

Unit 1: Ancient China

Content Area: **Social Studies**
Course(s): **Social Studies 6**
Time Period: **September**
Length: **2 months**
Status: **Published**

Unit Summary

Many early civilizations began along major rivers. Artifacts influence what we know or do not know about ancient civilizations. Geographic location, including barriers to movement, influences the development of cultures and countries. Thinkers develop new ideas in response to the problems of their times. Standardization of language, transportation, weights and measures, and currency builds economic unity across a country. Throughout history, leaders have created centralized, bureaucratic governments to rule large empires. Trade routes are important to cultural change and diffusion. Within this unit, there will be a focus on the elements of geography, inventions, the use of iron, ancestors, and oracle bones. In addition, one will explore the Dynasties (Zhou, Shang, Han, Qin), First Chinese Empire, Confucius, Daoism, Shihuangdi, Terra Cotta Army, The Grand School, and Fall of the Han Dynasty.

Standards

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| SOC.6.1.8.A | Civics, Government, and Human Rights |
| SOC.6.1.8.C.2.a | Compare the practice of slavery and indentured servitude in Colonial labor systems. |
| SOC.6.1.8.D.2.a | Analyze the power struggle among European countries, and determine its impact on people living in Europe and the Americas. |
| SOC.6.2.8.A.2.a | Explain how/why different early river valley civilizations developed similar forms of government and legal structures. |
| SOC.6.2.8.A.2.b | Determine the role of slavery in the economic and social structures of early river valley civilizations. |
| SOC.6.2.8.B | Geography, People, and the Environment |
| SOC.6.2.8.B.2.a | Determine the extent to which geography influenced settlement, the development of trade networks, technological innovations, and the sustainability of early river valley civilizations. |
| SOC.6.2.8.B.2.b | Compare and contrast physical and political maps of early river valley civilizations and their modern counterparts (i.e., Mesopotamia and Iraq; Ancient Egypt and Modern Egypt; Indus River Valley and Modern Pakistan/India; Ancient China and Modern China), and determine the geopolitical impact of these civilizations, then and now. |
| SOC.6.2.8.C.2.a | Explain how technological advancements led to greater economic specialization, improved weaponry, trade, and the development of a class system in early river valley civilizations. |
| SOC.6.2.8.D | History, Culture, and Perspectives |
| SOC.6.2.8.D.3.a | Compare and contrast social hierarchies in classical civilizations as they relate to power, wealth, and equality. |
| SOC.6.2.8.D.3.b | Determine common factors that contributed to the decline and fall of the Roman Empire, Gupta India, and Han China. |
| SOC.6.2.8.D.3.c | Evaluate the importance and enduring legacy of the major achievements of Greece, Rome, India, and China over time. |
| SOC.6.2.8.D.3.d | Compare and contrast the tenets of various world religions that developed in or around this time period (i.e., Buddhism, Christianity, Confucianism, Islam, Judaism, Sikhism, and Taoism), their patterns of expansion, and their responses to the current challenges of |

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| | globalization. |
| CAEP.9.2.8.B.3 | Evaluate communication, collaboration, and leadership skills that can be developed through school, home, work, and extracurricular activities for use in a career. |
| CAEP.9.2.8.B.4 | Evaluate how traditional and nontraditional careers have evolved regionally, nationally, and globally. |
| TECH.8.1.8.A.1 | Demonstrate knowledge of a real world problem using digital tools. |
| TECH.8.1.8.A.CS1 | Understand and use technology systems. |
| TECH.8.1.8.A.CS2 | Select and use applications effectively and productively. |
| TECH.8.1.8.D.CS2 | Demonstrate personal responsibility for lifelong learning. |
| TECH.8.2.8.A.CS1 | The characteristics and scope of technology. |
| TECH.8.2.8.A.CS2 | The core concepts of technology. |
| TECH.8.2.8.B.1 | Evaluate the history and impact of sustainability on the development of a designed product or system over time and present results to peers. |
| TECH.8.2.8.B.CS1 | The cultural, social, economic and political effects of technology. |
| TECH.8.2.8.B.CS4 | The influence of technology on history. |

Student Learning Objectives

- Students will learn how geographic features isolated China from other civilizations.
- Students will learn that Chinese civilization arose along the Huang River.
- Students will learn achievements of the Shang dynasty.
- Students will learn the concept of the Mandate of Heaven.
- Students will learn how the Zhou expanded their empire.
- Students will learn the structure and features of Zhou society.
- Students will learn characteristics of ancestor worship.
- Students will learn goals and beliefs of Confucianism and Daosim.

Essential Questions

- How have inventions from ancient China impacted the 21st century world?
- How did the Chinese relationship to their ancestors shape their beliefs and society as a whole?
- How did Shihugandi's rule both harm and help China?
- Why did the Han dynasty collapse and what could have been done to preserve it?

Enduring Understandings

- Students will understand that the structure of the dynasties and empires have affected China's government, culture, and daily life.
- Students will understand that the inventions from China have impacted technology and daily life in the modern world.
- Students will understand that China developed due to favorable geographic conditions.
- Students will understand that they created centralized systems of government and advanced societies.

Application

- Students will be able to independently use their learning to understand that many early civilizations began along major rivers.
- Students will be able to independently use their learning to understand that artifacts influence what we know or do not know about ancient civilizations.
- Students will be able to independently use their learning to understand geographic location, including barriers to movement, influences the development of cultures and countries.
- Students will be able to independently use their learning to see that thinkers develop new ideas in response to the problems of their times.

Skills

Students will be skilled at:

- Determining the extent to which geography influenced settlement, the development of trade networks, technological innovations, and the sustainability of Chinese river valley civilizations.
- Comparing and contrasting physical and political maps of ancient river valley civilizations and their modern counterparts (Ancient China and Modern China), and determine the geopolitical impact of these civilizations, then and now.
- Explaining how technological advancements led to greater economic specialization, improved weaponry, trade, and the development of a class system in China.
- Analyzing the impact of religion on daily life, government, and culture in China.
- Explaining how the development of written language transformed all aspects of life in China.
- Justifying which of the major achievements/inventions of China represent the most enduring legacies.
- Determining the extent to which religions, mythologies, and other belief systems shaped China's values.