

CHAPTER
3
SECTION 4

Note Taking Study Guide

RISE OF CIVILIZATION IN CHINA

Focus Question: What characteristics defined the civilization that developed in China under its early rulers?

As you read this section in your textbook, complete the following outline to sequence the important events in early China.

I.	_____
A.	_____
1.	_____
2.	_____
3.	_____
4.	_____
B.	_____
1.	_____
2.	_____
II.	_____
A.	_____
B.	_____
1.	_____
2.	_____
III.	_____
A.	_____
B.	_____
C.	_____
1.	_____
2.	_____
D.	_____
IV.	_____
A.	_____
B.	_____

(Outline continues on the next page.)

CHAPTER
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RISE OF CIVILIZATION IN CHINA

(Continued from page 31)

V. _____
A. _____
B. _____
C. _____

VI. _____
A. _____
B. _____
C. _____
 1. _____
 2. _____
D. _____

CHAPTER

3

SECTION 4

Section Summary

RISE OF CIVILIZATION IN CHINA

The earliest civilization in China grew along the Huang River. This river carries **loess**, or fine windblown yellow soil, which raises the water level. People suffered from the river's frequent floods. The need to control the water likely led to the rise of government.

The Shang dynasty began about 1766 B.C. Kings ruled along with princes. The princes were probably the heads of **clans**, or groups of families claiming a common ancestor. Shang warriors used leather armor, bronze weapons, and horse-drawn chariots. They may have learned of chariots as they interacted with other Asian peoples.

The Zhou people overthrew the Shang in 1122 B.C. They promoted the Mandate of Heaven, or divine right to rule. This idea later expanded to explain the **dynastic cycle**, or rise and fall of dynasties. If rulers became corrupt, heaven would withdraw support and dynasties would fail. The Zhou established **feudalism**, where lords governed their own land but owed military service and support to a ruler. In the 600s B.C., iron tools made farming more productive and the population increased. The Zhou dynasty ended when fighting feudal lords could not be controlled.

During the Shang dynasty, the Chinese prayed to many gods and nature spirits. During the Zhou dynasty, two great thinkers emerged: **Confucius** and **Laozi**. Confucius developed a **philosophy**, or system of ideas, that greatly influenced Chinese civilization. Confucius was concerned with social order and good government. He emphasized five key relationships between people. **Filial piety**, or respect for parents, was everyone's highest duty.

Laozi founded Daoism about the same time. It emphasized that people should live in harmony with nature. They should look beyond everyday cares and focus on the Dao, or "the way."

One great achievement of early China was silk-making. The Chinese kept the technique a secret for many years. They also developed a system of writing at least 4,000 years ago. Questions were written on **oracle bones**. After heating the bones, priests interpreted the answers. Later, a writing system evolved that included thousands of **characters**, or written symbols. The Chinese then turned writing into an art called **calligraphy**.

Review Questions

1. What impact did iron tools have on China?

2. What was the focus of Confucius' teachings?

READING CHECK

What is the dynastic cycle?

VOCABULARY STRATEGY

What does the word *interacted* mean in the underlined sentence? Break the word into parts. The prefix *inter-* means "between," "among," or "with." The word *act* means "to do something." Use these word-part clues to help you figure out the meaning of *interacted*.

READING SKILL

Recognize Sequence Did Confucianism emerge before or after 1122 B.C.?
