My Story: The Wisdom of Zhang Shi, Mother of Mencius

When did the story take place?

What was the most honorable occupation at this time?

Why did Zhang Shi cut apart her beautiful weaving?

What happened to Zhang Shi's son when he grew up?

How did location influence Mencius?
Settling Along the Huang River

Section 1
Journal Through History: Ancient China

Watch the following video for a glimpse of Ancient China.

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=YazkYpKsA-4
Learning Target

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I can describe how geography influenced the unique development of Chinese civilization.
Ancient China Vocabulary

- **Loess**: fine, dustlike material that can form soil.
- **Dikes**: walls to hold back water
- **Oracle bones**: animal bones or turtle shells carved with written characters that the Shang used to try to tell the future.
- **Pictographs**: pictures that represent words or ideas
Key Ideas

- Geographic features isolated ancient China from other early civilizations.
- Farming settlements along the Huang River were the beginning of Chinese civilization.
- Achievements of the Shang dynasty included advanced bronze work and development of writing.
Geography of China

- Chinese civilization rose along the Huang (Yellow) River.
- The Shang kingdom rose to become the most influential kingdom.
- Physical features that cover China are mountains, deserts, plains, and river valleys.
River Systems

China has two main rivers:
- Huang/ Yellow River
- Chang River

- They provide water for farming. People move goods along them.
- Loess makes the Huang river muddy and turns the river yellow.
- Loess creates lands suited for agriculture when the river floods.
Travel and trade between China and other civilizations was difficult. China developed its own traditions and way of life.
Geographic features that isolate China

- Gobi Desert
- Mountains and the Taklimakan Desert
- Himalayas
- Pacific Ocean
Shang Dynasty

- In farming villages, people used stone tools and made pottery and silk cloth.
- Strong chiefs emerged as rulers.
- The Shang dynasty rose around 1700 B.C. and lasted 600 years
  - A dynasty is a ruling family that holds power for many years.
  - Earliest dynasty with written record
- Power was kept within the family.
- Large harvests supported armies.
- Built large walled cities
The earliest written records from China are oracle bones from the Shang dynasty.
- The king or priest would interpret the animals bones/turtle shells
- The Shang used pictographs for writing.
  - Represent words, ideas, and/or sounds
Bronze Metalworking

- Shang artisans are best known for their bronze metalworking. (finely decorated pots, cups, and weapons)
- The Shang used expensive beautiful bronzes in religious ceremonies.
- Human and animal sacrifices were prepared with bronze blades.
You have been named the official artists of the Shang dynasty.

Your assignment: create a bronze pot highlighting the achievements of the Shang.

See “A Bronze Pot Tells a Story” Assignment for details.
Section 1 Assessment Questions

Complete Textbook Page 499 #2, 3, 4, 5, 8 on loose leaf.
2. Use oracle bones and pictograph to describe Chinese language.

The earliest Chinese records are oracle bones carved with pictographs.
3. What are the two major rivers in China?

Huang River, Chang River
4. What were two accomplishments of the Shang dynasty?

- Expansion of territory
- Walled cities
- First writing system
- Bronze metalworking
5. How did the leaders of the Shang dynasty increase their power?

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Large harvests enabled them to support large armies, which attacked neighboring lands.
8. How did the Huang River affect the lives of the Chinese who settled along its banks?

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It flowed through the Huang River valley, which held loess from the Gobi. The river picked up the loess and deposited it on the North China Plain when it overflowed its banks, creating fertile soil.
Section 2: China Under the Zhou Dynasty
Ancient China Vocabulary

- **Mandate of Heaven:** Heaven is the highest force of nature, which gives dynasties the right to rule.
- **Warlord:** military rulers of small states.
- **Chaos:** total disorder and confusion.
- **Warring States Period:** the era of chaos and brutal and destructive conflict (475 B.C.-221 B.C.)
Please do workbook p. 176 in complete sentences.
Learning Target

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I can identify the social structure and government features of ancient Chinese society.
Key Ideas

● The Zhou dynasty defeated the Shang dynasty in about 1050 BC
● The Zhou developed the idea of the Mandate of Heaven, which explained the rise and fall of dynasties.
● The kings of the Zhou dynasty expanded their empire but had difficulty controlling their large territory.
The Rise and Fall of the Zhou

The Zhou expanded the boundaries of their kingdom.

- Zhou expanded the land through conquest.
- The Zhou king placed family members in charge of individual regions or states.
- They claimed that heaven supported the change in leadership and that it bestowed on them the Mandate of Heaven.
  - To stay in power, rulers must act virtuously.
The Rise and Fall of the Zhou

The second part of the Zhou dynasty became a time of chaos.

- China entered an era of chaos—total disaster and confusion.
- Warlords made states grow more independent and hoped to gain power themselves.
- The Warring States Period begins.
  - Marked by brutal and destructive conflict.
  - Millions of people died.
- Loyalty to the Zhou disappeared.
The Zhou adopted some but not all Shang practices.

- They followed basic laws, spoke the same language, and wore similar clothes.
- They produced bronze that rivaled the Shang.
- Zhou kings gave up practice of human sacrifices and oracle bones.
Zhou Society

Both nobles and peasants had duties to fulfill.

- Nobles were expected to serve the king and raise armies to support the king.
- Peasants farmed the land and served as soldiers in battle.
Zhou Society

Zhou achievements improved warfare, agriculture, and trade.

- The crossbow was invented.
- Iron was used to make weapons and farming tools.
- Fertilizer and irrigation helped increase crops
- Coins were used for trade.
- Roads helped improve travel and trade.
Assessment Questions:

- Textbook p. 503 #1-7 on loose leaf.
1. What is a warlord?

A military ruler of a small state.
2. Use the terms chaos and Warring States period to write a sentences about China under the Zhou dynasty.

Chaos troubled China during the Warring States period in the late Zhou dynasty.
3. How did the Zhou dynasty establish its right to rule in China?

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It claimed that it had received the Mandate of Heaven.
4. How did the power of the king change during the Zhou dynasty?

The power of the Zhou king decreased when he became dependent on nobles.
5. How was the Zhou dynasty similar and different from the Shang dynasty?

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**Similarities:** same basic laws, similar clothing, spoke the same language, produced bronze art

**Differences:** Zhou rulers gave up human sacrifice and oracle bones, and eventually lost power to individual states and nobles.
6. How did the invention of coins help make trade easier?

Coins could be exchanged instead of bartering (exchanging one good for another good) goods for trade.
7. How did China’s geography make it difficult for the Zhou kings to keep their large kingdom united?

The extensive territory ruled by the Zhou was far-flung, extending from the Huang River valley to the Chang River valley. Many different cultures lived in this vast territory, which included mountainous regions as well as fertile plains.
Fill in the web with technological, economic, and cultural advances that occurred during the Zhou dynasty.

- Giving up human sacrifices
- Invention of the crossbow
- Iron weapons and farm tools
- Building a road network
- Using coins
- Support of poets and artists
Chapter 13, Sections 1 and 2

- Study 8 vocab words and be able to apply them
- Study Notes and workbook pages
- Major rivers in China
- Physical boundaries isolating China
- First two dynasties
- **Know accomplishments and defining features of each dynasty**
Section 3: Religions and Beliefs of Ancient China
Ancient China Vocabulary

- **Philosophy:** A set of beliefs about the world and how to live
- **Ancestor worship:** practices of honoring the spirits of the dead
- **Confucianism:** the teachings of the thinker Confucius
- **Filial piety:** the devotion of children to their parents
- **Daoism:** ancient Chinese way of life that emphasized simple and natural existence.
Learning Target

I can describe the religious beliefs that ancient China developed to help explain the world around them.
Key Ideas

- Traditional Chinese beliefs focused on spirits and importance of ancestors.
- Confucianism and Daoism were important philosophies developed during the Zhou dynasty.
Zhou Philosophies

- Confucianism and Daoism are two important philosophies that influence all aspects of society.
- Before these philosophies appeared, Chinese followed ancient spiritual traditions.
**Spiritual Traditions**

- Heaven: spirits of sun, moons, stars, storms.
- Earth: spirits lived in hills, rivers, rocks, seas.
- Spirits rule the daily lives of people.
  - Good spirits: made rains fall, crops grow
  - Harmful spirits: unsafe to walk on the roads at night.
- The most important spirits were ancestors
  - The key to a good relationship with them for the living was to honor the dead
  - Chinese developed many rituals to honor their ancestors. These practices are known as ancestor worship.
Be Good: Leading by Example

According to Confucius, two ways people can learn value and good behavior are

1. Education
2. Rituals
The Teachings of Confucius

- Confucius is known as “First Teacher” and is honored for his great wisdom.
- Return to Zhou values would restore China.
- The Five relationships
  - 1. Ruler and subject
  - 2. Father and son
  - 3. Husband and wife
  - 4. Older and younger brothers
  - 5. Two friends
- The devotion of children to their parents is called filial piety
  - This is the most important virtue of confucianism
Beliefs of Daoism

- It is a philosophy of following the natural way of the universe.
- According to the legend, Laozi founded Daoism.
- Ancient Chinese believed two great forces were at work in nature
  - Two great forces: Yin and Yang
  - Yin: female force (dark, cool, quiet)
  - Yang: male force (bright, warm, active)
  - Chinese thinkers believed balance between yin and yang is key to harmony in the universe
- The Dao “the way” is the source of yin and yang.
The Yin and Yang

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ezmR9Attpyc
Confucianism Vs. Daoism

- Daoists believe a good leader takes little action, leaving people to live a simple life.
- Daoists are not concerned with morals, rituals, and learning that Confucians value.
Review Questions

Textbook p. 509 in complete sentences on loose leaf.
1. What is a philosophy?

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A set of beliefs about the world and how to live
2. Use the term filial piety to describe the ideas of Confucius

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Filial piety was the model of respect and proper behavior for the other four relationships and would bring order to society.
3. How did the people in ancient China believe that spirits influenced their lives?

Good spirits made the rains fall and crops grow, helped sailors travel safely, and brought happiness. Evil spirits might be harmful or bring bad luck.
4. What are the five relationships of Confucianism?
5. How did Confucianism and Daoism develop different solutions to the chaos of the Warring States Period?

Confucianism stated that chaos would end if rulers governed well and justly. Daoism stated that chaos would end if people lived simply and followed the Dao.
6. Why did the ancient Chinese place special emphasis on the spirits of their ancestors?

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The spirits of ancestors would protect and guide those who took care of them.
7. How did Chinese geography have a special influence on beliefs in ancient China?

The ancient Chinese believed that geographic elements such as the climate, natural disasters, the seasons, and physical features were directed or inhabited by spirits.
Take Ancient China Test.