

Section



WH6.6 Students analyze the geographic, political, economic, religious, and social structures of the early civilizations of China.

Guide to Reading

Ancient China

Life in

Looking Back, Looking Ahead

In Section 1, you learned about the Chinese government under the Zhou dynasty. This section describes what life was like during the Zhou dynasty.

Focusing on the Main Ideas

- Chinese society had three main social classes: landowning aristocrats, farmers, and merchants. (page 285)
- Three Chinese philosophies— Confucianism, Daoism, and Legalism—grew out of a need for order. (page 287)

Meeting People

Confucius (kuhn•FYOO•shuhs) Laozi (LOWD•ZOO) Hanfeizi (HAN•fay•DZOO)

Content Vocabulary

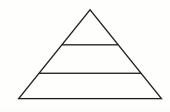
social class filial piety (FIH•lee•uhl PY•uh•tee) Confucianism (kuhn•FYOO•shuh•NIH•zuhm) Daoism (DOW•IH•zuhm) Legalism (LEE•guh•uH•zuhm)

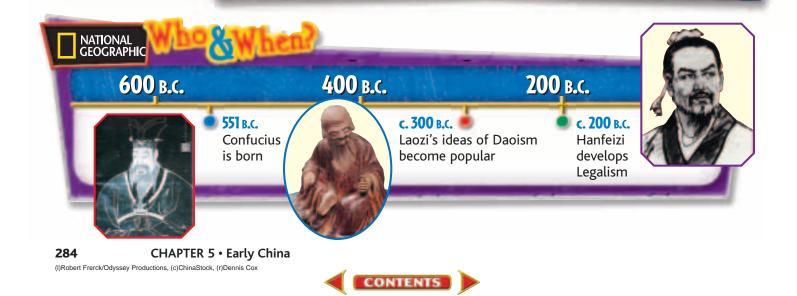
Academic Vocabulary

convince (kuhn • VIHNS)
promote (pruh • MOHT)

Reading Strategy

Organizing Information Create a pyramid diagram like the one below showing the social classes in ancient China from most powerful (top) to least powerful (bottom).







Life in Ancient China

Main Idea Chinese society had three main social classes: landowning aristocrats, farmers, and merchants.

Reading Connection Have you heard the terms *high society* and *working class?* They describe social classes in America. Read on to find out about social classes in early China.

A **social class** includes individuals who share a similar position in society. Early Chinese society had three main social classes:

- landowning aristocrats
- peasant farmers

Chinese Village

merchants

Classes in Chinese Society China's aristocratic families owned large estates in early China. They lived in large houses with tile roofs, courtyards, and gardens. Fine furniture and silk hangings filled their rooms, and their houses were surrounded by walls to keep out bandits.

The aristocratic families did not own large estates for long. Each aristocrat divided his land among his sons. As a result, sons and grandsons owned much less property than their fathers and grandfathers had owned.

Aristocrats relied on farmers to grow the crops that made them rich. About nine out of ten Chinese were farmers. They lived in simple houses inside village walls. The aristocrats owned the fields outside the village walls. In these fields, farmers in northern China grew wheat and a grain called millet. In the south, where the climate was warmer and wetter, they were able to grow rice.

Chinese farmers lived in small villages made up of several families. They farmed fields outside the village walls. How did farmers pay for the use of the land they farmed?

> Since horses were more valuable as war animals, farmers used oxen and water buffalo to pull plows and carts.

Villagers built walls that surrounded and protected the town.

Foot-pedaled hammers were used to remove grain and rice from their stalks.

Peasants planted and cultivated rice plants in large flooded fields.

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To pay for the use of the land, the farmers gave part of their crop to the landowners.

Most farmers also owned a small piece of land where they grew food for their family. A typical family ate fish, turnips, beans, wheat or rice, and millet. The farmers had to pay taxes and work one month each year building roads and helping on other big government projects. In wartime, the farmers also served as soldiers.

In Chinese society, farmers ranked above merchants. The merchant social class included shopkeepers, traders, and bankers. The merchants lived in towns and provided goods and services to the landowners.

Many merchants became quite rich, but landowners and farmers still looked down on them. Chinese leaders believed that government officials should not be concerned with money. As a result, merchants were not allowed to have government jobs.

What Was Life Like in a Chinese Family?

The family was the basic building block of Chinese society. Because farming in ancient China required many workers, people had big families to help them produce more and become wealthier. Even the young children of a family worked in the fields. Older sons raised their own crops and provided food for their parents. Chinese families also took care of people in need—the aged, the young, and the sick.

Chinese families practiced filial piety (FIH•lee•uhl PY•uh•tee). This meant that children had to respect their parents and older relatives. Family members placed the needs and desires of the head of the family before their own. The head of the family was the oldest male, usually the father. However, a son could take on this role, and then even his mother had to obey him.

NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC

Focus on Everyday Life

Chinese Farming Farmers in ancient China had to find ways to grow enough food to feed their large population. It was often difficult because of the dry, mountainous land.

Over centuries, farmers learned to cut terraces—flat areas, like a series of deep steps—into the mountain slopes. Terraces made more land available for farming and kept the soil from eroding, or wearing away. Early farmers also used the terraces as a way to irrigate their crops. As rain fell, it flowed down from one terrace to the

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Terrace farming in China





WH6.6.3 Know about the life of Confucius and the fundamental teachings of Confucianism and Daoism.WH6.6.4 Identify the political and cultural problems prevalent in the time of Confucius and how he sought to solve them.

Men and women had very different roles in early China. Men were respected because they grew the crops. They went to school, ran the government, and fought wars. The Chinese considered these jobs more important than the work that women did.

Chinese women could not hold government posts. However, women in the royal court could influence government decisions. Wives of rulers or women in the royal family often **convinced** men in power to see things their way. Although their role was limited, women also had an important influence in the home. Most women raised children and saw to their education. Many women also managed the family finances.

Reading Check Explain Why did the amount of land owned by each aristocrat decrease over time?

Chinese Thinkers

Main Idea Three Chinese philosophies–Confucianism, Daoism, and Legalism–grew out of a need for order.

Reading Connection If people around you were arguing and fighting, what would you do? Read to learn about early Chinese ideas for restoring order.

As the Zhou kingdom weakened in the 500s B.C., violence became common. During the Period of the Warring States, rulers sent armies to destroy enemy states. Whole villages of men, women, and children were beheaded. Many Chinese began looking for ways to restore order to society.

Between 500 B.C. and 200 B.C., Chinese thinkers developed three major theories about how to create a peaceful society. These theories are called Confucianism, Daoism, and Legalism.

next, watering the crops. This method of farming, called terrace farming, is still used in China today. Farmers in ancient China were the first to use insects to protect their crops from damage by other insects. As early as A.D. 304, Chinese farmers used ants to prevent other insects from damaging their citrus fruit trees. They also used frogs and birds for pest control.

> The ancient Chinese used bronze and iron tools like these to farm their land and harvest crops.

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Connecting to the Past

- 1. How did farmers in ancient China increase the amount of productive farmland?
- 2. What three farming methods helped farmers in ancient China grow more food?



|--|

Chine	se Num	bering S	ystem /		
Chinese Number	English Number	Chinese Number	English Number		
零	0	t	7	I	
	1	八	8	I	
	2	九	9	T	
=	3	+	10	I	
Ш	4	百	100	I	
五	5	千	1,000		
六	6	万	10,000		
				I	
Examples:				I	
二十		(2 × 10	(2 × 10)		
二百		(2 × 10	(2 × 100)		
三千		(3 × 1,0	(3 × 1,000)		
四百	五十六		00) +)) + (6)]	I	
Understanding Charts					
The Chinese system of numbering is based on units of 10. It uses characters to represent 0 through 9 and the powers of 10 (10, 100, 1,000, and so forth). 1. How would you write the number 328 using the Chinese numbering system? 2. Analyze What is the English number for 六百四十一?					

Who Was Confucius? Confucius (kuhn • FYOO • shuhs) was ancient China's first great thinker and teacher. He wanted to end the problems in China and bring peace to society.

Confucius believed that people needed to have a sense of duty. Duty meant that a person must put the needs of family and community before his or her own needs. Each person owed a duty to another person. Parents owed their children love, and children owed their parents honor. Husbands owed their wives support, and



Abacuses were used by the Chinese to solve math problems. These ancient calculators held stones on

wooden pegs. The stones would be moved up and down to add, subtract, multiply, and divide.

wives owed their husbands obedience. Above all, rulers had to set good examples. If a king ruled for the common good, his subjects would respect him and society would prosper.

Confucius believed that if each person did his or her duty, society as a whole would do well. He also urged people to be good and to seek knowledge:

66 There are those who act without knowing; I will have none of this. To hear a lot, choose the good, and follow it, to see a lot and learn to recognize it: this is next to knowledge.

-Confucius, Analects

To Confucius, the best way to behave was similar to an idea known as the Golden Rule: "Do unto others as you would have others do unto you." Confucius urged people to "measure the feelings of others by one's own," for "within the four seas all men are brothers."

Confucius traveled through China trying to persuade government leaders to follow his ideas. **Confucianism** (kuhn•FYOO•shuh• NIH•zuhm) taught that all men with a talent for governing should take part in government. Of course, this idea was not popular with aristocrats, and few leaders listened.

Over time, Confucius won many followers who honored him as a great teacher. They wrote down his sayings and carried his message. After Confucius died in 479 B.C., his sayings spread throughout China.

CHAPTER 5 • Early China





WH6.6.3 Know about the life of Confucius and the fundamental teachings of Confucianism and Taoism. WH6.6.4 Identify the political and cultural problems prevalent in the time of Confucius and how he sought to solve them.

CONFUCIUS 551-479 B.C.

Sigaraph

Historians believe that the great thinker and teacher Confucius was born in the small state of Lu and named Kong Qui. His parents were poor, although his family had probably been wealthy at one time. One record says that Confucius was only three years old when his father died. His mother may have also died when he was young, because another record describes Confucius as an orphan.

Even as a teenager, Confucius was a talented scholar with strong, fixed beliefs. He devoted himself to learning and mastered literature, history, music, and arithmetic. He served as an apprentice to a bookkeeper and a stable manager but really wanted to obtain a government position. When he was 19, Confucius married and soon had a son and a daughter.

Confucius lived in a time when many people no longer held to traditional values and the government was struggling. Because he was concerned about these problems, Confucius took a government job to help improve society. He taught that the most important thing was for people to do their duty. In addition, he taught that people should honor their promises to others, use education to improve themselves, avoid extreme actions or feelings, and avoid bad people. Confucius also wanted everyone to return to the beliefs and rituals of their ancestors.

Government officials in Lu were not interested in his ideas, so at age 30 Confucius left politics and began a teaching career. He devoted the rest of his life to improving society through learning and teaching. Confucius did not write down any of his ideas, but his followers put together a book of his sayings called the Lun Yü (Analects).



"What you do not want done to yourself, do not do to others." -Confucius

Then and Now

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Give an example of how the above quotation from Confucius might help society today.



	Chinese Philosophers		
	Confucianism	Daoism	Legalism
Founder	Confucius	Laozi	Hanfeizi
Main Ideas	People should put the needs of their family and community first.	People should give up worldly desires in favor of nature and the Dao.	Society needs a system of harsh laws and strict punishment.
Influence on Modern Life	Many Chinese today accept his idea of duty to family. His ideas helped open up government jobs to people with talent.	Daoism teaches the importance of nature and encourages people to treat nature with respect and reverence.	Legalists developed laws that became an important part of Chinese history.
		Three philosophies d 1. Which philosophy concentrate on du	nding Charts eveloped in early China. encourages followers to ty and humanity? of these philosophies do



Some legends state that Laozi rode his water buffalo westward into a great desert and disappeared after writing Dao De Jing. When did the ideas of Daoism become popular? **What Is Daoism?** Daoism (DOW•IH•zuhm) is another Chinese philosophy that **promotes** a peaceful society. Daoism (also called Taoism) is based on the teachings of **Laozi** (LOWD•ZOO). Laozi, or the Old Master, lived around the same time as Confucius. Scholars do not know if Laozi was a real person. However, the ideas credited to him became popular between 500 B.C. and 300 B.C.

you think would be most popular in the

world today? Explain.

The ideas of Daoism are written in *Dao De Jing* (The Way of the Dao). Like Confucianism, Daoism tells people how to behave. Daoists believed that people should give up worldly desires. They should turn to nature and the Dao—the

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force that guides all things. To show how to follow the Dao, Daoists used examples from nature:

Higher good is like water: the good in water benefits all, and does so without contention. It rests where people dislike to be, so it is close to the Way. Where it dwells becomes good ground; profound is the good in its heart, Benevolent the good it bestows.

—Laozi, Tao Te Ching

In some ways, Daoism is the opposite of Confucianism. Confucius taught that people should work hard to improve the world. Daoism told people to give up their concerns about the world. It said they should seek inner peace and live in harmony with nature. Many Chinese followed both Confucianism and Daoism. **What Is Legalism?** A third group of thinkers disagreed with the idea that honorable men in government could bring peace to society. Instead, they argued for a system of laws. People called their thinking Legalism (LEE • guh • LIH • zuhm), or the "School of Law."

A scholar named **Hanfeizi** (HAN•fay• DZOO) developed the teachings of Legalism during the 200s B.C. Unlike Confucius or Laozi, Hanfeizi taught that humans were naturally evil. He believed that the government needed to issue harsh laws and stiff punishments to force them to do their duty. His followers believed that a strong ruler was needed to maintain order in society.

Many aristocrats liked Legalism because it favored force and power, and did not require rulers to show kindness or understanding. Its ideas led to cruel laws and punishments for Chinese farmers.

Reading Check Explain Why did Hanfeizi believe that people needed laws and punishments?

Study Central Need help understanding Chinese philosophies? Visit ca.hss.glencoe.com and click on Study Central.

Reading Summary

Section Review

- Early Chinese society had three main social classes: aristocrats, farmers, and merchants. The family was the basis of Chinese society.
- During a time of disorder, three new philosophies developed in China: Confucianism, Daoism, and Legalism.

What Did You Learn?

- Describe the concept of filial piety.
- 2. Why did many aristocrats favor the philosophy of Legalism?

Critical Thinking

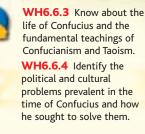
 Compare Draw a table to compare the three main classes of ancient Chinese society.
 CA 6WS1.3

Chinese Society				
Aristocrats	Farmers	Merchants		

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- 4. The Big Ideas Imagine that you are a farmer in early China. Write an essay describing how your social class affects your life. CA 6WS12
- 5. Writing Questions Suppose you could interview Confucius about duty. Write five questions you might ask him about the subject. CA HR1.
- 6. Expository Writing Do you think Chinese philosophies could benefit our society today? Write an essay explaining your answer. CA 6WA2.2

CHAPTER 5 • Early China



Confucius: Solution to China's Problems?

You Decide

Yes

Beginning in the 500s B.C., Chinese society descended into chaos. Many different thinkers had ideas for fixing China's problems. One of them was Confucius. Were the ideas of Confucius the answer to China's problems?

Confucius believed the best way to restore order to Chinese society was for the ruling classes to return to the moral values of earlier times. When rulers behave in moral ways, he explained, they become models for the rest of society. Rulers cannot just speak about virtues. They need to act virtuously in their lives. Specifically rulers should adopt the following



Statue of Confucius

values.

- Rulers should act with love and kindness toward other people, as expressed in the Golden Rule.
 - Rulers should follow proper rituals and behave properly when dealing

with the people. They should never be arrogant or violent.

- Rulers should love learning and respect ancient wisdom.
- Rulers should be wise and virtuous
- so that the people will have good examples to follow.

Here is some advice Confucius gave

to rulers: "If you, sir, want goodness, the people

will be good. The virtue of the noble person is like the wind, and the virtue of small people is like grass. When the wind blows over the grass, the grass must

bend." "Lead them by means of regula-

tions and keep order among them through punishments, and the people will evade them and lack any sense of shame [or self-respect]. Lead them through moral force and keep order among them through rites, and they will have a sense of shame and will also correct themselves."

—as quoted in Chinese Religions

Daoist temple



No

Not everyone agreed with the ideas of Confucius. Followers of Daoism believed that society was having problems because people had stopped living in harmony with nature. The only true model, they argued, was the natural order, not rulers of human society. A Daoist wise man explained:

"I do nothing, and the people are trans-

formed by themselves. I value tranquility, and the people

become correct by themselves. I take no action, and the people become prosperous by themselves.

I have no desires, and the people of themselves become like uncarved wood." —as quoted in Chinese Religions

Still others believed the best way to restore order was to pass strong laws and make people obey them, by force if necessary. These ideas, known as Legalism, were based on the writings of Hanfeizi. Forget the ideas of the past, said Hanfeizi, because times were different then. A ruler must be firm and pitiless. He must trust no one and punish anyone who disobeys or performs poorly. Emperor

Qin Shihuangdi believed in Legalism. He governed ruthlessly saying "People are submissive to power, and few of them can be influenced by doctrines of righteousness."

You Be the Historian

UIM Document-Based Questions

- Do you think a Chinese peasant would have supported Confucius's ideas of law and order? Would an aristocrat have felt the same way? Explain.
- Do you think it is possible to govern a society by following nature's models? Why or why not? CA 6RC2.0
- Do you think that the ideas put forth by Confucius would work well in today's society? Write an essay defending your position. Make sure to use information from the text and examples from today to support your decision.