CHAPTER 4 / ANCIENT CHINA

The Rise and Growth of China to ca. A.D. 200 | 48 recall cards

Course-guide topics | Modern spellings; older textbook forms explained on page 17

01 / **QUESTION**

Which two river systems were central to early Chinese civilization?

Geography

02 / **QUESTION**

What is loess?

Geography

03 / **QUESTION**

Which grain was important in early northern China?

Geography

04 / **QUESTION**

Which crop became especially important in southern China?

Geography

05 / **QUESTION**

How did mountains and deserts affect early China?

Geography

06 / **QUESTION**

Put Shang, Han, Zhou, and Qin in chronological order.

Chronology

CHAPTER 4 / ANCIENT CHINA

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02 / **ANSWER**

Fine, wind-deposited soil that helped make northern Chinese farmland fertile.

Geography — Source C

01 / **ANSWER**

The Huang He (Yellow River) and the Chang Jiang (Yangtze).

Geography — Source A

04 / **ANSWER**

Rice, particularly in the warmer, wetter Yangtze region.

Geography — Source C

03 / **ANSWER**

Millet, suited to the cooler, drier north.

Geography — Source C

06 / **ANSWER**

Shang, Zhou, Qin, Han.

Chronology — Source B

05 / **ANSWER**

They made some journeys difficult and helped produce regional differences; they did not prevent outside contact.

Geography — Source C

CHAPTER 4 / ANCIENT CHINA

The Rise and Growth of China to ca. A.D. 200 | 48 recall cards

Course-guide topics | Modern spellings; older textbook forms explained on page 17

07 / **QUESTION**

Approximately when did the Shang dynasty rule?

Shang

08 / **QUESTION**

Which site is especially associated with the late Shang capital?

Shang

09 / **QUESTION**

What were oracle bones used for?

Shang

10 / **QUESTION**

Why are oracle-bone inscriptions important to historians?

Shang

11 / **QUESTION**

How were religion and royal power connected under the Shang?

Shang

12 / **QUESTION**

What were two important uses of bronze in Shang society?

Shang

08 / **ANSWER**

Anyang, including the archaeological site of Yinxu.

Shang — Source B

07 / **ANSWER**

About 1600-1046 BCE. Early dynastic dates vary between references.

Shang — Source B

10 / **ANSWER**

They preserve early Chinese writing and evidence about royal rituals, warfare, and concerns.

Shang — Source A

09 / **ANSWER**

Divination: interpreting cracks in heated animal bones or turtle shells to answer questions.

Shang — Source A

12 / **ANSWER**

Ritual vessels and weapons.

Shang — Source A

11 / **ANSWER**

Kings performed rituals and communicated with ancestors, reinforcing their authority.

Shang — Source A

13 / **QUESTION**

Which dynasty overthrew the Shang?

Zhou

14 / **QUESTION**

How did early Zhou kings govern distant territories?

Zhou

15 / **QUESTION**

What was the Mandate of Heaven?

Zhou

16 / **QUESTION**

How could the Mandate of Heaven justify replacing a dynasty?

Zhou

17 / **QUESTION**

What distinguishes Western Zhou from Eastern Zhou?

Zhou

18 / **QUESTION**

What characterized the Warring States period?

Zhou

14 / **ANSWER**

They entrusted regional domains to relatives and allied aristocratic families.

Zhou — Source B

13 / **ANSWER**

The Zhou, around 1046 BCE.

Zhou — Source B

16 / **ANSWER**

Oppression and disorder could be interpreted as loss of Heaven's support, legitimizing a successor.

Zhou — Source C

15 / **ANSWER**

The belief that Heaven authorized a ruler to govern, conditional on proper rule.

Zhou — Source C

18 / **ANSWER**

Rival states fought for supremacy until Qin achieved unification in 221 BCE.

Zhou — Source B

17 / **ANSWER**

The court moved east to Luoyang in 770 BCE; royal authority weakened as regional states gained power.

Zhou — Source B

19 / **QUESTION**

Why did competing philosophies flourish in the later Zhou period?

Philosophy

20 / **QUESTION**

Who was Confucius, and when did he live?

Confucianism

21 / **QUESTION**

Which text preserves sayings and conversations attributed to Confucius?

Confucianism

22 / **QUESTION**

What does ren mean in Confucian thought?

Confucianism

23 / **QUESTION**

What does li mean in Confucian thought?

Confucianism

24 / **QUESTION**

What is filial piety?

Confucianism

20 / **ANSWER**

A teacher and thinker, traditionally dated 551-479 BCE, concerned with ethical conduct and good government.

Confucianism — Source D

19 / **ANSWER**

Political conflict encouraged thinkers to seek ways to restore order and govern well.

Philosophy — Source A

22 / **ANSWER**

Humaneness or benevolence: treating others with moral concern.

Confucianism — Source C

21 / **ANSWER**

The Analects, compiled by followers.

Confucianism — Source A

24 / **ANSWER**

Respect and responsibility toward parents and ancestors.

Confucianism — Source E

23 / **ANSWER**

Ritual propriety: appropriate rites and conduct that help order relationships.

Confucianism — Source C

25 / **QUESTION**

How should a ruler maintain order, according to Confucian ideals?

Confucianism

26 / **QUESTION**

Why was education important to Confucian thinkers?

Confucianism

27 / **QUESTION**

What does Dao mean?

Daoism

28 / **QUESTION**

Who is traditionally associated with the Daodejing?

Daoism

29 / **QUESTION**

What does wu wei suggest?

Daoism

30 / **QUESTION**

How did Legalist thinkers propose to secure order?

Legalism

26 / **ANSWER**

It cultivated moral character and prepared people for responsible conduct and service.

Confucianism — Source E

25 / **ANSWER**

Through moral example, education, and proper relationships.

Confucianism — Source E

28 / **ANSWER**

Laozi (Lao-tzu), whose historical identity is uncertain.

Daoism — Source D

27 / **ANSWER**

The Way: the underlying course or order of nature.

Daoism — Source D

30 / **ANSWER**

Through strong institutions, clear standards, and predictable rewards and punishments.

Legalism — Source D

29 / **ANSWER**

Action without forcing: acting in harmony with the Way rather than imposing excessive control.

Daoism — Source C

31 / **QUESTION**

Which thinker is closely associated with Legalism?

Legalism

32 / **QUESTION**

What is a key difference between Confucian and Legalist approaches to government?

Comparison

33 / **QUESTION**

In what year did Qin unify the rival states?

Qin

34 / **QUESTION**

Who was Qin Shi Huang?

Qin

35 / **QUESTION**

How did Qin government differ from early Zhou government?

Qin

36 / **QUESTION**

Name three things standardized under Qin rule.

Qin

32 / **ANSWER**

Confucianism emphasizes moral cultivation; Legalism emphasizes institutions and enforceable standards.

Comparison — Source E

31 / **ANSWER**

Han Fei (Han Feizi), who died in 233 BCE.

Legalism — Source D

34 / **ANSWER**

The Qin ruler who conquered the other major states and took the title First Emperor.

Qin — Source F

33 / **ANSWER**

221 BCE.

Qin — Source F

36 / **ANSWER**

Writing, weights and measures, and coinage.

Qin — Source F

35 / **ANSWER**

Qin used centrally appointed officials to administer territories rather than relying on hereditary regional lords.

Qin — Source F

37 / **QUESTION**

How could standardization strengthen an empire?

Qin

38 / **QUESTION**

What did Qin Shi Huang do with northern defensive walls?

Qin

39 / **QUESTION**

What was the Terracotta Army?

Qin

40 / **QUESTION**

When did the Qin dynasty end, and which dynasty followed?

Chronology

41 / **QUESTION**

Who founded the Han ruling house?

Han

42 / **QUESTION**

What are the conventional dates of the Han dynasty?

Han

38 / **ANSWER**

He connected and extended earlier walls. Much of the wall visible today dates to later dynasties.

Qin

Source F

37 / **ANSWER**

It made administration, exchange, and communication across regions easier.

Qin

Source F

40 / **ANSWER**

Qin ended in 206 BCE; Han followed, consolidating the imperial system.

Chronology

Source B

39 / **ANSWER**

Life-size clay soldiers and other figures made to guard the First Emperor's tomb complex.

Qin

Source F

42 / **ANSWER**

206 BCE-220 CE, interrupted by Wang Mang's Xin dynasty (9-23 CE). Eastern Han began in 25 CE.

Han

Source B

41 / **ANSWER**

Liu Bang, known as Emperor Gaozu; he became emperor in 202 BCE.

Han

Source D

43 / **QUESTION**

What major Qin institution did the Han retain?

Han

44 / **QUESTION**

Which Han emperor is associated with strong support for Confucian learning?

Han

45 / **QUESTION**

Did Han government abandon laws and punishments when it supported Confucianism?

Han

46 / **QUESTION**

What was the Silk Road?

Han

47 / **QUESTION**

Who was Sima Qian?

Han culture

48 / **QUESTION**

Why did Confucianism become influential in Chinese political and social life?

Review

44 / **ANSWER**

Emperor Wu (Han Wudi), who ruled 141-87 BCE.

Han

Source A

43 / **ANSWER**

An imperial bureaucracy serving a central emperor.

Han

Source A

46 / **ANSWER**

A network of trade routes linking China through Central Asia with regions farther west.

Han

Source D

45 / **ANSWER**

No. Confucian ideals coexisted with legal and administrative methods inherited from earlier rulers.

Han

Source E

48 / **ANSWER**

It linked family duties, moral education, and good government, and gained support from Han rulers.

Review

Source E

47 / **ANSWER**

A Han historian who compiled the Records of the Grand Historian (Shiji).

Han culture

Source D

Printing and study notes

Scope. These 48 cards follow Week 4 of your course guide for *A History of World Societies*, third edition (Chapter 4, pp. 87-114). They cover the guide's themes and include supplementary facts checked against the references below. The textbook chapter itself was not available for direct comparison. Early dates can differ between references.

Print. Print pages 1-16 only for the cards: A4, portrait, actual size (100%), double-sided, flip on the long edge. Each pair of pages makes six cards. Test pages 1-2 before printing the full set. The answer columns are intentionally reversed so they match the questions when turned over. This notes page is optional.

Study. Say the answer before turning a card over. Sort cards into correct, uncertain, and incorrect piles. Review difficult cards again the next day; space confident answers farther apart. Try the review card as a short argument using two specific examples.

Spelling bridge. Qin = Ch'in; Zhou = Chou; Daoism = Taoism; Laozi = Lao-tzu; Han Feizi = Han Fei Tzu; Qin Shi Huang = Ch'in Shih Huang. These are alternative romanizations, not different people or dynasties. BCE corresponds to BC; CE corresponds to AD.

Chronology. Han is conventionally dated from 206 BCE, although Liu Bang became emperor in 202 BCE. Zhou royal rule ended in 256 BCE, while the Warring States period continued until Qin unification in 221 BCE. The Han ended in 220 CE, slightly beyond the chapter title's approximate cutoff.

References for checking answers. The source letters on card backs refer to the following resources. Course scope: *History of World Societies: Complete 39-Week Study Guide*, Week 4.

A - Columbia University, Asia for Educators: Key Points, 4000 BCE-1000 CE

B - Columbia University, Asia for Educators: China Timeline

C - OpenStax: World History, Volume 1, section 5.1, Ancient China

D - Smithsonian National Museum of Asian Art: Timeline of Chinese History, Art, and Culture

E - Columbia University, Asia for Educators: Central Themes for a Unit on China

F - The Metropolitan Museum of Art: Qin Dynasty (221-206 B.C.)