Updated: Unit 3 China (6th Grade)

Content Area: **Social Studies**
Course(s):
Time Period: **MP3**
Length: **9 weeks**
Status: **Published**

Essential Questions: Guiding Questions

Unit Guiding Questions

- How did geography influence the development of Ancient Chinese civilization?
- What characteristics make a civilization successful and lasting?
- How did government, philosophy, and technology shape Ancient China?
- How did the achievements of Ancient China influence the modern world?
- What lessons can we learn from the rise and fall of ancient civilizations?

Geography of Ancient China

- Where did the earliest Chinese civilizations develop?
- How did the Huang River (Yellow River) and Yangtze River influence settlement and agriculture?
- Why was the Huang River known as both a benefit and a challenge to early Chinese societies?
- How did mountains, deserts, and rivers affect China’s development and isolation?
- How did geography influence the culture and traditions of Ancient China?

Early Chinese Dynasties: Shang and Zhou

- How did early Chinese dynasties develop and organize their societies?
- What role did kings and rulers play in Shang society?
- How did religion and ancestor worship influence Shang culture?
- What do oracle bones reveal about Shang civilization?
- How did the Zhou Dynasty gain power over the Shang Dynasty?
- What was the Mandate of Heaven, and how did it influence Chinese rulers?
- How did the Dynastic Cycle explain the rise and fall of Chinese dynasties?

Chinese Government and Society

- How did Ancient China organize its government and social classes?
- Why were strong leaders important in maintaining order in Ancient China?
- How did rulers justify their right to govern?
- How did government systems change from the Shang to the Han Dynasty?
- What qualities did ancient Chinese people believe made a good leader?

Chinese Philosophies and Belief Systems

Confucianism

- Who was Confucius, and what ideas did he teach?
- How did Confucianism influence family relationships and social order?
- Why did Confucius believe education was important?
- How did Confucian ideas influence Chinese government?

Daoism

- What were the main teachings of Laozi and Daoism?
- How did Daoism encourage people to live in harmony with nature?
- How are Confucianism and Daoism similar and different?

Legalism

- What were the main beliefs of Legalism?
- Why did Legalists believe strict laws were necessary?
- How did Legalism influence the Qin Dynasty?

Qin Dynasty

- How did Qin Shi Huangdi unify China?
- How did Qin leaders use Legalism to control the empire?

- What achievements helped strengthen the Qin Dynasty?
- Why did Qin Shi Huangdi create a standardized system of writing, currency, and measurements?
- What was the purpose of the Great Wall of China and the Terracotta Army?
- What were the strengths and weaknesses of Qin rule?

Han Dynasty

- How did the Han Dynasty improve and expand China?
- What made the Han Dynasty one of China's most successful dynasties?
- How did the Silk Road connect China with other civilizations?
- How did trade influence cultural exchange between China and other regions?
- What inventions and achievements were created during the Han Dynasty?
- Why is the Han Dynasty considered an important period in Chinese history?

Ancient China's Achievements and Legacy

- What inventions and ideas from Ancient China continue to impact the world today?
- How did Chinese innovations improve daily life?
- Why are writing, technology, and education important to the development of civilizations?
- How did Ancient China's philosophies influence future generations?
- Which achievement of Ancient China had the greatest impact on the world? Why?

Learning Targets (examples)

Geography of Ancient China Learning Targets

- I can locate Ancient China and identify important geographic features.
- I can explain how the Huang River (Yellow River) and Yangtze River influenced the growth of Chinese civilization.
- I can describe how geography affected farming, settlements, and daily life in Ancient China.

- I can explain how mountains, deserts, and rivers both protected and isolated Ancient China.
- I can analyze the relationship between geography and the development of civilizations.

Shang Dynasty Learning Targets

- I can describe the development and achievements of the Shang Dynasty.
- I can explain the role of kings, nobles, and social classes in Shang society.
- I can describe how religion and ancestor worship influenced Shang culture.
- I can explain the importance of oracle bones as a source of historical information.
- I can identify Shang achievements in writing, bronze technology, and art.

Zhou Dynasty Learning Targets

- I can explain how the Zhou Dynasty gained control of China.
- I can describe the concept of the Mandate of Heaven.
- I can explain how the Dynastic Cycle describes the rise and fall of Chinese dynasties.
- I can analyze how the Mandate of Heaven influenced Chinese rulers.
- I can describe how the Zhou Dynasty contributed to Chinese culture and government.

Chinese Philosophies Learning Targets

Confucianism

- I can identify the major teachings of Confucius.
- I can explain how Confucianism influenced family relationships, education, and government.
- I can describe why Confucius believed respect and responsibility were important.

Daoism

- I can identify the beliefs and teachings of Daoism.

- I can explain how Daoism emphasizes balance and harmony with nature.
- I can compare the ideas of Confucianism and Daoism.

Legalism

- I can explain the main beliefs of Legalism.
- I can describe why Legalists supported strict laws and strong government control.
- I can explain how Legalism influenced the Qin Dynasty.

Qin Dynasty Learning Targets

- I can explain how Qin Shi Huangdi unified China.
- I can describe how the Qin Dynasty used Legalism to govern.
- I can identify the achievements of Qin Shi Huangdi.
- I can explain the purpose and importance of the Great Wall of China.
- I can describe the significance of the Terracotta Army.
- I can evaluate the positive and negative effects of Qin rule.

Han Dynasty Learning Targets

- I can explain why the Han Dynasty is considered one of China's greatest dynasties.
- I can describe how Han rulers expanded and strengthened China.
- I can explain the importance of the Silk Road.
- I can describe how trade connected China with other civilizations.
- I can identify major Han achievements in science, technology, medicine, and literature.
- I can explain how inventions from the Han Dynasty impacted the world.

Ancient Chinese Achievements and Legacy Learning Targets

- I can identify important inventions and innovations from Ancient China.
- I can explain how Chinese inventions improved people's lives.

- I can describe the importance of Chinese writing and record keeping.
- I can explain how Chinese philosophies influenced future generations.
- I can evaluate the lasting impact of Ancient China's achievements.

Evidence/Assessments

- tests/quizzes
- writing
- primary source analysis
- benchmark assessment
- image analysis
- map and chart analysis
- warm ups
- exit tickets