

Guided Reading Activity



The First Chinese Empires

Lesson 1 *Schools of Thought in Ancient China*

Review Questions

Directions: Locate each heading below in your textbook. Then use the information under the correct heading and subheading to help you write each answer.

I. Confucianism

A. How did Confucianism develop?

B. What are the two main elements of the Confucian view of the Dao, or "Way"?

C. How was the Confucian concept of duty often expressed?

D. What advice did Confucius offer to humanity?

E. How did Confucius conceive of education?

II. Daoism

A. How did Daoism develop?

B. How is Daoism like Confucianism?

C. How does Daoism diverge from Confucianism?

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III. Legalism

A. What did the Legalists believe about human nature?

B. What did the Legalists assert was the most effective way to motivate common people?

C. How did the Legalists believe rulers should behave toward their subjects?

Summary and Reflection

Directions: Summarize the main ideas of this lesson by answering the prompt below.

Compare and contrast the philosophies of Confucianism, Daoism, and Legalism.

Guided Reading Activity

The logo for 'networks' features the word 'networks' in a bold, lowercase sans-serif font. A stylized graphic of a network or starburst is positioned above the 'o' in 'works', consisting of several lines radiating from a central point.

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Lesson 2 *The Qin Unify China*

Review Questions

Directions: Read each main idea and answer the questions below. Refer to your textbook to write the answers.

A. Main Idea: In 221 B.C. the Qin ruler defeated competitors in China and created a new dynasty.

1. What qualities was Qin Shihuangdi said to have?

2. How did Qin Shihuangdi eliminate possible rivals and gain tax revenues for the central government?

3. What artistic legacy did Qin Shihuangdi leave behind?

4. How much of his empire's wealth did Qin Shihuangdi spend on preparations for his afterlife?

B. Main Idea: Qin Shihuangdi connected smaller expanses of wall to create the Great Wall of China.

1. Why did Qin Shihuangdi develop the Great Wall, and where did he build it?

2. What was the extent of the Great Wall during the Qin dynasty?

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C. Main Idea: The Qin emperor adopted Legalism and thus dramatically changed Chinese politics.

1. How was the Qin dynasty administered?

2. When did Qin Shihuangdi die, and when was the Qin dynasty overthrown?

Summary and Reflection

Directions: Summarize the main ideas of this lesson by answering the question below.

Describe the political, social, and economic changes that took place during the Qin dynasty.

Guided Reading Activity

The logo for 'networks' features the word in a bold, lowercase sans-serif font. To the right of the text is a stylized graphic of a network or starburst, consisting of several lines radiating from a central point, with some lines ending in small circles.

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Lesson 3 *The Han Dynasty*

Review Questions

Directions: Read each main idea. Use your textbook to supply the details that support or explain each main idea.

A. Main Idea: Liu Pang and his successors quickly established control over their new empire.

1. Detail: Liu Pang, the first _____ emperor, replaced the cruel punishments of Legalism, employed a policy of _____, and adopted _____ principles.

2. Detail: Liu Pang's dynasty introduced the _____, examination and hired officials on the basis of _____.

3. Detail: Although the Han period was prosperous, landowning _____ suffered from demands on them, such as _____ service and periods of forced _____.

4. Detail: The Han era saw a major expansion of state-owned _____ and _____ by sea routes and overland along the _____.

5. Detail: Han technologies included the invention of _____, the art of _____, and innovations in the _____ of ships.

6. Detail: Han _____ achievements included the development of Confucian classics for children and works of political and social _____.

B. Main Idea: As weak rulers amused themselves with court life, the power of the Han dynasty declined, and the empire fell prey to invaders.

1. Detail: By A.D. 170, _____, _____ at the court, and peasant _____ brought about the virtual collapse of the Han dynasty.

2. Detail: After a general seized control in A.D. 220, China fell prey to _____ war and _____ from the north.

