



LEARNING INTENTION

I will learn to describe how location and environment influenced early world cultures.

Use photographs and thematic maps, to identify and describe physical and human characteristics of early civilizations

Identify reasons why people migrate, such as economic opportunity, climate, and political reasons

Analyze how people in early world history perceived and reacted to environmental concerns, such as flooding, drought, and depletion of natural resources and evaluate the consequences of those actions

Describe the effects of agricultural surplus and job specialization on the emergence of early towns and cities in various parts of the world

Describe ways people modified their environment to meet their needs, such as cultivating lands, building roads, dams, and aqueducts

Read this article called “China’s Great Deserts” from Discovery.

Ancient **China** was bordered by two of the world’s largest deserts: the **Gobi Desert** to the north and northwest and the Takla Makan Desert to the west. These two deserts helped to protect China from outside invaders, but they also limited Chinese expansion.

The Gobi Desert stretches across the northern portion of modern China and the southern part of modern Mongolia. Although some of the Gobi Desert is sand, most of it is made up of bare rock. Today, vehicles can drive across the rock, but in ancient times, travel through the desert was more difficult, so most people avoided it. For the most part, those who crossed the desert were traders, who traveled by camel in large caravans.



The Takla Makan Desert is located in western China. It has a milder climate than the Gobi, and there are some water sources and areas of vegetation. However, the size of the desert and its large dunes still limited travel.

These two deserts provided China with a natural defense against outside forces. Invaders could not invade a region using camels; they needed horses, and travel with horses through the deserts was difficult. However, while the deserts provided a barrier against invasion, they also limited Chinese expansion. Rulers could not invade other lands across the desert, and the harsh environment limited even peaceful expansion into these regions. This restrained the size of China’s empire.

Read this article called “The Himalayas” from Discovery.

Asia is home to several vast mountain ranges. Several of these mountain ranges surrounded ancient **China**. The Taihang, Qinling (chin ling), and Nanling Mountains provided a border for the eastern and central plains of China, nearly surrounding the plains region. These mountains provided the early Chinese with protection from invaders.

As the Chinese expanded from the eastern and central plains, they found other mountain ranges that were too challenging to cross. In order for the Chinese to expand their borders by settlement or by conquest, they often had to find ways around the various mountain ranges. The Chinese were very successful at this, until they came to the Himalayan Mountains.



When the ancient Chinese came to the Himalayas, they were neither equipped to go through the mountains nor around them. This kept the Chinese from expanding their civilization even farther southwest. Just as the Himalayan Mountains kept the Chinese from expanding southward, they also kept other kingdoms on the Indian subcontinent from expanding into China.

The Himalayan Mountains constitute the world’s highest mountain range. **Mount Everest** in the Himalayan Mountains is the world’s highest mountain, with an elevation of approximately 29,000 feet. Today, the **Himalayas** serve as the geographic border between India and China. The mountain range is also home to the countries of Nepal and Bhutan.

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In the graphic organizer below, identify the costs and the benefits of deserts and mountains in China by using details from your reading to complete each phrase.

Costs (problems)	Benefits
A. Gobi and Takla Makan Deserts Rulers	Gobi and Takla Makan Deserts
B. Takla Makan Desert	Takla Makan Desert has
C. Tiahang, Quinling, and Nanling mountains are Himalayan mountains are	Mountains provide

Watch this video from Discovery about traveling across the Gobi Desert.

[Gobi Desert Video](#)

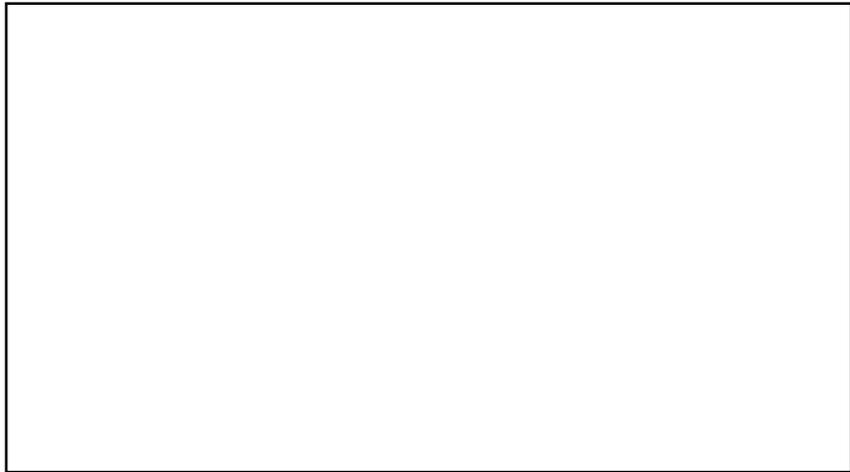
When you click on this link, you will be directed to sign in to Discovery. Make sure you sign in with your school gmail account. Then you will be able to play the video.



China is bordered by physical features including the Pacific Ocean, the Gobi desert, and the Himalayan Mountains. CHOOSE ONE PHYSICAL FEATURE you have learned about.

How has this physical feature influenced the development of civilization in China?

***Remember your response must follow the RACES strategy . ***
 *You will answer this question on the next slide. You may use any of the information from any of the slides from the past 4 weeks to help you. You must answer this question completely.



Where Did Chinese Culture Begin?



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Read this paragraph from Discovery about the 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.

Read this description of the Cishan Civilization from Discovery's glossary.

Cishan is the site of a Neolithic civilization that, like Banpo, developed along the Huang He River, or Yellow River, in northwest China. The Cishan practiced agriculture. They grew millet, barley, and rice. They also fished and gathered wild vegetation, and they domesticated pigs, dogs, and chickens. They used a wide variety of stone tools in daily life, including shovels, knives, axes, and millstones for grinding grain.

As was true with the Banpo people, pottery-making played an important role in Cishan culture. Archaeologists have found a variety of forms, including plates, cups, bowls, and earthen vessels that stood on three legs. Pottery was decorated with rope or engraved with simple patterns.

Read this paragraph about the Yellow River Region in Ancient China.

Source: Ancient China: Civilization. *Time Maps*. Retrieved from <https://www.timemaps.com/civilizations/ancient-china/>

The Yellow River region

The civilization of ancient China first developed in the [Yellow River](#) region of northern China, in the 3rd and 2nd millennia BCE. A large part of this area is covered by loess soil. This very fine earth has blown in from the highlands of central Asia over thousands of years, and makes one of the most fertile soils in the world. In ancient times, the main crop in northern China was millet, a highly nutritious food still grown in many parts of the world as a major crop.

Click on this link to read more about the Cishan Civilization.

[Cishan Civilization - Wikipedia](#)

Look at these pictures of pottery samples from the Cishan Civilization.



File:Neolithic pottery bowl with legs, Cishan culture, Hebei, 1977.JPG. (2018). *Wikimedia Commons, the free media repository*. Retrieved from https://commons.wikimedia.org/w/index.php?title=File:Neolithic_pottery_bowl_with_legs_Cishan_culture_Hebei_1977.JPG&oldid=286803787



File:Cishan Cultural 5.jpg. (2017). *Wikimedia Commons, the free media repository*. Retrieved from https://commons.wikimedia.org/w/index.php?title=File:Cishan_Cultural_5.jpg&oldid=258022604



What have you learned about the Cishan Civilization?

Type your answer below. Make sure you answer in complete sentences and use text evidence from this slide.

Why do you think the Cishan Civilization was important to Ancient China? 

Use information from what you read to answer this question. You must use RACES to get full credit. Cite evidence from the texts and explain how that evidence show that the Cishan Civilization was important to Ancient China. Type your answer below. You may go on to the next slide if you need to.



Banpo Civilization

Yellow River Valley

5000-3000 BCE

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Read this article from Discovery Education to determine how the Banpo Civilization was similar to the Cishan 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.

Think About:

How are the Cishan and Banpo Civilizations similar?

Watch this video to see what life was like in the ancient civilization of Banpo.



Think About:

What kind of society was Banpo?

What did the Archaeologists learn about Banpo when they found its remains at a site in the 1950's?

Click on the link below to read another article on life in the Banpo Village.

[Banpo Village by Emily Mark](#)

Assignment

You will answer these questions in Google Forms. It has been assigned in Google Classroom titled "Banpo Civilization Questions. You must answer the questions there fully using RACES, and submit through Google Classroom.

DO NOT ANSWER THESE QUESTIONS ON THIS SLIDE.

THE QUESTIONS YOU WILL BE ANSWERING ARE:

- 1) What can we learn from the ancient artifacts found at the archaeology site for Banpo?
- 2) What influence do prehistoric and ancient cultures have on modern life?
- 3) Why do archaeologists think everyone in Banpo had the same social status?
- 4) How was Banpo's culture different than the culture of societies we previously studied?

Banpo Civilization Questions

After reading and watching a video about the ancient civilization of Banpo, answer these questions completely. They are all written response questions and require you to put thought and detail in your answers. The points a question is worth, the more detailed your answer must be. Remember to use RACES for EVERY answer. However, some questions require you to write more than one paragraph. If you need to write more than one paragraph, you MUST USE RACES IN EACH PARAGRAPH.

1. What can we learn from the ancient artifacts found at the archaeology site at Banpo? 25 pc
(You must write at least two paragraphs to answer this question because we can learn at least two different things from the artifacts.) Use RACES in each paragraph along with correct grammar, capitalization and punctuation.

2. What influence do prehistoric or ancient cultures have on modern life? 15 pc

3. Why do archaeologists think everyone in Banpo had the same social status? 7 pc

4. How was Banpo's culture different than the culture of societies we previously studied? 10 pc

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Google Forms

