

Chapter 5: Early Societies in Mainland East Asia

Section 1: Political Organization in Early China

Directions: Read the entirety of the above section, including any additional text selections such as “Eyewitness” or “Sources from the Past” and examine all maps, charts, images, and diagrams. As you read and learn, complete the questions and tasks below to both demonstrate and preserve what you have learned.

Chapter Focus

After reading the Chapter Focus, one topic or theme I plan to keep an eye out for while reading is:



EYEWITNESS: King Yu and the Taming of the Yellow River

- Who were the three legendary kings of ancient China, which was the most important, and why?
- Do you think the stories about Yu and the other kings should be taken at face value? In other words, should they be believed as they are? Explain?

Political Organization in Early China

- Two major rivers =
- Three major regional states =

Early Agricultural Society and the Xia Dynasty

❖ The Yellow River

- How did the Yellow River get its name?
- What is the river's nickname and how did it earn it?
- What argument could you make to support the view that the Yellow River's nickname is unfair?

❖ Yangshao Society and Banpo Village

- As population increased, greater authority was needed in order to:
- Why did historians at one time believe that the Xia and Shang dynasty's were fictional, and how did that change?

❖ The Xia Dynasty

- Define hereditary:

Name _____ Date _____ Class _____ Period _____

- Define Public Works:
- Define Administer:
- Xia Dynasty began in:
- The need to organize _____ projects helped to establish recognized _____ and formal _____ institutions.
- Easiest matching of your life. Pair the need with the action taken:

Need administrative centers	Gained control over local village leaders
Need power over the whole region	Developed metallurgical industry
Need bronze weapons to maintain control	Founded new cities

The Shang Dynasty

- Shang dynasty lasted from _____ to _____
- ❖ **Bronze Metallurgy and Horse-Drawn Chariots**
 - Bronze metallurgy probably came to China from _____ brought by _____
 - Define monopoly:
 - How did the Shang dynasty monopolize bronze? List of the ways.
 - Why did the Shang dynasty monopolize bronze? What's the reason?
- Shang kings claimed a portion of the surplus agricultural production from the regions they controlled. This would be considered a form of:
- ❖ **Shang Political Organization**
 - True or False? "The Shang ruled highly centralized state." Explain.
- ❖ **Shang Capital at Ao**
 - What made the earth and wood fortifications so strong?
- ❖ **Shang Capital at Yin**
 - Draw and label at least three of the "items" buried alongside Shang Kings in their tombs.



❖ **The Tomb of Lady Fu Hao**

- Define consort:
- Considering the state and contents of the undisturbed (until recently) tomb of Fu Hao, a consort of a king, what can we assume about the original state of the tombs of the kings themselves who were robbed of most of their belongings centuries ago?

❖ **Beyond the Yellow River Valley**

- If there were several other significant early civilizations in China, why do Xia and Shang get all the attention in traditional Chinese history?



The Zhou Dynasty

- The Zhou were originally the _____ of the Shang dynasty

❖ **Rise of the Zhou**

- Zhou Dynasty last from _____ to _____
- The Zhou writings say that the last Shang King was:

- These accounts might not be trustworthy because:

❖ **The Mandate of Heaven**

- Define mandate:
- Based on the text, and on the diagram of the “Dynastic Cycle” below, describe in simple terms how the Mandate of Heaven leads to a continuous cycle of dynasties.



Name _____ Date _____ Class _____ Period _____

❖ **Political Organization**

- Define court (royal):

- How did the Zhou maintain control over their vast territory? Choose the answer that best describes their approach.
 - a. Direct rule from the central court
 - b. Governors answering directly to the King
 - c. Handing power to local rulers in exchange for tribute, soldiers, and loyalty
 - d. Network of spies to prevent rebellion

❖ **Weakening of the Zhou**

- Try to sum up in one sentence why the Zhou's decentralized system of rule fell apart.

❖ **Iron Metallurgy**

- Explain the political impact of the introduction of iron technology to Zhou China. You may write in sentences or create a simple flow chart.

- Do you think the Zhou still would have fallen without the changes in technology? Explain.

- The period of conflict between the Zhou and Qin dynasties was known as the:

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Section 2: Society and Family in Ancient China

Directions: Read the entirety of the above section, including any additional text selections such as “Eyewitness” or “Sources from the Past” and examine all maps, charts, images, and diagrams. As you read and learn, complete the questions and tasks below to both demonstrate and preserve what you have learned.

Society and Family in Ancient China

- One reason the development of agriculture led to social distinctions was that it:

The Social Order

❖ Ruling Elites

- Define palatial:
- Define subordinate (n):
- Define implements:
- Define retainer (political):
- Define conspicuous:
- Define elaborate:
- Define hegemony:
- Define aristocrats:
- What set of the noble elites apart from common people? Create a bulleted list below.

❖ Specialized Labor

- Many artisans benefited socially because of their importance to the _____

❖ Merchants and Trade

- Define mariners:
- While there were some trade connections with civilizations to the west, why do you think early Chinese civilization was less connected to the other three major river valley civilizations (Egyptian, Mesopotamian, Harappan) than the three were between each other?
- List three developments in Ancient Chinese maritime trade.

❖ Peasants

- Define peasant:

Name _____ Date _____ Class _____ Period _____

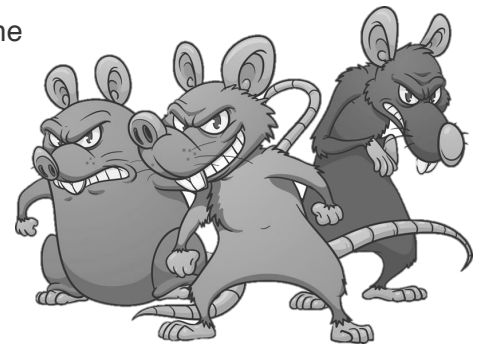
- Describe the relationship between lords and their peasants

Peasants Gave Lords	Lords Gave Peasants

- Before iron tools were made widely available in _____, what did peasants use to farm? Draw what you think one of the tools might have looked like.

❖ **Sources from the Past: Peasants' Protest**

- Why do the peasants compare their landlords to rats? What are the lords doing that makes them rodent-like?



- The peasants mention going to the "happy place" and later call it the "happy border." What kind of area do you think they are talking about? Where, generally, might they go that they wouldn't have to worry about "large rats" anymore?

❖ **Slaves**

- Main way people became slaves: _____
- Slaves used for: _____

Family and Patriarchy

- Early dynasties ruled their territories largely through _____

❖ **Veneration of Ancestors**

- Complete the chart below with examples from the text

Beliefs About Ancestors	How Reflected in Burials	How Reflected in Society

❖ **Patriarchal Society**

- Why do you think Chinese society became more patriarchal as the states became larger? As the "reverberations" box reminds us, even scholars disagree, so you are free to have your own perspective.

❖ **Women's Influence**

- Something pretty cool about Fu Hao, consort of King Wu Ding, is that she:

- Again, what factors led to men being seen as more important and women being overlooked?



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Section 3: Early Chinese Writing and Cultural Development

Directions: Read the entirety of the above section, including any additional text selections such as “Eyewitness” or “Sources from the Past” and examine all maps, charts, images, and diagrams. As you read and learn, complete the questions and tasks below to both demonstrate and preserve what you have learned.

Early Chinese Writing and Cultural Development

- Define bestow:

- Define deity:

- Define mediate:

- Early China did not have much in the way of organized _____, so Chinese society did not have a large class of _____, but they did have a belief in:

- Writing came into extensive use only during:

Oracle Bones and Early Chinese Writing

- Unlike in Mesopotamia, where early writing originally used for _____, the earliest writing in China was used instead for:

- Earliest writing in China was preserved in which of the following materials? Cross out the ones that did not survive and circle the one that did.

SILK

BONE

BAMBOO

❖ **Oracle Bones**

- Define divine (n and v):
- Define celestial:

➤ How did fortunetellers use oracle bones to divine the future?

➤ What kind of questions were kings trying to get answered?

➤ In more recent history, what did people use discovered oracle bones for before they knew what they were? What do you think about that?



❖ **Early Chinese Writing**

- Define pictograph:
- Define contemporary:

➤ From the oracle bones script to modern Chinese characters, how did Chinese writing experience both continuity and change over time?

CONTINUITY	CHANGE

➤ Examine the chart showing that progression of the Chinese script over the centuries. Two examples are given. Below, pick another animal, either DOG, CAT, or CHICKEN, and try to guess how the character might have evolved over the centuries. It's ok if it looks nothing like the actual Chinese character for that animal. This experiment will show different ways a writing system could evolve.

Oracle Bone	Zhou	Qin	Han	Modern	Contemporary

Thought and Literature

➤ The writing in China was originally designed for that use oracle bones in the service of kings, the use of writing later expanded for other purposes such as:

❖ **Zhou Literature**

➤ Zhou ruling elites placed great emphasis on the "book of history". What purpose did this book serve in the educational curriculum?

- Do you think that, in some cases, history education in our country is used for the same purpose? Explain.

❖ **The Book of Songs**

- What does the poem, excerpted from the book of songs, show us about the expectations held of a new bride in Chinese society?



❖ **Destruction of Early Chinese Literature**

- Define utilitarian:
- When the Qin Dynasty took over, they destroyed many books. What types of books did they allowed to be saved, and which did they target for distraction?

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Section 4: Ancient China and the Larger World

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Ancient China and the Larger World

- Define hindered:

Chinese Cultivators and Nomadic Peoples of Central Asia

- Define steppe:

❖ **Steppe Nomads**

- The people of the Central Asian steppe lived primarily as
 - Sedentary agriculturalists / farmers
 - Nomadic pastoralists / herders
 - Nomadic hunter-gatherers / foragers
- How did environment determine their lifestyle?

NOTE: The Indo-Europeans were discussed in Chapter 2 Section 3, but since we are not going in the exact order of the textbook, you guys have not learned about them yet. Just to give you some basic info for now, they were a pastoral nomadic people from the western end of the Eurasian Steppe, but they spread out in many directions, including east across the Steppe to the lands to the west and even north of China. However, there were many other non-Indo-European nomadic peoples living in the Eastern Steppe as well who adopted many of the techniques and technologies of their fellow nomads. China had to deal with both of them.

❖ **Nomadic Society**

- Define intermediary:
- Define symbiotic:

Name _____ Date _____ Class _____ Period _____

- How did nomadic peoples and settled people's benefit each other?

HERDERS BENEFIT FARMERS	FARMERS BENEFIT HERDERS

- Despite the symbiotic relationship, why was conflict between the two groups so common?

The Southern Expansion of Chinese Society

❖ The Yangtze Valley

- Define prominence:
- “Like the Steppe regions to the North and West of China, the lands to the south of China were also comparatively dry and poorly-suited for agriculture.” True or False? Explain below.
- Southern Chinese River Name:
- Southern Chinese River Nickname:
- Main crop cultivated in the South was:
- Compared to the Yellow River in the North, this river was:
- What weird technique was necessary to grow a surplus of rice?
- In response to the spread of agriculture into the Yangzi Valley, the local inhabitants either:
 -
 -
 -

❖ The State of Chu

- Based on what you read about the Chu, and their evolving relationship to the Dynasties in the North, would you consider these southern people to be “Chinese.” Did they start out Chinese? Did they become Chinese? There isn’t necessarily a right answer here, but I want you to think about it and write your views below.