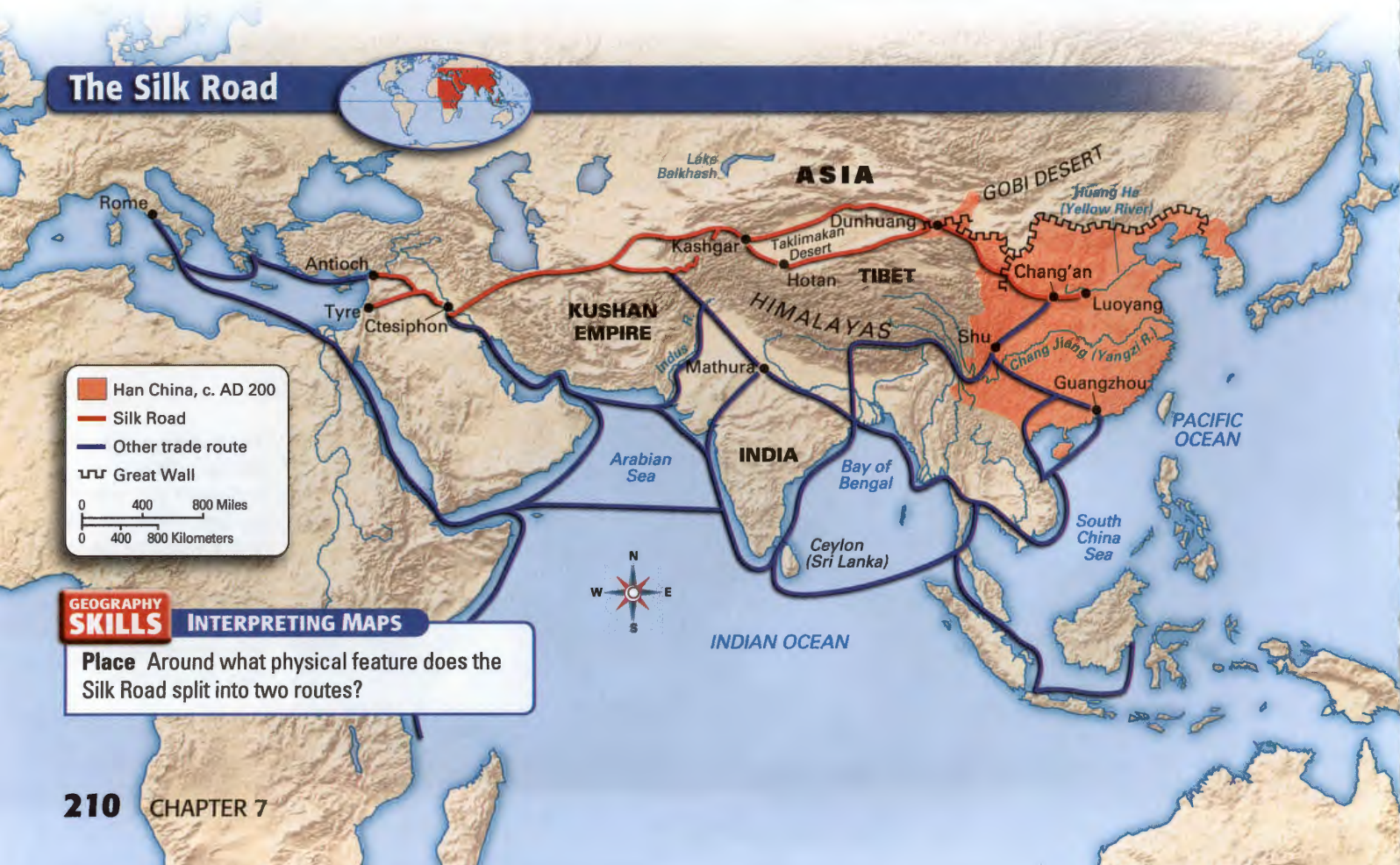
Buddhism Comes to China

When the Chinese people came into contact with other civilizations, they exchanged ideas along with trade goods. Among these ideas was a new religion. In the first century AD Buddhism spread from India to China along the Silk Road and other trade routes.

Arrival of a New Religion

Over time, the Han government became less stable. People ignored laws, and violence was common. As rebellions flared up, millions of peasants went hungry. Life became violent and uncertain. Many Chinese looked to Daoism or Confucianism to find out why they had to suffer so much, but they didn't find helpful answers.

Buddhism seemed to provide more hope than the traditional Chinese beliefs did. It offered rebirth and relief from suffering. This promise was a major reason the Chinese people embraced Buddhism.



Impact on China

At first, Indian Buddhists had trouble explaining their religion to the Chinese. Then they used ideas found in Daoism to help describe Buddhist beliefs. Many people grew curious about Buddhism.

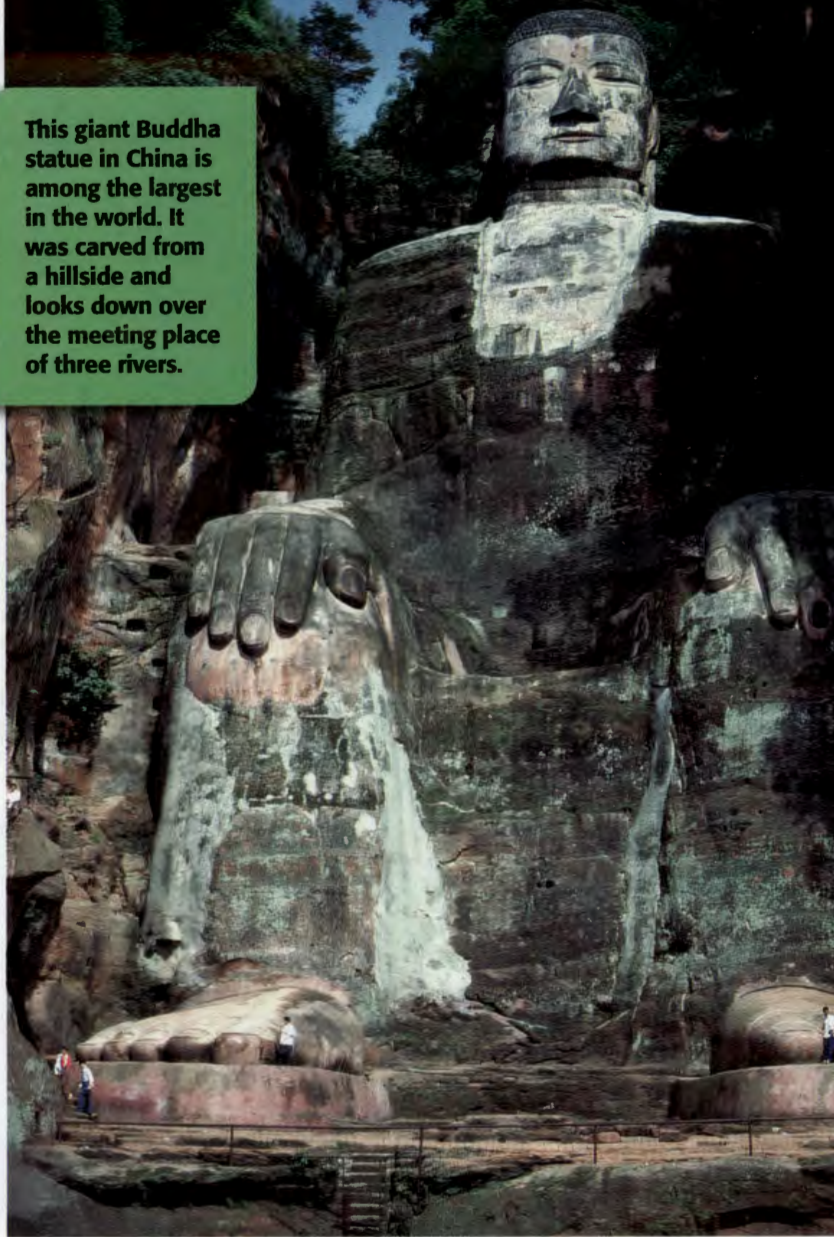
Before long, Buddhism caught on in China with both the poor and the upper classes. By AD 200, Buddhist altars stood in the emperor's palace.

Buddhism's introduction to China is an example of **diffusion**, the spread of ideas from one culture to another. Elements of Chinese culture changed in response to the new faith. For example, scholars translated Buddhist texts into Chinese. Many Chinese became Buddhist monks and nuns. Artists carved towering statues of Buddha into mountain walls.

READING CHECK **Finding Main Ideas** How did Chinese people learn of Buddhism?

SUMMARY AND PREVIEW Under the Han, trade brought new goods and ideas, including Buddhism, to China. In the next chapter you'll read about the religion of another people—the Jews.

This giant Buddha statue in China is among the largest in the world. It was carved from a hillside and looks down over the meeting place of three rivers.



Section 5 Assessment

Reviewing Ideas, Terms, and People **HSS** 6.6.7, 6.6.8

- a. **Describe** How did wheelbarrows help farmers?

b. **Summarize** How was silk made in ancient China?

c. **Elaborate** Why did the Chinese keep silk-making methods a secret?
- a. **Identify** Where did the Silk Road begin and end?

b. **Elaborate** What information would you use to support the argument that the silk trade must have been very valuable?
- a. **Identify** What is diffusion?

b. **Make Generalizations** What Buddhist beliefs appealed to millions of Chinese peasants?

Critical Thinking

- Categorizing** Copy the chart here. Use it to show the goods and ideas that came into China and the goods that China sent to other countries along the Silk Road.

FOCUS ON SPEAKING

- Evaluating the Importance of Events** Not all the important events in history are wars or invasions. What peaceful events in this section changed Chinese history? Write down some ideas.

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Online Quiz

KEYWORD: SQ6 HP7



The Silk Road

The Silk Road was a long trade route that stretched across the heart of Asia. Along this route, an active trade developed between China and Southwest Asia by about 100 BC. By AD 100, the Silk Road connected Han China in the east with the Roman Empire in the west.

The main goods traded along the Silk Road were luxury goods—ones that were small, light, and expensive. These included goods like silk, spices, and gold. Because they were small and valuable, merchants could carry these goods long distances and still sell them for a large profit. As a result, people in both the east and the west were able to buy luxury goods that were unavailable at home.



Goods from the West Roman merchants like this man grew rich from Silk Road trade. Merchants in the west traded goods like those you see here—wool, amber, and gold.







ASIA

Goods from the East Chinese merchants also got rich from Silk Road trade. Valuable Asian goods included silk cloth, jade objects, and spices like cinnamon, nutmeg, and ginger that didn't grow in Europe.



HAN EMPIRE

A Network of Roads The Silk Road was actually a network of roads that linked trading centers in Asia. Most merchants only traveled a small part of the Silk Road, selling their goods along the way to other traders from distant lands.

-  Silk Road
-  Other trade routes
-  Han Empire
-  Roman Empire

Scale varies on this map.

GEOGRAPHY SKILLS INTERPRETING MAPS

1. **Place** What two empires did the Silk Road connect by AD 100?
2. **Movement** What were some goods traded along the Silk Road?

INDIAN OCEAN

Social Studies Skills

Analysis

Critical Thinking

Participation

Study

Conducting Internet Research

Understand the Skill

The Internet is a huge network of computers that are linked together. You can connect to this network from a personal computer or from a computer at a public library or school. Once connected, you can go to places called Web sites. Web sites consist of one or more Web pages. Each page contains information that you can view on the computer screen.

Governments, businesses, individuals, and many different types of organizations such as universities, news organizations, and libraries have Web sites. Most library Web sites allow users to search their card catalog electronically. Many libraries also have databases on their Web sites. A database is a large collection of related information that is organized by topic.

The Internet can be a very good reference source. It allows you to gather information on almost any topic without ever having to leave your chair. However, finding the information you need can sometimes be difficult. Having the skill to use the Internet efficiently increases its usefulness.

Learn the Skill

There are millions of Web sites on the Internet. This can make it hard to locate specific information. The following steps will help you in doing research on the Internet.

1 Use a search engine. This is a Web site that searches other sites. Type a word or phrase related to your topic into the search engine. It will list Web pages that might contain information on your topic. Clicking on an entry in this list will bring that page to your screen.

- 2 Study the Web page.** Read the information to see if it is useful. You can print the page on the computer's printer or take notes. If you take notes, be sure to include the page's URL. This is its location or "address" on the Internet. You need this as the source of the information.
- 3 Use hyperlinks.** Many Web pages have connections, called hyperlinks, to related information on the site or on other Web sites. Clicking on these links will take you to those pages. You can follow their links to even more pages, collecting information as you go.
- 4 Return to your results list.** If the information or hyperlinks on a Web page are not useful, return to the list of pages that your search engine produced and repeat the process.

The Internet is a useful tool. But remember that information on the Internet is no different than printed resources. It must be evaluated with the same care and critical thinking as other resources.

Practice and Apply the Skill

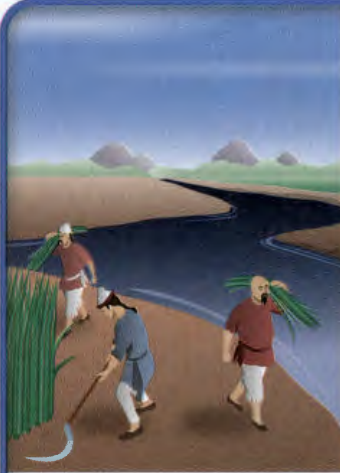
Answer the following questions to apply the guidelines to Internet research on ancient China.

1. How would you begin if you wanted information about the Qin Dynasty from the Internet?
2. What words might you type into a search engine to find information about Confucianism?
3. Use a school computer to research the Great Wall of China. What kinds of pages did your search produce? Evaluate the usefulness of each type.

Visual Summary

Use the visual summary below to help you review the main ideas of the chapter.

QUICK FACTS



Chinese civilization began along the Huang He (Yellow River).



During the Zhou dynasty, armies fought for power, and the ideas of Confucius spread.



The Qin dynasty unified China with a strong government.



During the Han dynasty, China made advances in learning, and Buddhism spread.

Reviewing Vocabulary, Terms, and People

Match the "I" statement with the person or thing that might have made the statement. Not all of the choices will be used.

- | | |
|---------------|----------------|
| a. jade | g. Daoism |
| b. innovation | h. Shi Huangdi |
| c. lord | i. seismograph |
| d. oracle | j. wheelbarrow |
| e. peasant | k. Great Wall |
| f. Confucius | l. Legalism |

- "I stressed the importance of living in harmony with nature."
- "I took a name that means 'first emperor.'"
- "I stressed that people needed to be controlled with strict laws."
- "I am a beautiful, hard gemstone that the Chinese made into many objects."
- "I was built to keep invaders from attacking China."
- "I can measure the strength of an earthquake."
- "I am a person of high rank."
- "I am a new idea, method, or device."
- "I emphasized the importance of moral values and respect for the family."
- "I am a farmer who tills a small plot of land."

Comprehension and Critical Thinking

SECTION 1 (Pages 182–187) HSS 6.6.1, 6.6.2

- Identify** In what region did the Shang dynasty develop?
 - Analyze** How did China's geography contribute to the country's isolation?
 - Evaluate** Considering the evidence, do you think the Xia dynasty was really China's first dynasty or a myth? Explain your answer.

SECTION 2 (Pages 188–193) HSS 6.6.3, 6.6.4

12. **a. Identify** Which Chinese philosophy encouraged strict laws and severe punishments to keep order?
- b. Analyze** How would Confucianism benefit Chinese emperors?
- c. Evaluate** Would you be happier under a government influenced by Legalism or by Daoism? In which type of government would there be more order? Explain your answers.

SECTION 3 (Pages 194–198) HSS 6.6.5

13. **a. Describe** What were the main reasons for the fall of the Qin dynasty?
- b. Make Inferences** Why did Shi Huangdi's armies destroy city walls and take weapons from people they conquered?
- c. Evaluate** Shi Huangdi was a powerful ruler. Was his rule good or bad for China? Why?

SECTION 4 (Pages 200–205) HSS 6.6.6

14. **a. Identify** During the Han dynasty, who belonged to the first and second social groups?
- b. Analyze** What was the purpose of the exam system during Wudi's rule?
- c. Elaborate** What inventions show that the Chinese studied nature?

SECTION 5 (Pages 208–211) HSS 6.6.7, 6.6.8

15. **a. Identify** What factors led to the growth of trade during the Han dynasty?
- b. Draw Conclusions** Who do you think wore silk garments in China?
- c. Predict** What might have happened if the Chinese had told foreign visitors how to make silk?

Reviewing Themes

16. **Politics** Why might historians differ in their views of Shi Huangdi's success as a ruler?
17. **Society and Culture** How did Confucianism affect people's roles in their family, in government, and in society?

Using the Internet

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KEYWORD SQ6 WH7

18. **Activity: Solving Problems** Confucius was one of the most influential teachers in Chinese history. His ideas suggested ways to restore order in Chinese society. Enter the activity keyword and research Confucianism. Take note of the political and cultural problems Confucianism tried to address. Then investigate some of the current political and cultural problems in the United States. Could Confucianism solve problems in the United States? Prepare a persuasive argument to support your answer.

Reading Skills

19. **Summarizing** From the chapter, choose a subsection under a blue headline. For each paragraph within that subsection, write a sentence that summarizes the paragraph's main idea. Continue with the other subsections under the blue heading to create a study guide.

Social Studies Skills

20. **Retrieving and Analyzing Information** Find a topic in the chapter about which you would like to know more. Use the Internet to explore your topic. Compare the sources you find to determine which seem most complete and reliable. Write a short paragraph about your results.

FOCUS ON SPEAKING



21. **Giving Your Oral Presentation** You have chosen a person or event and know why your choice was important to Chinese history. Now you must convince your classmates.

First, write a brief description of what the person did or what happened during the event. Then summarize why your person or event is important to Chinese history.

When you give your oral presentation, use vivid language to create pictures in your listeners' minds. Also, use a clear but lively tone of voice.

Standards Assessment

DIRECTIONS: Read each question, and write the letter of the best response.

1

The connecting link between serving one's father and serving one's mother is love. The connecting link between serving one's father and serving one's prince is reverence [respect]. Thus the mother [brings forth] love, while the prince brings forth reverence. But to the father belong both—love and reverence . . . Likewise, to serve one's elders reverently paves the way for civic obedience.

The observation and advice in this passage *best* express the teachings of

- A Buddhism.
 - B Confucianism.
 - C Daoism.
 - D Legalism.
- 2** Which feature of China's physical geography did *not* separate its early people from the rest of the world?
- A the Gobi
 - B the Huang-He
 - C the Pacific Ocean
 - D the Tibetan Plateau
- 3** How did the Qin emperor Shi Huangdi unify and control China in the 200s BC?
- A He created districts and counties that were governed by appointed officials.
 - B He gave land to China's nobles so that they would be loyal to him.
 - C He dissolved the army so that it could not be used against him by his enemies.
 - D He established the Silk Road to get goods from far away.

4 Which of the following developments in China is an example of diffusion?

- A the growth of manufacturing and trade
- B the building of the Great Wall
- C the spread of Buddhism from India
- D the use of inventions to improve farming

5 Which dynasty's rulers created a government based on the ideas of Confucius?

- A the Shang dynasty
- B the Zhou dynasty
- C the Qin dynasty
- D the Han dynasty

Connecting with Past Learnings

6 In your studies of ancient India, you learned about the Hindu belief in rebirth. Which belief system that influenced early China also emphasized rebirth?

- A Buddhism
- B Confucianism
- C Daoism
- D Legalism

7 What characteristic did early civilization in Mesopotamia share with early civilization in China?

- A Both developed paper.
- B Both were influenced by Buddhism.
- C Both built ziggurats.
- D Both first developed in river valleys.

Assignment

Write an expository essay explaining one of these topics:

- Why the Aryans developed the caste system
- Why Confucius is considered the most influential teacher in Chinese history

TIP Organizing Information

Essays that explain why should be written in a logical order. Consider using one of these:

- **Chronological order**, the order in which things happened
- **Order of importance**, the order of the least important reason to the most important, or vice versa.



ELA Writing 6.2.2 Write expository compositions (for example, description, explanation, comparison and contrast, problem and solution).

A Writer's Framework

Introduction

- Start with an interesting fact or question.
- Identify your big idea.
- Include any important background information.

Body

- Include at least one paragraph for each point supporting your big idea.
- Include facts and details to explain and illustrate each point.
- Use chronological order or order of importance.

Conclusion

- Summarize your main points.
- Using different words, restate your big idea.

Why Things Happen

Why do civilizations so often develop in river valleys? Why did early people migrate across continents? You learn about the forces that drive history when you ask why things happened. Then you can share what you learned by writing an expository essay, explaining why events turned out as they did.

1. Prewrite

Considering Topic and Audience

Choose one of the two topics in the assignment, and then start to think about your big idea. Your big-idea statement might start out like this:

- The Aryans developed the caste system to . . .
- Confucius is considered the most influential teacher in Chinese history because he . . .

Collecting and Organizing Information

You will need to collect information that answers the question *Why*. To begin, review the information in this unit of your textbook. You can find more information on your topic in the library or on the Internet.

You should not stop searching for information until you have at least two or three answers to the question *Why*. These answers will form the points to support your big idea. Then take another look at your big idea. You may need to revise it or add to it to reflect the information you have gathered.

2. Write

Here is a framework that can help you write your first draft.

3. Evaluate and Revise

Evaluating

Effective explanations require clear, straightforward language. Use the following questions to discover ways to improve your draft.

Evaluation Questions for an Expository Essay

- Does your essay begin with an interesting fact or question?
- Does the introduction identify your big idea?
- Have you developed at least one paragraph to explain each point?
- Is each point supported with facts and details?
- Have you organized your points clearly and logically?
- Did you explain any unusual words?
- Does the conclusion summarize your main points?
- Does the conclusion restate your big idea in different words?

Revising

Reread your draft. See whether each point is connected logically to the main idea and the other points you are making. If needed, add transitions—words and phrases that show how ideas fit together.

To connect points and information in time, use words like *after*, *before*, *first*, *later*, *soon*, *eventually*, *over time*, *as time passed*, and *then*. To show order of importance, use transitional words and phrases like *first*, *last*, *mainly*, *to begin with*, and *more important*.

4. Proofread and Publish

Proofreading

If you create a bulleted or numbered list, be sure to capitalize and punctuate the list correctly.

- **Capitalization:** It is always acceptable to capitalize the first word of each item in the list.
- **Punctuation:** (1) If the items are sentences, put a period at the end of each. (See the list in the tip above.) (2) If the items are not complete sentences, you usually do not need any end punctuation.

Publishing

Share your explanation with students from another class. After they read it, ask them to summarize your explanation. How well did they understand the points you wanted to make?

Practice and Apply

Use the steps and strategies in this workshop to write your explanation.

TIP **Using Lists** To make an explanation easier to follow, look for information that can be presented in a list.

Sentence/Paragraph Form Confucius gave the Chinese people guidelines for behavior. He felt that fathers should display high moral values, and he thought it was important that women obey their husbands. Children were to be obedient and respectful.

List Form

Confucius gave the Chinese people guidelines for behavior:

- Fathers should display high moral values.
- Wives should obey their husbands.
- Children should obey and respect their parents.