Chapter 5
The Huang He Valley
Pages 144 - 173
LAND OF THE MIDDLE KINGDOM
I. Early Life on the Huang He

A. The Huang He River (HWAHING HUH)
   1. Important River that flows through China
   2. Also Known as “Yellow River” or “China’s Sorrow”
   3. Around 3,000 miles long
   4. Flows down hill across northern China
   5. Flows through hills of losess
      a. Yellow soil
      b. Gives the river its color
      c. Huang is Chinese for Yellow
   6. Flows across the Tibetan Plateau
      a. North of the Himalaya Mountains
B. North China Plain
   1. In the low-lying areas silt deposits raise the riverbed.
   2. Floods move the silt over the area and form rich farm lands.

C. China’s Sorrow
   1. The Huang He is also known as China’s Sorrow because floods kill thousands.
   2. The floods have also caused famines or food shortages.
   3. As a result levees were built to control the river.
D. Other Regions of China
   1. The Himalayas
   2. The Tibetan Plateau
   3. The Tian Shan Mountains
   4. The Gobi Desert

E. The Chang River Valley
   1. Chang Jiang River
      a. Known as the “Long River”, The Chang, or Yangtze
      b. 3rd Longest River in the world
      c. Travels across central China
      d. Half of China’s food is produced here.
      e. Rice cultivation starts here.
F. Northern Steppes

1. Huge, windswept, treeless plain
2. North of the Huang River
3. Not suitable for growing crops.
4. People raise cattle and herd sheep for food.
5. A prosperous part of China
6. Attacked in the past by the Mongols.
P. 150-157

THE FIRST DYNASTIES OF CHINA
II. The First Dynasties of China

A. The Shang Dynasty

1. Around 1700 B.C. The Dynasty Began
2. A single family ruled for a long time
   a. A Dynasty is a line of rulers from the same family
3. Lasted 600 years
4. Discovered in 1899 when animal bones with mysterious ancient writing were found.
The First Dynasties of China P. 150-157

Map of the Shang Dynasty of China
5. Ruled hundreds of towns along the Huang He River
6. Created new towns by giving land to relatives.
7. Towns supplied food, clothing, and other products for the Shang Rulers
8. Soldiers from town helped expand the kingdom.
9. Second Capital was at Anyang
   a. Built after original capital was destroyed by invaders.
   b. Pit Houses were built
      1.) Houses built into the ground
10. Archaeologists have also found bronze cups, stone carvings, chariots, and the ruins of what seem to be palaces.

B. Shang Culture
   1. Writing
      a. A writing similar to Cuneiform was used.
      b. Writing was pictures of objects.
      c. Oracle bones
         1.) Bones with writing on them have survived.
         2.) Bones were heated till they crack. Cracks were thought to tell the future.
2. Religious Beliefs
   a. Believed ancestors lived in another world and controlled human life.
   b. If an Oracle prediction came true it was seen as proof that the ancestors were helping and that the king was the right person to rule.
   c. Many gods were also worshiped.
      1). Gods controlled nature.
   d. After death you would join your ancestors and the gods.
C. China’s Classic Age

1. The Shang Dynasty was conquered by the Zhou (JOH)

2. Zhou King Wuwang defeated the Shang army.

   a. Often called China’s Classic Age
   b. Time of great growth and creativity

4. The Five Classics were written
   a. These 5 books formed the basis of Chinese literary style.
   b. The Books were about songs & poems, history, the seasons, animals, changes, and rituals
The First Dynasties of China P. 150-157

Map of the Zhou Dynasty of China
The First Dynasties of China P. 150-157

D. The Mandate of Heaven

1. Zhou claimed to have a Mandate from Heaven which gave them the right to form a new Dynasty.
2. Says a government may rule as long as it does so fairly.
3. People should honor their parents and their ancestors.
4. The Duke of Zhou ruled the former Shang lands
   a. Wuwang’s Brother
5. Could have killed Wuwang’s son, but didn’t.
6. Was seen as a Chinese Hero, and an example of good leadership.
The First Dynasties of China P. 150-157

E. The Zhou System of Rule
   1. Small states within the kingdom were given to the king’s friends and relatives to control
   2. Most only controlled a small fortified city.
   3. Towns around the cities were not always friendly to the Zhou rule.

F. The Warring States Period
   1. In 771 B.C. the Zhou king was killed by invaders.
   2. Two rulers tried to take the throne and wars began.
   3. Iron was used to make weapons and lead to iron tools being created too.
G. Horses and Chariots

1. People learned horseback riding from the herding people of the north.

2. Soldiers on horseback could travel faster and use their bows more effectively.

3. Chariots were also developed for battle.

4. Improvements to the horse harness were also made as a result.

5. The warring States Period lasted from about 475 B.C. to 221 B.C.
H. A Time of Change

1. Rulers tried to attract the best scholars and thinkers to help them rule.

2. Because there were so many different ideas this period was also known as the era of the “Hundred Schools”

3. Confucius
   a. China’s most famous scholar
   b. Real name was Kong Fu Zi
   c. Teachings changes China forever

4. Lao Zi
   a. Another famous thinker
   b. Taught Daoism
   1.) Dao means “The Way”
   c. Like Confucius believed nature should guide people and wealth is not important
   d. Ideas also influenced China through art and medicine.
I. Confucius

1. Born around 551 B.C. in the state of Lu
2. Travelled from state to state to advise rulers
3. Was followed by students who wrote down his thoughts and ideas after his death
   a. All were collected in a book called Analects
4. Believed Society could be made fair and good
5. Didn’t start a religion but rather a school of thought
6. Believed that the key to happiness is a good education
7. Taught Benevolence
   a. Always treating others fairly
The First Dynasties of China P. 150-157

"Hold faithfulness and sincerity as first principles."

"Have no friends not equal to yourself."

"When you have faults, do not fear to abandon them."

“Before you embark on a journey of revenge dig two graves.”

“Everything has beauty but not everyone sees it.”

“I hear and I forget. I see and I remember. I do and I understand.”

“ It does not matter how slowly you go so long as you do not stop.”
THE FIRST CHINESE EMPIRE
III. The First Chinese Empire

A. Yin Zheng

1. From the small state of Qin (Chin)
2. Qin Army was built up.
3. Only 13 when placed on the throne of Qin
4. In only 25 years had conquered the seven major Zhou states.
5. Wanted immortality
B. A Chinese Empire

1. Ying Zheng names himself China’s first emperor
   a. Changes his name to Shihuangdi (SHEE hawhng dee)

2. Geography helped Shihuangdi
   a. Protected by the Qinling Mountains and Huang He River they were able to protect and expand
C. Central Control

1. Shihuangdi strengthens his government
   a. Divided the empire into 36 Provinces
      1.) Political Divisions like States
   b. Appointed Governors to oversee each land
   c. Let farmers own land
   d. Weakened the power of nobles, took their weapons & forced them to move to capital.
The First Chinese Empire P. 160-165

Map of the Qin Empire of China
D. Shihuangdi’s Changes
1. Standardized the system of writing
2. Single system of Money
3. Common Weights & Measurers
4. Made standard sized roads that were wider
5. Construction of what would later become the Great Wall of China
6. Public works gave many jobs
E. Falling from favor
   1. Higher tax demands angered farmers
   2. Forced labor angered farmers and others.
   3. Taking control away from nobles angered the nobles
   4. A change to Legalism placed harsh control on everyone
   5. Books that challenged the Emperor were burned
   6. Scholars who challenged the Emperor were buried.
F. The Clay Army

1. Fearing his enemies would harm him after death Shihuangdi had an army of clay soldiers and horses built

   a. 8,000 statues were made.
   b. each soldier’s face is a portrait of a real person
   c. Buried in a tomb near the emperor’s own tomb
   d. Found by accident in 1974
G. The Peasant Emperor

1. After Shihuangdi’s death one of his many sons tried to rule.
   a. Hu Ha

2. A Rebellion lead by Hsiang Yi and a peasant named Liu Pang Defeated Hu Ha
   a. Qin Defeated in 200 B.C.

3. Liu Pang defeated Hsiang Yi to become the next Emperor of China
   a. Liu Pang founded the Han Dynasty
THE HAN DYNASTY

P. 166-171
IV. The Han Dynasty
A. Liu Pang

1. Became Emperor of China
2. Changed his name to Gao Zu (GOW ZOO)
3. Hans ruled for over 400 years
4. The Chinese word for someone who is Chinese means “Someone from Han”
B. A New Kind of Government

1. The Han expanded China’s Borders

2. Based government on Confucianism

3. Gave government jobs to Educated People rather then Nobles

4. Emperor Wudi (WOO DEE)
   a. Ruled from 140 BC. To 87 B.C.
   b. Expanded the bureaucracy that ran daily business
The Han Dynasty P. 166-171

Map of the Han Dynasty of China
C. The Grand School

1. Wudi Created schools to prepare students for government service
2. The best students were sent to best schools
   a. The Grand School
3. For 1 year students learned History, Behavior, Poetry, and Music
4. Success on an end of the year test would reward students with a government job or as a teacher
   a. Educated were Respected
The Han Dynasty P. 166-171

D. Science & Technology

1. Learned to predict eclipses of the sun
2. Doctors discovered new Medicines
3. Poets wrote of the beautiful land
4. Chinese language grew from 3,000 to 9,000 characters
5. Invented Paper
6. Invented the Wheelbarrow
7. Built the Silk Making Industry
8. Invented the Seismograph
   a. To warn of Earthquakes
E. Fall of the Han

1. Under the Han the Emperor had all power.
   a. Worked for strong leaders, but not for weak ones.

2. Wang Mang
   a. Seized the Throne in 9 A.D.
   b. Tried to make changes to weaken land owners
      1.) Tried to abolish slavery
   c. Reforms failed and was overthrown
The Han Dynasty P. 166-171

3. After Wang Mang’s Defeat the Han Rulers were weaker
   a. Had compromised with the landowners too much
   b. Landowners became more independent

4. Han rule lasted until 220 A.D.

5. Military defeats lead to the eventual fall of the Han Empire