

Unit 4 Reading Guide: Ancient China & Japan

Chapter 2: Early River Valley Civilizations

Section 4: River Dynasties in China (p. 50)

Setting the Stage

1. The walls of China's first cities were built _____ after the wall of Ur.

The Geography of China

2. China is geographically isolated. List what the natural barriers are for each area:
- a. East _____ c. West _____
b. Southwest _____ d. North _____

River Systems

3. List both names of the two major river systems of China:

- _____ & _____
- _____ & _____

4. What is loess?

Environmental Challenges

5. List three challenges the environment presents the people living in China:

-
-
-

China's Heartland

6. Only _____% of China is suitable for farming. What is the plain that lies between the rivers?

Civilization Emerges in Shang Times

7. What is the nickname of the earliest skeleton found in China? _____

The First Dynasties

8. What was the name of the first dynasty of China? _____ What did this dynasty accomplish under the leader named Yu?

9. About the time civilizations in Mesopotamia and Egypt were falling to invaders, a people called the _____ rose to power. They were the first Chinese family to leave _____.

10. (Insert: History in Depth) What 4 things do you find unique about Lady Hao & her tomb?

- _____ -
- _____ -

The Development of Chinese Culture

11. Why did the Chinese call themselves the Middle Kingdom?

Family

12. How did the rights of women in China compare to women's rights in Egypt?

Social Classes

13. Rank (in order) how China's social classes were divided:

Religious Beliefs

14. How did ancestor worship work in a Chinese family? How were they viewed?

15. What were **oracle bones** and how were they used?

16. How did writing help unite China? What is the major disadvantage of writing Chinese?

Zhou and the Dynastic Cycle

Mandate of Heaven

17. What is the Mandate of Heaven?

18. (Primary Source) How does one lose the Mandate of Heaven?

19. List the 3 parts of the Dynastic Cycle: _____, _____, _____

Control Through Feudalism

20. Define Feudalism:

Improvements in Technology and Trade

21. List the 3 major technological innovations of the Zhou dynasty:

- a.
- b.
- c.

22. In the later Zhou dynasty, the local lords became warlords and proclaimed themselves "kings of their territories." This period was known as _____.

Chapter 4, Section 4 & Chapter 7, Section 3 will be covered in our Round Table classroom activity.

Items covered:

Confucius

Han Dynasty

Qin Dynasty

Liu Bang

Shi Huangdi

Empress Lu

Autocracy

Wudi

Chapter 12: Empires in East Asia

Section 1: Tang & Song China (p. 323)

The Tang Dynasty Expands China

23. What was the greatest accomplishment of the Sui Dynasty?

Tang Rulers Create a Powerful Empire

24. What did Tang Taizong do to help make the empire great?

25. What was unique about empress Wu Zhao?

Scholar-Officials

26. What was restored from the Han dynasty in order to manage the vast empire?

The Tang Lose Power

27. What brought hardship upon the people of China and caused the Tang Dynasty to fall?

The Song Dynasty Restores Power

28. Who reunited China? Under what dynasty?

An Era of Prosperity and Innovation

29. What was China's population during the Tang and Song dynasties? _____ How many cities had over 1 million people?

Science and Technology

30. List two inventions that made an impact from this time period in China. **Explain each:**

a.

b.

Agriculture

31. What advancements were made in agriculture and how did this affect Chinese society?

Trade and Foreign Contacts

32. How did trade change after the Tang dynasty?

Changes in Chinese Society

Levels of Society

33. What is the gentry?

The Status of Women

34. ***Describe in one complete sentence, in your own words, what was life like for women in the Tang and Song dynasties?

Section 2: The Mongol Conquests (p. 330)

Nomads of the Asian Steppe

The Nomadic Way of Life

35. What were the pastoralists?

The Rise of the Mongols

Genghis Khan Unites the Mongols

36. What did the title Genghis Khan mean? What was his goal?

37. What sent the Mongols into Central Asia?

Genghis the Conqueror

38. List three reasons for Genghis Khan's success:

- a.
- b.
- c.

The Mongol Empire

39. What could be said about the size of the Mongol empire after the death of Genghis?

The Khanates

40. List the 4 Khanates:

-
-
-
-

The Mongol Peace

41. What happened during the Pax Mongolica?

Section 3: The Mongol Empire (p. 335)

Setting the Stage

42. Who was Kublai Khan?

Kublai Khan Becomes Emperor

Beginning a New Dynasty

43. What dynasty did Kublai Khan start and what **three** reasons made it important for China?

Failure to Conquer Japan

44. What factors prevented Kublai Khan from conquering Japan?

Mongol Rule in China

Foreign Trade

45. What impact did Kublai Khan have on trade?

Marco Polo at the Mongol Court

46. Who was Marco Polo and why is he famous?

The End of Mongol Rule

47. Describe some of the problems that led to the decline of the Mongol empire under Kublai Khan:

Section 4: Feudal Powers in Japan (p. 339)

Setting the Stage

48. What are some of the other names for Japan?

The Growth of Japanese Civilization

49. Describe the geography of Japan (be thorough):

Early Japan

50. Explain how Shinto came to be:

51. Describe the role of the Japanese emperor:

Japanese Culture

Buddhism in Japan

52. How did Buddhism work into Japanese culture?

Cultural Borrowing from China

53. Give three examples of culture the Japanese borrowed from China:

Life in the Heian Period

54. What kinds of etiquette did the Heian period hold to?

Feudalism Erodes Imperial Authority

Decline of Central Power

55. Who held power away from the capital? How so?

Samurai Warriors

56. What was the role of a samurai?

57. What was bushido?