

Chapter 5 Lesson 1 Study Guide



China's First Civilizations

Physical geography plays a role in how civilizations develop and decline.

- Chinese civilization was shaped by geography such as mountains and large rivers.
- Long lasting dynasties gained power through strong armies.

In earlier chapters, you learned that many civilizations developed in river valleys.

China's civilization also began in a river valley, but mountains and deserts also affected its development.

Main Ideas Section 5.1



- Rivers, mountains, and deserts helped shape China's civilization. **(page 277)**
- Rulers known as the Shang became powerful because they controlled land and had strong armies. **(page 278)**
- Chinese rulers claimed that the Mandate of Heaven gave them the right to rule. **(page 281)**

Section 5.1 Vocabulary



Place Names

Huang He

Chang Jiang

Anyang

dynasty

aristocrat

pictograph

ideograph

bureaucracy

mandate

recover

interpret

link

item

People

Wu Wang

I. China's Geography (pages 277–278)



A. The **Huang He**, or the Yellow River, flows for more than 2,900 miles across China.

Flooding of the river brought destruction but also good farming conditions to China.

Section 1Daily

B. The **Chang Jiang**, or the Yangtze River, is about 3,400 miles long and flows across central China.



C. China has very little farmland because much of the country is either mountains or deserts.

D. The "Middle Kingdom" was created after the Chinese people united to form one kingdom.

What effect did the mountains and deserts have on the Chinese people?

The mountains and deserts separated the Chinese from most other peoples.

II. Shang Dynasty
(p. 278-281)



A. Archaeologists believe the Huang He valley was the center of Chinese civilization.

B. The first rulers were probably part of the Xia **dynasty**. Little is known about them.

C. Archaeologists know much more about the next dynasty, the Shang. The Shang kings ruled from about 1750 B.C. to 1045 B.C.

II. Shang Dynasty (p. 278-281)



D. Anyang was China's first capital. It was built during the Shang dynasty.

E. People of the Shang dynasty were divided into groups.

- The king and his family were the most powerful group.
 - Warlords and other royal officials were in the class below the kings. They were **aristocrats**, nobles whose wealth came from the land they owned.
 - Traders and artisans were below the aristocrats.
 - Most of the lower classes were farmers.
- Slaves captured during wars were the lowest class of people.

II. Shang Dynasty (p. 278-281)



F. People in the Shang dynasty believed in many spirits and gods and honored ancestors with offerings.

G. Shang kings believed they received wisdom and power from the gods, spirits, and ancestors. Kings asked for help by using oracle bones.

II. Shang Dynasty (p. 278-281)



H. Early Chinese writing used **pictographs**, or characters that stand for objects.

Ideographs are two or more pictographs joined to represent an idea.

I. Artisans created many works of ivory and clay but are best known for their bronze objects.

Zhou Dynasty

Pages 281-283



A. **Wu Wang and his followers rebelled against the Shang dynasty and created the Zhou dynasty.**

B. **The Zhou dynasty ruled longer than any other dynasty in Chinese history.**

C. **Kings in the Zhou dynasty served at the head of the government. A bureaucracy—officials who are responsible for different areas of government—served under the king.**

D. **The Zhou kingdom was divided into smaller territories. Each territory was led by an aristocrat.**

E. **Zhou kings were thought to be the link between the gods and people.**

Zhou Dynasty

Pages 281-283



- F. The Mandate of Heaven was a heavenly law that gave Zhou kings the power to rule. The Mandate of Heaven also gave people the right to overthrow an evil ruler.
- G. The Dao was the proper way kings were to rule their people.
- H. Irrigation and flood control systems were developed during the Zhou dynasty. Farm tools, such as the plow, were developed.
- I. Silk was an important trade item during the Zhou dynasty.
- J. The “Period of the Warring States” occurred before the fall of the Zhou dynasty. During this time, the local rulers began fighting with each other.

Section 1 Review



- A character where two or more pictures are joined to represent an idea
- What were oracle bones, and how were they used? _____
- Time at the end of the Zhou dynasty when local rulers of the Zhou territories battled each other Period of W_____g S____s
- A character that stands for an object
- Nobles whose wealth comes from the land
- Who led a rebellion against the Shang and formed a new dynasty?
- China's first capital was _____
- The first known Chinese civilization developed along the Huang He River valley. A likely reason why it developed there is _____

Quiz Name : SS 5.1 China's First Civilizations

Type : Multiple Choice

1 . A character where two or more pictures are joined to represent an idea

Circle Answer

ideograph pictograph linegraph

2 . Time at the end of the Zhou dynasty when local rulers of the Zhou territories battled each other

Circle Answer

Period of Warring States The American Revolution Battle of the Roses

3 . A character that stands for an object

Circle Answer

pictograph ideograph lithograph

4 . Nobles whose wealth comes from the land

Circle Answer

Aristocrats Artisans Peasant Farmers

5 . This body of water, also known as the Huang He, gets its name from the yellow soil it carries from Mo
the Pacific Ocean.

Circle Answer

Yellow River Gold River Penitencia Creek

6 . The Zhou emperors claimed they were ordered to rule by the gods, ancestors and departed family mem

Circle Answer

Mandate of Heaven Staircase to Heaven Request of Heaven

7 . The earliest examples of Chinese writing were found on _____ that were used by Shang En
tell the future.

Circle Answer

cave walls oracle bones crystal balls

8. Who led a rebellion against the Shang and formed a new dynasty?

Circle Answer

Emperor Qin Wu Wang Jackie Chan

9. China's first capital was

Circle Answer

Anyang Beijing Chang Jiang

The first known Chinese civilization developed along the Huang He River valley. A likely reason why it developed there is

- A. civilizations usually develop along rivers where rich soil makes growing surplus crops possible coincidence
 - B. That is where the Egyptians who founded China settled
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