



Shang Dynasty - Week of May 26-29

China's Earliest Civilizations 7.1 Ex 2

5.B.1.a - Describe and explore the characteristics of a civilization, such as government, writing systems, specialization in an area of trade and the establishment of cities

6.A.4.i - Draw conclusions and make generalizations based on the text, and videos

As you read about China's Earliest civilizations, think about where they were, who they were, and what their importance is to China's development as a country.

The first part is a review of the last two week's readings so you have them available to you to answer the first and last questions. If you can get onto Google Classroom, that would be better because there is a more indepth powerpoint to help teach about the Shang Dynasty.

Cishan Civilization

One of the earliest civilizations to emerge along the **Huang He River** was the **Cishan**. This Neolithic civilization existed from about 8000 to 5500 BCE. The Cishan society was very advanced, producing pottery and domesticating plants and animals. Although **China** is often associated with rice, the Cishan might have been one of the first civilizations to cultivate millet, a type of grain that became one of the staple crops of the Neolithic era.

Banpo Civilization

Another civilization to develop along the Huang He River was the Banpo. Archaeologists have been excavating the Banpo site for over a half of a century. Historians have learned a lot about how the Banpo lived from the remains that have been found at this site. The Banpo domesticated pigs and dogs and, like the Cishan, cultivated millet. They also hunted, fished, and gathered berries, vegetables, and grains. The Banpo left behind many examples of their pottery. They put markings on their pottery to identify what

they kept in each container. These symbols were unique to the Banpo, because Chinese writing had not yet been developed.

Historians have been able to learn many other interesting things about the Banpo from the work of archaeologists. Archaeologists have found that many Banpo homes were built on top of the remains of older homes. This led archaeologists to conclude that the Banpo rebuilt and remodeled their homes throughout their history. It also appears that the Banpo were concerned about attacks from wild animals, and they tried to keep them out by building a large ditch around their community. When infants and children died, the Banpo placed their bodies in large pottery jars and buried them. Adults were buried in a separate cemetery, but their burials were not as elaborate as those for children.

The Shang Dynasty

The Cishan and the Banpo were small civilizations, and they did not have much interaction with other civilizations in the region. The Shang **dynasty** also emerged along the Huang He. Unlike the Cishan and Banpo, they built their own empire and went on to conquer others. The Shang dynasty was the first Chinese dynasty for which there are both written records and archaeological evidence of their existence. Legend has it that a dynasty called the Xia dynasty was the first dynasty in China, but there is no physical archaeological evidence of its existence.

The exact dates of the Shang dynasty are in dispute, but it probably emerged between 1760 to 1520 BCE and fell sometime between 1122 to 1030 BCE. The Shang society developed a calendar and writing. They also used musical instruments and created artwork from bronze, marble, and jade. Their artistic creations, especially those made from jade, are very well known and valuable today.

One of the most important innovations of the Shang dynasty was the development of Chinese writing. The Chinese used symbols called pictographs and wrote on bones and shells. The Shang used writing for many purposes, including record keeping, but people are most fascinated by the use of writing

on oracle bones. People in the Shang dynasty wrote questions on bones or tortoise shells that they wanted to ask their dead ancestors and deities. People asked about what crops to grow, when to hunt, and whether warfare would be successful. These bones and shells were then burned, and someone would interpret the cracks in the bones as the “answers” to their questions. Archaeologists have found more than 100,000 of these bones. They have also identified more than 3,000 pictographs in the language of the Shang that would go on to become the foundation of the Chinese written language.

You can answer these questions on another piece of paper.

- 1) The Shang Dynasty is another civilization that developed along the Huang He River. Even though the Shang Dynasty lived along the same river as the Banpo and the Cishan civilization, they were very different.

Explain how and why you think this dynasty was so different. Include how they were different and how they were alike, as well as innovations that they were able to use successfully.

- 2) Watch the video: The Legenday Dynasty (2:19) , then answer the question using details from the video. [The Legenday Dynasty](#)

Why do you think the Shang dynasty is important?
What surprised you about this dynasty?

- 3) Watch the video: A Hidden City , then use details from the video to answer the following question. [A Hidden City](#)

What do you think is the most interesting fact about the Great City Shang? Why?
Why do you think many people doubt it ever existed?

4) Watch the video: Oracle Bone, Shang Dynasty

[Oracle Bone, Shang Dynasty](#)

Use the information you have read and the videos you have watched to **evaluate** and **analyze** what we have learned about China's earliest civilizations. Use the RACES strategy to answer the following questions.

If you had lived during 8000 BCE - 1030 BCE, which civilization (Cishan, Banpo, or Shang) would you have liked to live with? Why? Explain in complete detail. Support your answer with evidence from the text (that includes the videos.)



The Trading Networks of Ancient China - Week of June 1-6

7.1 Ancient China Ex 7

- 2.A.1.a Describe how location and environment influenced early world cultures
- 3.B.1.b Explain how physical characteristics of China influenced human activities, such as transportation and economic activity
- 6.A.3.c Use a graphic organizer to record important ideas or information
- 6.D.1.c Locate and gather data/information from non-print sources – maps, photos, videos

EQ: How did China's geography impact its interactions with other civilizations?

As you read the text, watch the video and look at the map complete the Cause/Event/Effect chart to explain the role of China's geography in its relations with other civilizations. (29 possible points)

The Trading Networks of Ancient China

The geography of ancient **China** played an important role in the creation of its cities, its defense from foreign invaders, and its struggle to expand its borders. It also impacted China's ability to trade and communicate with other civilizations.

The same geographic elements that protected China from outside forces also made trade by overland routes extremely difficult. Travel across the deserts and through the mountains was dangerous. Routes that took travelers around these barriers often brought them closer to the nomadic tribes of the north. Trade caravans were often attacked and robbed.

Because of the difficulty in traveling by land, merchants and traders increasingly turned to sea routes. Sea travel could also be dangerous. Because of this, most of the sea routes usually did not span across large amounts of open water, but instead stayed close to the shoreline. This limited the areas where the Chinese could trade.



Complete the Event Cause/Effect Chart Below. (5 points)

| CAUSE | EVENT | EFFECT |
|--------|---------------|--------|
| * * | China's Trade | * |

Cultural exchanges were also limited by ancient China's geographical barriers. Because their travel was narrowed, Chinese people tended to have limited interactions with other people and cultures. In this way, geography also played a role in the development of Chinese culture.

The geography of China is varied and unique. The rivers, mountains, and deserts that are found in and around China greatly influenced the creation and growth of China's earliest civilizations.

Complete the Chart below (3 points)

| CAUSE | EVENT | EFFECT |
|-------|------------------------------|--------|
| * | China's Cultural Development | * |

Watch this video found on Discovery Education - Ancient Trade on the Silk Road

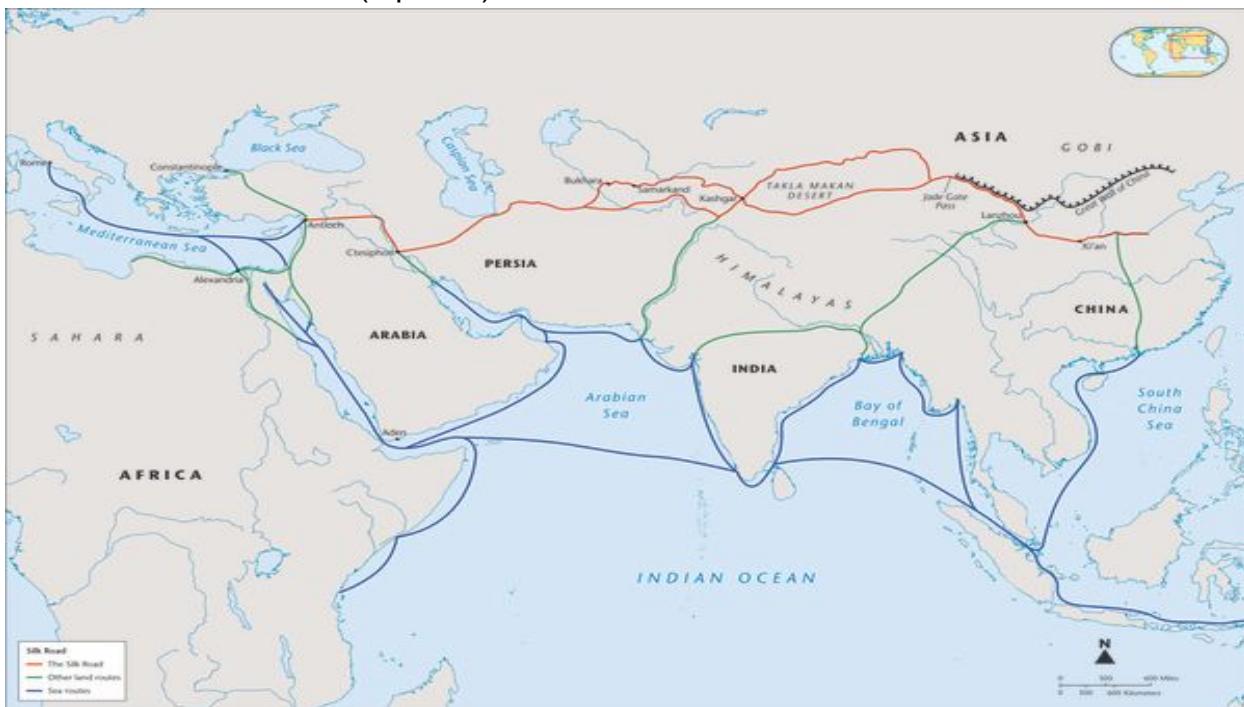
<https://google.discoveryeducation.com/learn/techbook/units/ad0a1781-a6f0-4bd6-bcdc-4a2cf3723b93/concepts/185909f2-27c2-4e46-bbf9-1c744c9d4161/tabs/759da9a7-2edf-4cde-9515-7081ca990764/pages/bc584c4c-9ead-4aff-a67a-2e5c5e253454>

Then complete the chart below: (5 points)

| CAUSE | EVENT | EFFECT |
|-------|---------------|--------|
| * | The Silk Road | * |



Look at this map showing the trade routes of Ancient China: Ancient Chinese trade was limited by the geographical barriers surrounding the region. Trade routes needed to go around these obstacles. (6 points)



Complete the chart below.

| CAUSE | Event | EFFECT |
|-------|---------------------|--------|
| * | *Red Travel Route | * |
| * | *Green Travel Route | * |

Now that you have completed the Cause/Event/Effect charts. Use the information you put into the chart to help you answer the following question.

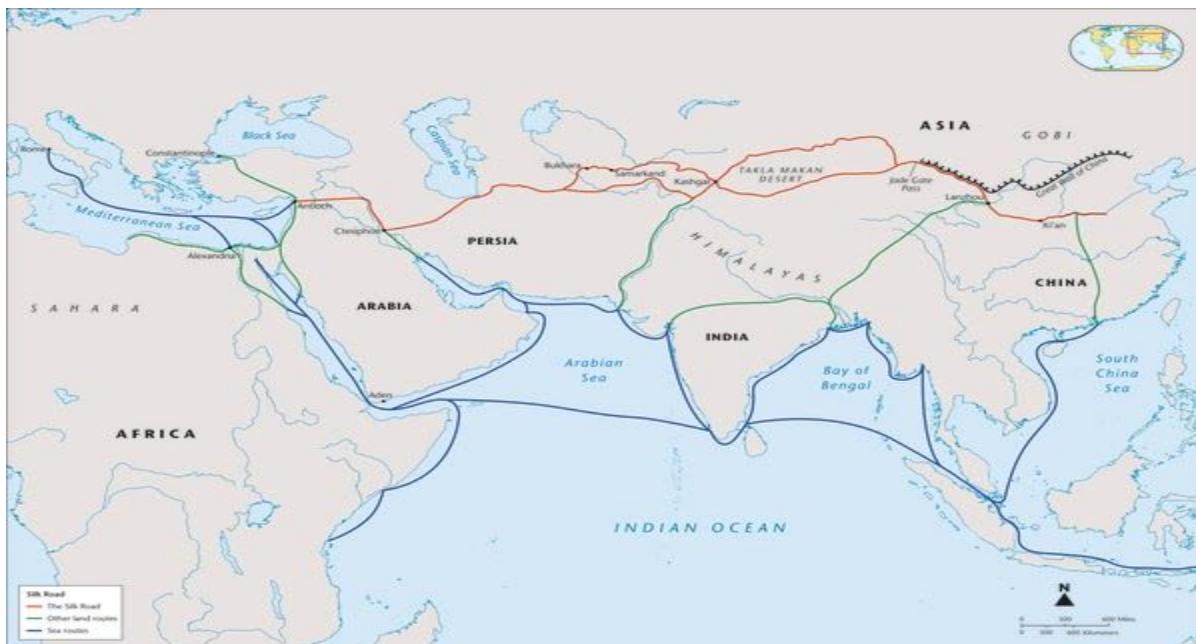
Explain how China's geography impacted its interactions with other civilizations. Be sure to use RACES to answer your question completely. (10 points)



The Silk Road - Open for Business 7.4 Ex 1 Ancient China

- 3.C.1.b Explain how the development of transportation and communication networks influenced the movements of good and ideas from place to place; such as trade routes in Africa, Asia, and Europe.
- 3.C.1.a Identify reasons why people migrate, such as economic opportunity
- 4.A.2.b Describe how available resources affected specialization and trade
(35 Total possible points)

EQ: How did the ancient Chinese conduct trade with other civilizations?



The Silk Road – Land and Sea Routes

The Silk Road consisted of several land and sea routes. It connected China with markets in Central Asia, South Asia, the Middle East, North Africa, and Europe.

1. Look at the map above and compare the different routes the Chinese used when traveling with the trade goods. (5 points)
Which route would you have taken? Why?



READ the following text:

Ancient **China** was connected to **markets** in the West by the **Silk Road**.

[The ancient trade route known as the Silk Road was a system of caravan tracts that connected ancient China to civilizations to the west. It started in Xi'an, China, and reached ports in the Mediterranean Sea. For more than 1,500 years, this route served as a pipeline between the ancient civilizations of Europe, the Middle East, and Asia. The Silk Road enabled the exchange of valuable goods as well as cultural ideas. For example, it brought both Buddhism and a form of Christianity to China.]

Although the name *Silk Road* suggests a single long road, the Silk Road was actually a series of **trade** routes that eventually connected ancient China to Central Asia, South Asia, the Middle East, North Africa, and Europe. Some of the Silk Road's trade routes were as much as 4,000 miles long—like an ancient highway system. The main overland route began in northern China, where the modern city of Xi'an now sits. From China, the trade routes headed west, with some reaching cities along the **Black Sea**, others extending to Damascus and other trading centers on the **Mediterranean Sea**, and still others reaching India.

The routes crossed treacherous deserts, mountains, and open spaces. Caravans were constantly under threat from thieves and bandits, but towns and trading posts sprang up along the way and provided merchants food, water, and shelter when needed. The **Great Wall of China** also protected Chinese merchants as they traveled the Silk Road. Soldiers stood guard on the wall in certain areas and keep an eye out for thieves and bandits. They lit fires or sent up smoke signals to alert travelers of danger.

2. Identify two important facts that show the importance or the dangers of the Silk Road and then explain why you think those facts were important to the Chinese who were conducting trade. (5 points)

CONTINUE READING



Eventually, there was also a maritime Silk Road route. The main sea routes traveled via the South China Sea and the Indian Ocean to the **Persian Gulf** city of Basra, in what is today Iraq, or to the **Red Sea** seaport of Suez, in Egypt. When needed, goods were carried once more overland across Persia and Syria to Alexandria, Egypt, and other ports used by European merchants, rather than sailing all the way around Africa.

Not many merchants traveled the entire Silk Road. Land traders usually carried goods from one area to a marketplace in an oasis town. There, they would sell their goods to another trader. This **merchants** would then bring the goods farther along the route and trade them in a different spot. In this way, goods from China could make it all the way to Europe or other distant locations.

3. Why do you think Chinese merchants usually didn't travel the length of the Silk Road with their goods? How did their goods make it all the way to Europe? (5 points)



WATCH

The video on The Silk Road . China was once the gateway to one of the greatest trading routes in history. Thriving trade along the Silk Road helped create some of the most cosmopolitan and wealthy cities in the world.

<https://google.discoveryeducation.com/learn/videos/5e4ca18f-0f95-4eb8-8d4a-d76c33203ef7/?hasLocalHost=True>

The video on Trade on The Silk Road : To protect traders traveling on the Silk Road, the Han Dynasty expanded the Great Wall of China and posted soldiers in towers along its length. The production and trade of silk became a Chinese monopoly.

<https://google.discoveryeducation.com/learn/videos/92eb4e3c-8b1e-469c-b686-477b3b24f8a3/?hasLocalHost=True>

After re-reading the passages above and watching the videos, answer the following question.



How did the ancient Chinese conduct trade with other civilizations? (10 points)

Use the RACES strategy to answer the above question. Remember you must have details and explanations in your written response.

NOW: Read the following short story. As you read Imagine you are the Chinese trader Zhang Lian traveling in the first century. Think about why Zhang Lian would be worried about his trip, why would he be traveling if he is so nervous, and what can you tell about trade in ancient China by reading this passage.

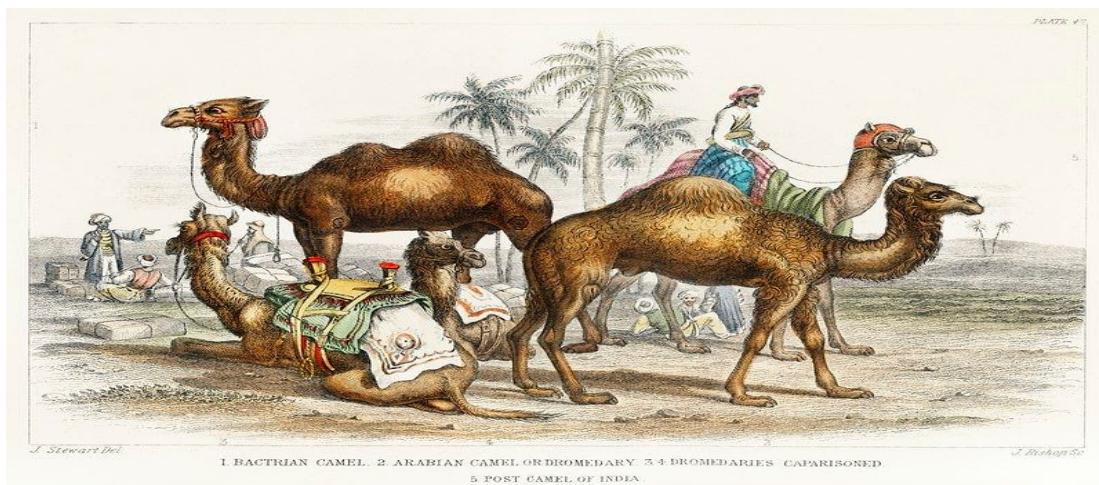
"Tomorrow I leave for Samarkand. I cannot believe my next trip is already upon me! It seems like only yesterday that I last returned from the desert. What a journey that was—my camels were loaded with gold and silver when I returned, and I even brought back some cinnamon and other spices purchased from the Indian **merchant** Ashoka. We talked about many subjects as we both rested and got fresh supplies before leaving the town we were staying in. He shared some interesting ideas about a new philosophy called **Buddhism**. I hope to meet him again. I have a lot of questions to ask, and my customers want more of his spices.

I have plotted my route along the **Silk Road**. However, I am a little nervous setting out. Yesterday I heard of a **caravan** being attacked near Turpan, my first stop. The attackers stole all of their silk and killed three of the traders. I will follow the Great Wall as much as I can, but even the wall does not guarantee my protection. My family worries I will not be safe. Yet, how can I not go? I have many bolts of raw silk, and they will fetch a



good price at market. Plus, my customers here will pay a great deal for the colored glass that comes from Europe, if I am able to obtain some.

My camels are loaded up for the long journey ahead. All that is left is to say goodbye in the morning. The first leg of my journey will be several days. Then, I will stop in Turpan to feed and water my animals—and perhaps find out more about the dangers on the road ahead before setting out across the desert once more. Next month, if all goes well, I shall return safely with money for my family and more goods for my customers here."



Write your response to two of the following question (your choice)- [10 possible points]

- Why is Zhang Lien worried about his trip?
- Why is Zhang Lien traveling if he is so nervous?
- What can we tell about trade in ancient China from this passage?
- If you were Zhang Lien, would you take this journey? Why or why not?