

# Reading Essentials and Study Guide



## Chapter 3, Section 1

For use with textbook pages 71–79

### EARLY CIVILIZATION IN INDIA

#### KEY TERMS

**monsoon** a seasonal wind pattern in southern Asia (page 72)

**Sanskrit** a writing system developed by the Aryans (page 74)

**raja** an Aryan prince or leader (page 74)

**caste system** a set of rigid social categories or classes that determines a person's occupation, economic potential, and position in society (page 75)

**caste** the English term for an Indian social class (page 75)

**Hinduism** the religion of the majority of the Indian people that originated in the religious beliefs of the Aryans (page 77)

**reincarnation** the belief that the individual soul is reborn in a different form after death (page 77)

**karma** the force generated by a person's actions that determines how the person will be reborn in the next life (page 77)

**dharma** the divine law in Hinduism that requires all people to do their duty (page 77)

**yoga** ("union") a method of training designed to lead to union with Brahman (page 77)

**ascetics** people who practiced self-denial to achieve an understanding of ultimate reality (page 78)

**nirvana** ultimate reality in Buddhism (the end of the self and a reunion with the Great World Soul) (page 78)

**Buddhism** a religion founded in India in the sixth century B.C. by Siddhartha Gautama, known as the Buddha (page 78)

#### DRAWING FROM EXPERIENCE

What kind of climate do you live in? How does the climate affect the way you live?

In this section, you will learn about the early civilizations in India and how the climate of India influenced those civilizations.

# Reading Essentials and Study Guide



## Chapter 3, Section 1 (continued)

### ORGANIZING YOUR THOUGHTS

Use the diagram below to help you take notes. The caste system in India had five major divisions. List the five divisions, starting from the top of the social scale.

<b>The Caste System of India</b>	
1.	
2.	
3.	
4.	
5.	

### READ TO LEARN

- **The Land of India** (page 71)

The Indian subcontinent is shaped like a triangle and “hangs” from the southern ridge of Asia. The geography of India is diverse. In the far north are the Himalaya, the highest mountains in the world. South of the Himalaya region is the rich valley of the Ganges River. This was one of the chief regions of Indian culture. To the west is the Indus River valley. Today it is a dry plateau, but in ancient times, it had a more moderate climate and was the cradle of Indian civilization. South of these two river valleys is the Deccan. It is a plateau that extends from the Ganges Valley to the southern tip of India. The interior of the plateau is hilly and dry. India’s western and eastern coasts are lush plains. They have historically been some of the most densely populated regions of India.

The most important feature of India’s climate is the monsoon. A **monsoon** is a seasonal wind pattern in southern Asia. The summer monsoon blows warm, moist air from the southwest. The winter monsoon blows cold, dry air from the northeast. The summer monsoon brings heavy rains. Indian farmers depend on these rains to grow their crops. If the rains come early or late, or if there is too much or too little rain, crops are ruined and many people starve.

6. How do monsoons affect life in India?

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# Reading Essentials and Study Guide



## Chapter 3, Section 1 (continued)

### • India's First Civilization (page 72)

Early civilization in India began in river valleys. Between 3000 B.C. and 1500 B.C., the valleys of the Indus River had a flourishing civilization. Archaeologists have found the remains of more than a thousand settlements in this region. There were two major cities, Harappa and Mohenjo-Daro. The civilization in these cities lasted for hundreds of years. Historians call it Harappan or Indus civilization.

At its height, Harappa had 35,000 people. Mohenjo-Daro probably had around 35,000 to 40,000 people. Both cities were carefully planned. The main streets ran in a north-south direction and were crossed by smaller east-west streets. The cities were divided into large walled neighborhoods. Most buildings were made of mud bricks. Public wells provided the people with a regular supply of water. Houses had drains that were connected to a sewer system under the streets. A system of chutes took trash from houses to garbage bins.

It took a well-organized government to maintain these cities. Harappan rulers based their power on a belief in divine assistance. Religion and politics were closely linked. The palace and the temple were located in the same citadel, or fortress, at Harappa.

The Harappan economy was based on farming. The Indus River flooded each year and provided rich soil for growing crops. The chief crops were wheat, barley, and peas. The Harappans traded with city-states in Mesopotamia. Much of this trade was carried by ship through the Persian Gulf.

7. In what ways were the cities of Harappa and Mohenjo-Daro well planned?

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### • The Arrival of the Aryans (page 74)

Around 1500 B.C., a group of Indo-European nomads moved from central Asia into northern India. These people were known as the Aryans. They conquered the Harappans and created a new Indian society based on their own culture. They were experts in warfare. They eventually gained control of most of India.



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## Chapter 3, Section 1 (continued)

After settling in India, the Aryans stopped being pastoral nomads and became farmers. The creation of the iron plow and the use of irrigation made it possible for them to turn the jungle along the Ganges River into farmland. The basic crops in the north were wheat, barley, and millet. Rice was grown in the river valleys. Grain and vegetables were grown in the south. Cotton and spices, such as pepper, ginger, and cinnamon, were also grown.

By 1000 B.C., the Aryans had developed a system of writing. This writing system is called Sanskrit. They used Sanskrit to write down the legends and religious rituals that had been passed down from generation to generation. The early writings of the Aryans show that the Aryans were often at war. Aryan leaders, known as **raj**as (princes), attacked each other's fortresses and seized women, cattle, and other treasures.

8. How did the Aryans change after they settled in India?

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### • Society in Ancient India (page 75)

During the time of the Aryans, a system of social classes developed in India. This system has lasted, with only minor changes, to the present day. The **caste system** was a set of rigid social categories that determined a person's occupation, economic potential, and position in society. It was based in part on skin color. There were five major divisions of Indian classes, or **castes**, in ancient times. At the top was the priestly class, whose members were known as Brahmins. The second caste was the Kshatriyas, or warriors. The third-ranked caste was the Vaisiyas, or commoners. Most Vaisiyas were merchants or farmers. The fourth caste was the Sudras. This was the largest group of Indian people. The Sudras were dark-skinned native people, not Aryans. Most of them were peasants or people who did other forms of manual labor. They had only limited rights in society. At the lowest level were the Untouchables. They were given degrading jobs that other Indians would not do, like collecting trash and handling dead bodies. They were not considered human. No Indian would touch or eat food handled by an Untouchable.

Life in ancient India centered on the family. The family was the basic unit in society. The ideal was an extended family, with three generations (grandparents, parents, and children) living under one roof. Indian society was patriarchal. Only men could inherit property. Women were not allowed to serve as priests, and generally, only men were educated. Upper-class young

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## Chapter 3, Section 1 (continued)

men were not supposed to marry until they completed 12 years of study. Divorce was usually not allowed. Husbands could take a second wife if the first wife could not bear children. Children were important because they were expected to take care of their parents as they grew older. When a man died, his wife was expected to follow the ritual of *suttee*. In ancient India, the dead were placed on heaps of material called pyres, which were then set on fire. *Suttee* required a wife to throw herself on the fire with her dead husband's body.

9. How were women treated in ancient India?

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### • Hinduism (page 77)

**Hinduism** is the religion of the majority of the Indian people. It had its origins in the religious beliefs of the Aryans. Most of our information about their religion comes from the Vedas. The Vedas were collections of hymns and other religious rituals. Early Hindus believed in the existence of a single force in the universe called *Brahman*. It was the duty of the individual self, or *atman*, to seek to know Brahman.

Hinduism contains the idea of reincarnation. **Reincarnation** is the belief that the individual soul is reborn in a different form after death. After being reincarnated a number of times, the soul reaches its final goal, which is union with Brahman. Important to this process is the idea of karma. **Karma** is the force generated by a person's actions that determines how a person will be reborn in the next life. The concept of karma is ruled by the **dharm**, or the divine law. The law requires all people to do their duty. Duties vary depending on a person's status in society. Reincarnation provided a religious basis for the caste system. It justified the privileges of the people in the higher castes. They believed that they deserved their privileges because of what they had done in earlier lives.

Hindus developed the practice of yoga. **Yoga** is a method of training designed to lead to union with Brahman. In fact, yoga means "union." Over time, the Hindu religion came to have hundreds of gods and goddesses. The three chief ones were Brahma the Creator, Vishnu the Preserver, and Siva the Destroyer. Many Hindus regard the gods as different expressions of Brahman. Through devotion at temples, Hindus seek not only salvation but also a way to gain the ordinary things they need in life.

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## Chapter 3, Section 1 (continued)

10. What is reincarnation, and how does it help to justify the caste system?

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• **Buddhism** (page 78)

In the sixth century B.C., a new religious doctrine appeared in northern India. It is called **Buddhism** because it was founded by Siddhartha Gautama, also known as the Buddha or “Enlightened One.” Siddhartha was born around 563 B.C. in the foothills of the Himalaya. He was the son of a ruling family and appeared to have everything. But in his late twenties, he decided to spend his life seeking the cure for human suffering. At first, he followed the example of the ascetics. **Ascetics** are people who practice self-denial to achieve an understanding of ultimate reality. He later turned instead to an intense period of meditation. While meditating, Siddhartha believed that he finally reached enlightenment as to the meaning of life. He spent the rest of his life preaching what he had discovered. His teachings became the basic principles of Buddhism.

Siddhartha believed that the physical world was an illusion. Once people let go of the things of this world, pain and sorrow could be forgotten. Then comes *bodhi*, or wisdom. Achieving wisdom is a key step to achieving nirvana. **Nirvana** is the ultimate reality—the end of the self and a reunion with the Great World Soul. The core of Siddhartha’s message is contained in the Four Noble Truths and the Eightfold Path. He accepted the idea of reincarnation but rejected the Hindu caste system. He taught that all human beings could reach nirvana. This made Buddhism appealing to the people at the lower end of the social scale. Siddhartha also rejected the multitude of gods in Hinduism. He forbade his followers to worship him or his image. After he died in 480 B.C., his followers spread his message throughout India. Buddhist monasteries were established to promote his teaching.

11. What parts of Hinduism did Siddhartha accept, and what parts did he reject?

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# Reading Essentials and Study Guide



## Chapter 3, Section 2

For use with textbook pages 81–86

### NEW EMPIRES IN INDIA

#### KEY TERMS

**Silk Road** one of the main trade routes in the ancient world that was used to transport goods, such as silk, from China across central Asia to Mesopotamia (*page 81*)

**pilgrim** people who travel to religious places (*page 85*)

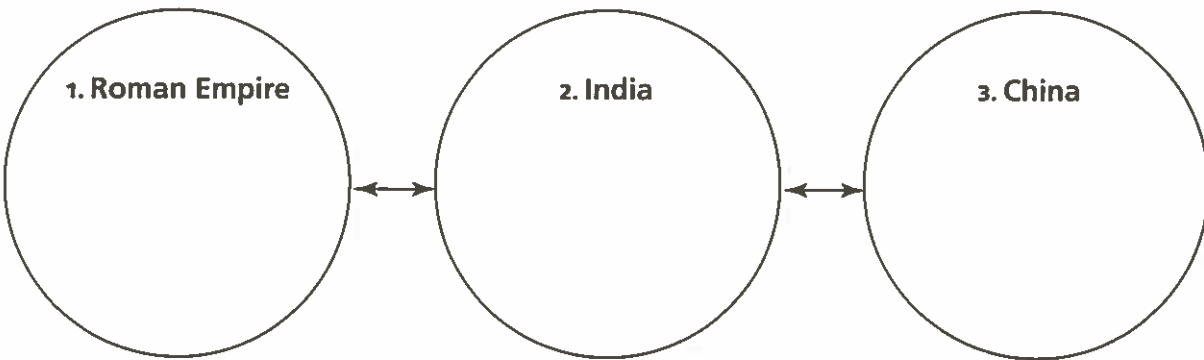
#### DRAWING FROM EXPERIENCE

Have you ever thought about the way we count? Why do we count in tens? Where did the decimal system come from?

In the last section, you learned about the early civilizations in India. In this section, you will learn about two empires that arose in India, the Mauryan and Gupta Empires. The decimal system of counting in tens was developed during the Gupta Empire.

#### ORGANIZING YOUR THOUGHTS

Use the diagram below to help you take notes. Trade developed between the Roman Empire, India, and China. List the items that were exported from each of these areas.



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## Chapter 3, Section 2 (continued)

### READ TO LEARN

#### • The Mauryan Dynasty (page 82)

The Aryans did little to bring peace and unity to India. Between 1500 and 400 B.C., there were many wars between the Aryan rajas. After 400 B.C., India was attacked from the outside. First came Persia, which extended its empire into western India. Then came the Greeks and Macedonians. Alexander the Great had heard about the riches of India, and he invaded India in 327 B.C. But his soldiers refused to continue fighting, and they left almost as quickly as they came. This invasion, however, led to the first dynasty to control India.

Chandragupta Maurya, who ruled from 324 to 301 B.C., founded the new dynasty. He drove out the foreign forces and set up his capital at Pataliputra in northern India. He divided his empire into provinces that were ruled by governors. He had a large army and a secret police that followed his orders.

Asoka was the grandson of Chandragupta Maurya. The Mauryan Empire flourished under his rule, and he is considered to be the greatest ruler in the history of India. He converted to Buddhism and used Buddhist ideals to guide his rule. He set up hospitals for both people and animals. He had trees planted and shelters built along the roads to provide shade and rest for travelers. During the time of Asoka, India's role in trade began to expand. India became a crossroads in a trade network that extended from the Pacific to Southwest Asia and the Mediterranean Sea. After Asoka's death in 232 B.C., the Mauryan Empire began to decline. In 183 B.C., the last Mauryan ruler was killed by one of his military commanders.

4. Why is Asoka considered to be the greatest ruler in Indian history?

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#### • The Kushan Kingdom and the Silk Road (page 83)

After the collapse of the Mauryan Empire, new kingdoms arose along the edges of India, in what is now Afghanistan. In the first century A.D., nomadic warriors seized power and established the Kushan kingdom. For the next two centuries, the Kushans spread over northern India. In the rest of India, other kingdoms fought for control.



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## Chapter 3, Section 2 (continued)

The Kushans prospered because of the trade that passed through their land. Most of the trade was between the Roman Empire and China. It was shipped along a route called the **Silk Road**. The Silk Road was about 4000 miles long and reached from the city of Changan in China across central Asia to Mesopotamia. One section of the Silk Road passed through the mountains northwest of India. The route ended at Antioch in Syria on the Mediterranean Sea. Goods were shipped from Antioch across the Mediterranean to Greece and Rome. Only luxury goods were carried on the Silk Road, because camel caravans were difficult, dangerous, and thus expensive.

Chinese merchants traded silk, spices, teas, and porcelain. Indian merchants sent ivory, textiles, precious stones, and pepper. The Romans traded woolen and linen clothes, glass, and precious stones. Silk was China's most valuable product and what the Romans particularly wanted. That is why the trade route was called the Silk Road.

5. How did the Silk Road make the Kushans prosperous?

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### • The Kingdom of the Guptas (page 84)

The Kushan kingdom came to an end in the third century A.D., when invaders from Persia overran it. In 320, a prince named Chandragupta created a new kingdom in the central Ganges Valley. He was not related to the earlier Chandragupta Maurya. His son Samudragupta expanded the empire into surrounding areas. The new kingdom of the Guptas became the dominant power in northern India. It also had loose control over central India. This made it the greatest state since the Mauryan Empire. The Gupta Empire had a series of good kings and created a new age of Indian civilization. Visitors from other lands admired the culture. One of these visitors was Faxian, a Buddhist monk from China who traveled to India in the fifth century. He admired the rulers, their tolerance of Buddhism, and the prosperity of the country. The Gupta Empire traded with China, Southeast Asia, and the Mediterranean. Cities were built along the main trade routes throughout India. These cities became wealthy from trade and from the pilgrims who traveled across India to visit the major religious centers. **Pilgrims** are people who travel to religious places.

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## Chapter 3, Section 2 (continued)

The Gupta Empire did not last, however. Invasions by the Huns in the late fifth century A.D. reduced the power of the empire. A military leader in the seventh century revived the empire for a while, but the empire fell apart after his death. Northern India would not be reunited for hundreds of years.

6. Why were the cities in the Gupta Empire wealthy?

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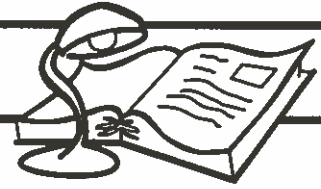
### • The World of Indian Culture (page 85)

The Indian culture has produced great works in literature, architecture and science. The Vedas are the earliest known works of Indian literature. These were originally passed down orally from generation to generation. After the development of Sanskrit writing, the Vedas were written down. India's great historical epics, the *Mahabharata* and the *Ramayana*, were also written down. The *Mahabharata* is the longest poem in any written language. It describes a war between cousins in Aryan society. The most famous section is the Bhagavid Gita. It is a sermon by the god Krishna before a major battle. The *Ramayana* is much shorter than the *Mahabharata*. It is the story of the fictional ruler Rama. Both the *Mahabharata* and the *Ramayana* contain religious and moral lessons. To this day, they continue to inspire the people of India. One of ancient India's most famous authors was Kalidasa, who lived during the Gupta Dynasty. One of his poems, *The Cloud Messenger*, remains one of the most popular Sanskrit poems.

India also made major achievements in architecture. Three types of structures were developed to foster the spread of Buddhism: pillars, stupas, and rock chambers. Many stone pillars were built to mark sites related to events in Buddha's life. The stupas were originally intended to hold relics of Buddha, such as a lock of hair. They were built in the form of burial mounds and became places for devotion. Rock chambers were developed to house monks and to serve as halls for religious ceremonies. The rooms were carved out of rock cliffs on the sides of mountains.

Ancient Indians also made advances in astronomy and mathematics. They charted the movements of the heavenly bodies. They knew that the Earth was round and that it rotated on its axis and revolved around the sun. Indian mathematicians introduced the concept of zero and used a symbol (0) for it. Aryabhata, the most famous Indian mathematician of the Gupta Empire, was one of the first scientists known to have used algebra. After Arabs conquered

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## Chapter 3, Section 2 (continued)

parts of India, Arab scholars adopted the Indian number system. European traders borrowed it from the Arabs, and it spread through Europe in the 1200s. It is the system that we use today and is called the Indian-Arabic numeral system.

7. Who developed the decimal system of counting in tens?

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## Chapter 3, Section 3

For use with textbook pages 88–97

### EARLY CHINESE CIVILIZATIONS

#### KEY TERMS

**Mandate of Heaven** a belief during the Zhou dynasty that kings received their authority to command, or mandate, from Heaven (page 91)

**Dao** the proper “Way” that a king was expected to rule in order to please the gods and protect the people (page 92)

**filial piety** the duty of members of a family to subordinate their needs and desires to those of the male head of the family (page 93)

**Confucianism** a system of ideas based on the teachings of Confucius (page 95)

**Daoism** a system of ideas based on the teachings of Laozi (page 96)

**Legalism** a philosophy that stressed harsh laws and punishments (page 97)

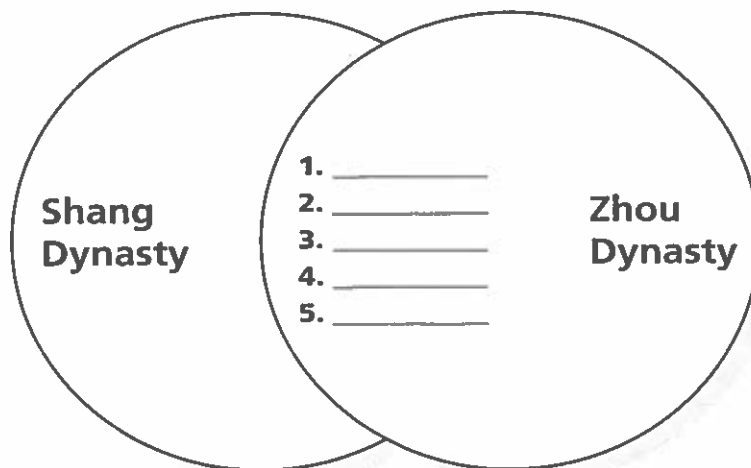
#### DRAWING FROM EXPERIENCE

Do you think people are basically good or basically evil? Are strict laws necessary to keep order and make people obey?

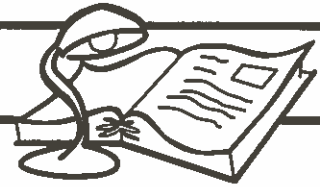
In the last two sections, you learned about the early civilizations and empires of India. In this section, you will learn about early civilizations in China and the philosophies they developed.

#### ORGANIZING YOUR THOUGHTS

Use the diagram below to help you take notes. The Shang and Zhou dynasties had several similarities. List five similarities in the area where the two circles overlap.



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## Chapter 3, Section 3 (continued)

### READ TO LEARN

#### • The Geography of China (page 88)

The Huang He, or Yellow River, is more than 2900 miles long. It extends from Mongolia to the Pacific Ocean. The Chang Jiang, or Yangtze River, is more than 3400 miles long. It flows across central China and empties into the Yellow Sea. The valleys of these two rivers became one of the great food-producing areas of the ancient world. Not all of China is fertile land, however. Only 10 percent of the total land is suitable for farming. Much of the rest of the land consists of mountains and deserts.

The mountains and deserts have played an important role in Chinese history. They served as barriers that separated the Chinese people from other Asian people. In the regions created by the mountains and deserts, there were peoples of Mongolian, Indo-European, and Turkish backgrounds. There were often conflicts between these groups and the Chinese.

6. What role have the mountains and deserts played in Chinese history?

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#### • The Shang Dynasty (page 89)

Chinese civilization began with the Xia dynasty over four thousand years ago. Little is known about this dynasty. It was replaced by a second dynasty, the Shang, which lasted from about 1750 to 1122 B.C. The Shang dynasty was primarily a farming society. An aristocracy whose major concern was war ruled it. An **aristocracy** is an upper class whose wealth is based on land and whose power is passed from one generation to another.

There were large cities in Shang China. The cities had huge walls, royal palaces, and large royal tombs. The Shang king ruled from the capital city of Anyang. His kingdom was divided into territories with aristocratic warlords (military leaders) in charge of each territory. The king chose these leaders and could remove them. The king controlled large armies, which often fought on the fringes of the kingdom.

The Shang rulers believed that they could communicate with the gods to get help with their affairs. Priests scratched questions on bones to get answers from the gods. These bones were called oracle bones. The priests stuck heated metal rods into the bones, which caused the bones to crack. The priests then

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## Chapter 3, Section 3 (continued)

interpreted the cracks as answers from the gods. The Chinese had a strong belief in life after death. Humans were sacrificed to win the favor of the gods and to provide companions for the king and his family on their journey to the next world. From the belief in an afterlife came the idea of the veneration of ancestors (sometimes called “ancestor worship”). The Chinese believed that the spirits of ancestors could bring good or evil to the living members of a family. So it was important to treat the spirits well.

The king and his family were at the top of Shang society. Aristocratic families helped them. The aristocrats waged war, served as officials, and were also the chief landowners. The majority of the people were peasants who farmed the land of the aristocrats. Shang society also included a small number of merchants and artisans. The Shang are well known for their mastery of the art of bronze casting. Thousands of bronze objects from this period have survived. These are some of the most admired creations of Chinese art.

7. What were some of the religious beliefs during the Shang dynasty?

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### • The Zhou Dynasty (page 91)

Eventually the ruler of the state of Zhou revolted against the last of the Shang rulers and established a new dynasty. The Zhou dynasty lasted for almost nine hundred years (1045 to 256 B.C.). It was the longest dynasty in Chinese history. The Zhou dynasty continued the political system of the Shang rulers. At the head of the government was the Zhou king. Like the Shang rulers, he divided the kingdom into territories governed by officials that he appointed. These officials were aristocrats. The king was in charge of defense and controlled large armies.

The Zhou kings also made some changes. The Zhou dynasty claimed that it ruled China because it had the **Mandate of Heaven**. It was believed that Heaven kept order in the world through the Zhou king. Thus, the Zhou king had a *mandate*, or authority to command, from Heaven. The king was chosen by Heaven because of his talent and virtue. He was expected to rule according to the proper “Way,” called the **Dao**. It was his duty to keep the gods pleased to protect the people from bad harvests or disasters. If he failed, he could be overthrown. This gave people the “right of revolution.” The king was not a divine being himself and could be replaced. The Mandate of Heaven led to a pattern of *dynastic cycles*. From the beginning of Chinese history to A.D. 1912,

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## Chapter 3, Section 3 (continued)

China was ruled by a series of dynasties. Each dynasty said that it ruled with the Mandate of Heaven. It established its power, ruled successfully for many years, and then began to decline. Rebellions or invasions would cause it to collapse, and a new dynasty would take over. Then the cycle would be repeated.

The Zhou dynasty followed this cycle of rise, decline, and collapse. Some of the territories in the Zhou kingdom became powerful states and challenged the Zhou ruler. In 403 B.C., civil war broke out. This began a time in Chinese history called the "Period of the Warring States." By this time, warfare in China had changed. Iron weapons were being used. Foot soldiers (the infantry) and soldiers on horseback (the cavalry) made their first appearance. The cavalry was armed with crossbows, a Chinese invention of the seventh century B.C. In 221 B.C., one of the warring states, the state of Qin, took control and created a new dynasty.

During the Zhou dynasty, peasants worked on land owned by lords (aristocrats), but they also had land of their own. A class of artisans and merchants lived in walled towns. Merchants did not operate freely but were considered the property of the lords. There was also a class of slaves. Trade consisted mainly of the exchange of local goods that were used on an everyday basis. Eventually, it increased to include goods from distant lands, such as salt, iron, cloth, and luxury items. One of the most important items that the Chinese traded was silk.

By the sixth century B.C., irrigation was in wide use. Large water projects controlled the flow of rivers and spread water evenly to the fields. The use of iron led to the development of iron plowshares. This made it possible to plow land that had not yet been used for farming. Because of these advances in farming, the population of China rose as high as fifty million people during the Zhou dynasty.

The family was the basic economic and social unit in China. The Chinese believed in the idea of **filial piety**. *Filial* refers to sons and daughters. Filial piety is the duty of members of the family to subordinate their needs and desires to those of the male head of the family. Every family member had his or her place. People needed to work together to farm the land. Children were important because they worked in the fields when they were young. Later, sons were expected to take over the physical labor on their family's land and take care of their parents as the parents got older. Men were important because they worked in the fields and provided food for their families. They were also the warriors, scholars, and government officials. Women raised the children and worked in the home.

Perhaps the most important cultural contribution of ancient China was the development of a written language. By the time of the Shang dynasty, the Chinese had developed a simple script that is the ancestor of the complex written language that the Chinese use today. It was primarily pictographic

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## Chapter 3, Section 3 (continued)

and ideographic in form. Pictographs are picture symbols, usually called characters, that form a picture of the object they represent. Ideographs are characters that combine two or more pictographs to represent an idea.

8. What was the Mandate of Heaven and how did it lead to dynastic cycles?

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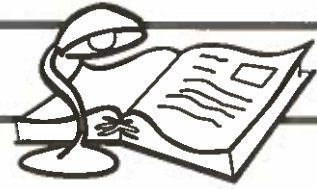
### • The Chinese Philosophies (page 94)

Toward the end of the Zhou dynasty, three major schools of thought, or philosophies, developed in China. Chinese philosophers were concerned about the world in which people lived and how to create a stable order in the world. **Confucianism** is a system of ideas developed by Confucius, known to the Chinese as the First Teacher. Confucius was born in 551 B.C. He lived during a time of chaos in China. He provided a set of ideas about how to restore order to society. His interest in philosophy was ethical and political, not spiritual. His concern was with human behavior. According to Confucius, the key to proper behavior was to behave in accordance with the Dao (Way). Duty and humanity were important elements of the Dao. The concept of duty meant that all people had to subordinate their own interests to the broader needs of the family and the community. This concept of duty is often expressed as a "work ethic." If each person worked hard to fulfill his or her duties, society would prosper. The concept of humanity consisted of a sense of compassion and empathy for others. Confucius taught, "Do not do unto others what you would not wish done to yourself." Confucius believed that government should not be limited to people of noble birth, but should be open to all men. His ideas did not have much effect in his lifetime. But after his death in 479 B.C., his message spread widely throughout China. Until the twentieth century, almost every Chinese pupil studied his sayings.

**Daoism** was a system of ideas based on the teachings of Laozi. According to tradition, Laozi, or the Old Master, lived during the time of Confucius. Scholars do not know if Laozi actually existed. But the ideas that people associate with him became popular in the fifth and fourth centuries B.C. The main ideas of Daoism are contained in the *Tao Te Ching* (The Way of the Dao). Like Confucianism, Daoism does not concern itself with the meaning of the universe. It is concerned about proper forms of behavior. Its ideas about human behavior are very different from those of Confucius, however. Daoists believe that the true way to follow the will of Heaven is not action but inaction. The



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## Chapter 3, Section 3 (continued)

best way to act in harmony with the universe is to act spontaneously and let nature take its course by not interfering with it.

A third philosophy that became popular in China was **Legalism**. Legalists believed that human beings were evil by nature. They could only be brought to follow the correct path by harsh laws and punishments. Legalists believed that a strong ruler was needed to create an orderly society. The ruler did not need to have compassion for the needs of the people. Fear of harsh punishment would cause the people to serve the interests of the ruler. This would maintain order and stability in society.

9. What three philosophies developed in China near the end of the Zhou dynasty?

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# Reading Essentials and Study Guide



## Chapter 3, Section 4

For use with textbook pages 98–103

### RISE AND FALL OF CHINESE EMPIRES

#### KEY TERMS

**regime** the government in power (page 99)

**censorate** a division of the bureaucracy in the Qin dynasty that had inspectors who checked on government officials to make sure they were doing their jobs (page 99)

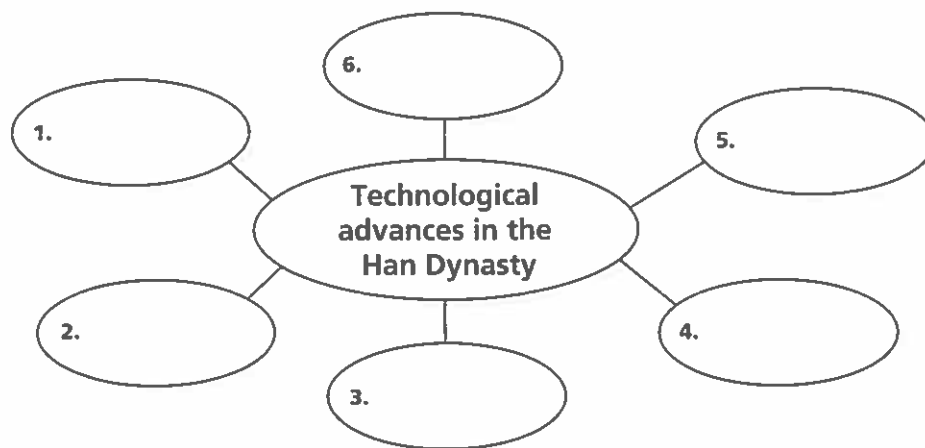
#### DRAWING FROM EXPERIENCE

Have you ever applied for a job? What questions did you have to answer? What criteria do you think employers should use when choosing people for jobs?

In the last section, you learned about the early civilizations in China. In this section, you will learn about two Chinese empires, the Qin and Han dynasties. Both dynasties chose their government officials on the basis of merit rather than birth.

#### ORGANIZING YOUR THOUGHTS

Use the web organizer below to help you take notes. New technology added to the economic prosperity of the Han Era. List six inventions or areas of technological progress during the Han dynasty.



# Reading Essentials and Study Guide



## Chapter 3, Section 4 (continued)

### READ TO LEARN

- **The Qin Dynasty (221–206 B.C.)** (page 98)

From about 400 to 200 B.C., there were civil wars in China. Powerful states fought each other and ignored the Zhou kings. The Qin state gradually defeated the other states. In 221 B.C., the Qin ruler started a new dynasty. This ruler's name was Qin Shihuangdi, which means "the First Qin Emperor." The Qin dynasty made many changes in Chinese politics. Legalism was adopted as the regime's philosophy. (A **regime** is a government in power.) Anyone who opposed the new regime was punished or executed. The Qin dynasty was a centralized state. The central bureaucracy was divided in three parts: the civil division, the military division, and the **ensorate**. The censorate had inspectors (censors) who checked on government officials to make sure they were doing their jobs. Below the central government were two levels of administration—provinces and counties. Officials at these levels did not inherit their positions but were appointed by the emperor. The censors kept a close watch over these officials and reported to the emperor. If the officials were found guilty of wrongdoing, they were executed.

Qin Shihuangdi unified the Chinese world. He created a single monetary system and built a system of roads throughout the entire empire. His armies advanced to the south and extended the border of China to the edge of the Yuan River, or Red River, in modern-day Vietnam. His major concern was in the north. In the area south of the Gobi, there were people known to the Chinese as the Xiongnu. They were nomadic people and fought on horseback. The Xiongnu became a threat to the Chinese communities near the northern frontier. The Chinese began to build walls to keep them out. Qin Shihuangdi added to these walls. He linked the existing walls together to create "The Wall of Ten Thousand *li*" (a *li* is about a third of a mile). Today this is known as the Great Wall of China. The great wall that we see today was actually built 1500 years later, however. Most of Qin Shihuangdi's walls were constructed of loose stone and sand and disappeared long ago.

Qin Shihuangdi died in 210 B.C., and his dynasty was overthrown four years later. The fall of the Qin dynasty was followed by a period of civil war. This period did not last long, and was followed by a new dynasty.

7. What changes did the Qin dynasty make in Chinese politics?

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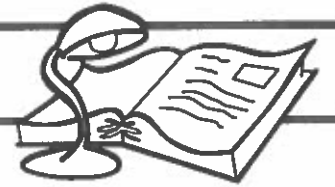
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# Reading Essentials and Study Guide



## Chapter 3, Section 4 (continued)

### • The Han Dynasty (202 B.C.-A.D. 220) (page 100)

Liu Bang founded the Han dynasty in 202 B.C. Liu Bang was a peasant who became known by his title, Han Gaozu ("Exalted Emperor of Han"). The Han dynasty was one of the greatest and longest dynasties in Chinese history. Han Gaozu discarded the harsh policies of the Qin dynasty. Confucian principles, rather than Legalism, became the philosophy for the new government. The Han dynasty did not change all of the systems of government, however. It kept the three divisions of the central government. It also kept the system of provinces and counties. Most important, it kept the system of choosing officials on the basis of merit rather than birth. The Han dynasty introduced the civil service examination and started a school to train officials. Students were expected to learn Chinese history, law, and the teachings of Confucius. During the Han dynasty, the population increased rapidly to over sixty million people.

The Han emperors, especially Han Wudi, expanded the Chinese empire. They added the southern regions below the Chang Jiang to the empire. Part of what is now northern Vietnam became part of the empire. The Han armies went westward into central Asia and extended the Chinese boundary there. They also drove the Xiongnu back to the north. After Han Wudi's death in 87 B.C., China experienced almost 150 years of peace.

The Han period was a time of prosperity. Peasants began to suffer, however. They were forced into military service or labor of up to one month per year. The growing population eventually reduced the size of the average farm plot to about one acre per person, which was barely enough to survive. Many poor peasants were forced to sell their land and become tenant farmers. The aristocrats once again controlled the land.

Technological advances were made during the Han Era. Progress was made in textile manufacturing, water mills for grinding grain, and iron casting. Iron casting led to the invention of steel. Paper was also developed during the Han dynasty. The rudder and fore-and-aft rigging for ships were invented. Ships could sail into the wind for the first time. This led to a major expansion of trade. Trade was established with countries as far away as India and the Mediterranean.

Over time, the Han Empire began to decay. Rulers became weak, and the aristocrats forced more and more farmers to become tenants. By A.D. 170, peasant uprisings and wars caused the Han dynasty to collapse. In 190, rebel armies sacked the Han capital, Luoyang. In 220, a general seized control but was unable to stay in power. China plunged again into civil war, and there were new invasions by northern peoples. The next great dynasty would not arise for four hundred years.

# Reading Essentials and Study Guide



## Chapter 3, Section 4 (continued)

8. In what way was the government of the Han rulers different from the government of the Qin Emperor? In what ways was it similar?

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• **Culture in Qin and Han China** (page 103)

The Qin and Han dynasties were also known for their cultural achievements. The main Confucian writings were made into a set of classics during this time. These writings became required reading for generations of Chinese schoolchildren.

Perhaps the most remarkable achievement of the Qin period was discovered in 1974. Underground pits were found about a mile east of the burial mound of the First Qin Emperor. They contained a vast army made of terra-cotta (hardened clay). Archaeologists believe it was a re-creation of Qin Shihuangdi's imperial guard and was meant to be with the emperor on his journey to the next world. There are more than six thousand figures in the first pit alone, along with horses, chariots, and seven thousand bronze weapons. The terra-cotta figures are slightly larger than life-size. The detail on the uniforms is realistic, and the heads were modeled individually to reflect the different ethnic types in the army.

9. What do archaeologists think was the purpose of the terra-cotta figures found near the burial mound of the First Qin Emperor?

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# Reading Essentials and Study Guide



## Chapter 4, Section 1

For use with textbook pages 109–113

### THE FIRST GREEK CIVILIZATIONS

#### KEY TERMS

**epic poem** a long poem that tells the deeds of a great hero (page 112)

**arete** the Greek term for excellence, which heroes strove to attain (page 113)

#### DRAWING FROM EXPERIENCE

Do you enjoy reading poems? What kinds of literature do you like the most? Why?

In this section, you will learn about the early civilizations of Greece. You will also learn about the writings of Homer, one of the great poets of all time.

#### ORGANIZING YOUR THOUGHTS

Use the time line below to help you take notes. Identify five important events in the development of Greek civilization.

