

Ancient China Reading Notes

3.5 Vocabulary

1. **Monsoons:** a wind in the Indian Ocean and southern Asia that brings heavy rains in the summer.
2. **Yellow River (Huang He):** The Yellow River or Huáng Hé is the third-longest river in Asia
3. **Yangtze River (Chang):** a four thousand mile river in China, it is the longest river of China and of Asia.
4. **Gobi Desert:** a large desert region in Asia. It covers parts of northern and northwestern China, and of southern Mongolia.
5. **Isolation:** the complete separation from others
6. **Dynasty:** a family of powerful leaders in China
7. **Ancestor worship:** the custom of regarding with great respect deceased ancestors who are considered still a part of the family and whose spirits are believed to have the power to intervene in the affairs of the living.
8. **Mandate of Heaven:** an ancient Chinese belief/theory and philosophical idea that tiān (heaven) granted emperors the right to rule based on their ability to govern well, appropriately and fairly.
9. **Feudalism:** it was a way of structuring society around relationships derived from the holding of land in exchange for service or labour.

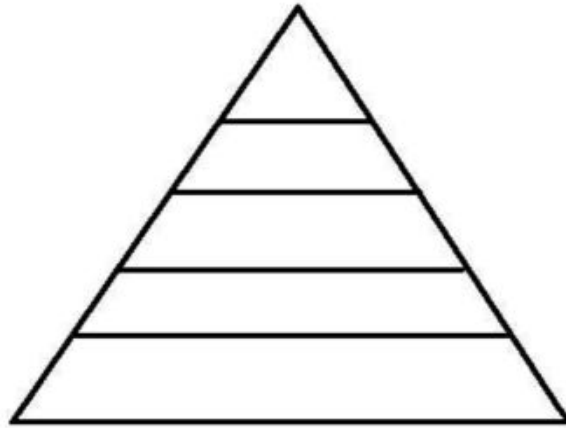
Vocabulary Practice

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Reading Guide:

1. List three geographic features that isolated China from the rest of the world.
2. How could Isolation help a civilization?
3. How could isolation hurt a civilization?
4. What type of evidence do we have that has taught us about the first Dynasty known as the Xia?
5. In the Legend of Yu what did Yu create to solve flooding?

6. We have a lot of artifacts from the Shang Dynasty what type of element did the Chinese work with during the Shang Dynasty?
7. Fill in the Pyramid below with the social hierarchy of ancient China:



8. Ancestor worship was important to the ancient Chinese. Explain what ancestor worship means.

The Shang believed that spirits of their ancestors were always watching them and would bring favor or disaster depending on if they were happy with them or not.

9. Compare and contrast the ancient Chinese written language to the English written language. List two differences.

One difference between the two languages is that in English we use letters and the early Chinese used pictographs. Another difference is that we have a sequence of letters to create a word and they have a symbol. Also only 26 characters in English, compared to thousands.

10. What dynasty believed that those in charge ruled by a Mandate of Heaven?

The Zhou Dynasty believed those who ruled, ruled by a Mandate of Heaven.

11. What does Mandate of Heaven mean?

Mandate of heaven means that the ruler has the blessing/permission of heaven to rule.

12. Feudalism was the practice of granting the use of the king's lands to nobles in exchange for service to the empire. This practice was also used by what other continent?

Feudalism was also practiced by Europe.

13. List four technological advancements that the Chinese made:

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.

Conclusion:

Now that you have read about each of the four ancient civilizations answer the following question: Does geography determine destiny? Use two examples from the text to answer.