



GUIDED READING ACTIVITY 5-1

China's First Civilizations

Directions: Outlining Reading the section and completing the outline below will help you learn more about China's first civilizations. Refer to your textbook to fill in the blanks.

- I. Two large rivers in China are the Huang He, or _____, and the Chiang Jiang, or Yangtze River.
 - A. The flooding of the rivers helped farmers as it left behind rich _____.
 - B. Farmers could grow large amounts of _____ on very small farms.
 - C. Only about _____ of China's land can be farmed because mountains and deserts cover most of the land.

- II. The _____ dynasty lasted from about 1750 B.C. to 1045 B.C.
 - A. The Shang kings ruled from the capital city of _____ in northern China.
 1. The upper class of the Shang dynasty were aristocrats whose wealth came from the _____ they owned.
 2. Most Shang Chinese were _____.
 - B. People in Shang China worshiped gods and spirits and honored their _____.

- III. In 1045 B.C., Wu Wang overthrew the Shang and began the _____ dynasty.
 - A. The Zhou king was the head of the _____.
 1. Under the king was a _____ made up of appointed officials responsible for different areas of government.
 2. The Zhou kings divided the kingdom into smaller _____ ruled by aristocrats.
 - B. The Zhou Chinese developed _____ and flood-control systems that allowed farmers to grow more crops.
 - C. The Zhou dynasty ended when rulers of the territories became powerful and set up their own _____.



GUIDED READING ACTIVITY 5-2

Life in Ancient China

Directions: Answering Questions Reading the section and completing the questions below will help you learn more about life in ancient China. Refer to your textbook to answer the questions.

1. Name the three main social classes of early China.

2. Why were merchants not allowed to have government jobs?

3. What were the two primary responsibilities of women in Chinese society?

4. Name the three major theories developed by early Chinese thinkers about how to create a peaceful society.

5. What did Confucius believe would bring peace to Chinese society?

6. What particular teaching of Confucius caused him to be resisted by the aristocrats?

7. What Chinese philosophy was based on the teachings of Laozi?

8. Describe the primary differences between Confucianism and Daoism.

9. What did the scholar Hanfeizi believe about human nature that was different from both Confucius and Laozi?

10. Why did aristocrats like the philosophy of Legalism?
