

Section 3

The Qin and Han Dynasties



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

Guide to Reading

Looking Back, Looking Ahead

Each of China's early dynasties was led by rulers who were very different. In this section, you will see how the Qin and Han dynasties differed because of their rulers.

Focusing on the MainIdeas

- Qin Shihuangdi used harsh methods to unify and defend China. (page 295)
- Developments during the Han dynasty improved life for all Chinese. (page 298)
- The Silk Road carried Chinese goods as far as Greece and Rome. (page 300)
- Unrest in China helped Buddhism to spread. (page 303)

Locating Places

Guangzhou (GWAHNG•JOH)
Silk Road
Luoyang (loo•WOH•YAHNG)

Meeting People

Qin Shihuangdi (CHIHN SHEE• hwahng•dee)
Liu Bang (lee•OO BAHNG)
Han Wudi (HAHN WOO•DEE)

Content Vocabulary

acupuncture (A • kyuh • PUHNGK • chuhr)

Academic Vocabulary

currency (KUHR • uhn • SEE) civil (SIH • vuhl) found secure (sih • KYUR)

Reading Strategy

Determining Cause and Effect

Complete a diagram like the one below showing the effect of new inventions on Chinese society.

Invention		Effect
	→	
	→	



200 B.C.

A.D.]

A.D. 200

202 B.C.

Liu Bang founds Han dynasty c. A.D. 100

Silk Road established

A.D. 190

Rebel armies attack Han capital





Emperor Qin Shihuangdi

Main Idea Qin Shihuangdi used harsh methods to unify and defend China.

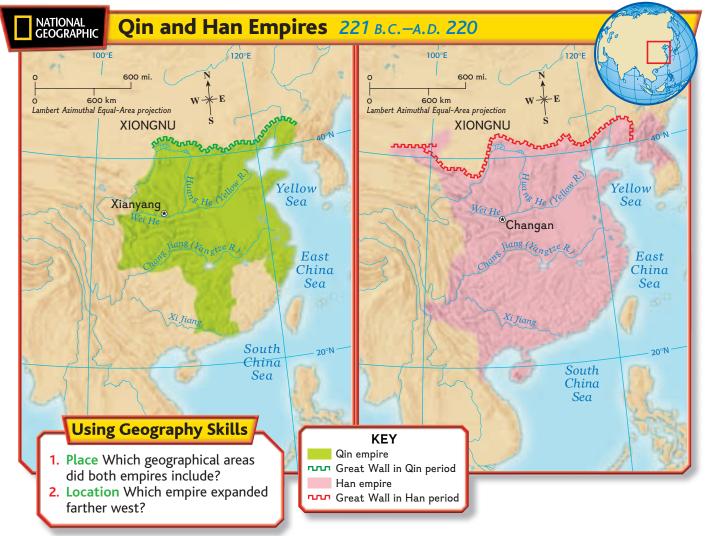
Reading Connection Imagine your city or state without any roads. How would people get from one place to another? Read to find out how a Chinese ruler used roads and canals to unite China.

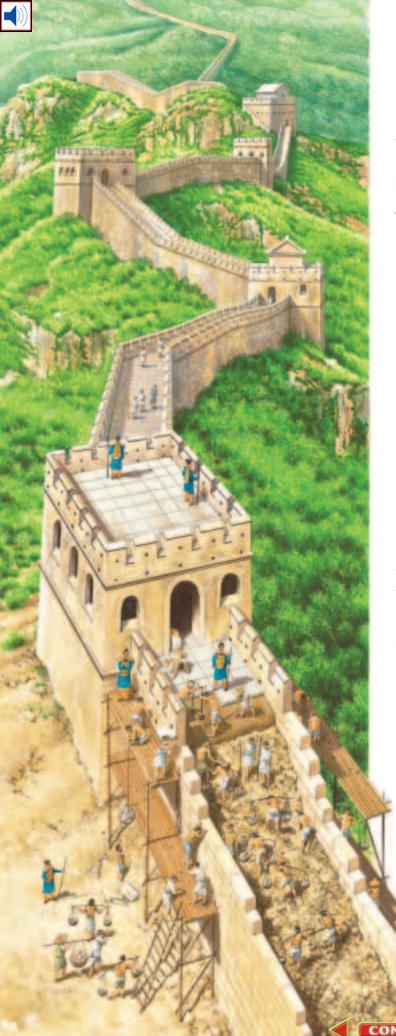
You have read about the problems in China from about 400 B.C. to 200 B.C. The rulers of powerful local states fought one another and ignored the Zhou kings. One of these states was called Qin. Its ruler took over neighboring states one by one. In 221 B.C. the Qin ruler declared himself Qin Shihuangdi (CHIHN SHEE • hwahng • dee),

which means "the First Qin Emperor." The Qin ruler made changes in China's government that would last for 2,000 years.

A Powerful Ruler Qin based his rule on the ideas of Legalism. He had everyone who opposed him punished or killed. Books opposing his views were publicly burned. Qin made the central government stronger than ever before. He appointed government officials, called censors, to make sure government officials did their jobs.

Second in power to the central government were provinces and counties. Under Zhou kings, officials who ran these areas passed on their posts to sons or relatives. Under Qin, only he could fill these posts.





Qin Shihuangdi unified China. He created one currency, or type of money, to be used throughout the empire. He also ordered the construction of roads and a huge canal. The canal connected the Chang Jiang in central China to what is today the city of Guangzhou (GWAHNG•JOH) in southern China. He used the canal to ship supplies to his troops in far-off territories.

The Great Wall Northern China was bordered by the vast Gobi. Nomads, people who move from place to place with herds of animals, lived in the Gobi. The Chinese knew them as the Xiongnu (SYEHN•NOO). The Xiongnu were masters at fighting on horseback. They often attacked Chinese farms and villages. Several Chinese rulers in the north built walls to keep out the Xiongnu.

Qin Shihuangdi forced farmers to leave their fields and work on connecting and strengthening the walls. The result was the Great Wall of China, built with stone, sand, and piled rubble. However, Qin did not build the wall that we know today. It was built 1,500 years later.

Why Did People Rebel? Many Chinese viewed Qin Shihuangdi as a cruel leader. Aristocrats were angry because he reduced their power. Scholars hated him for burning their writings. Farmers hated him for forcing them to build roads and the Great Wall. Four years after the emperor died in 210 B.C., the people overthrew his dynasty. Civil war followed, and a new dynasty soon arose.

Reading Check Explain Why did Qin face little opposition during most of his reign?

This artwork shows the Great Wall many years after the reign of Qin Shihuangdi. Most of the wall built by Qin was made of stone and rubble, and was located north of the Great Wall we see today. Little remains of Qin's wall. Who was the wall meant to keep out?

Biography



WH6.6.5 List the policies and achievements of the emperor Shi Huangdi in unifying northern China under the Qin Dynasty.

QIN SHIHUANGDI

с. 259-210 в.с.

At the age 13, Ying Zheng became the leader of the Chinese state of Qin. The state was already very powerful because of Zheng's father, the previous ruler. Its government and military were well organized. With the help of his generals, young Zheng defeated Qin's six rival states. By 221 B.C., he had united all of the Chinese states under his rule. To mark a new beginning for China and to show his supremacy, Zheng gave himself the title Qin Shihuangdi—"The First Qin Emperor."

Qin Shihuangdi energetically went to work organizing his country. He divided the land into 36 districts, each with its own governor and a representative who reported directly to him. He made laws and taxes uniform throughout the country. He also standardized weights and measurements. Throughout China, the emperor had his achievements inscribed on stone tablets.



A Qin Shihuangdi

"I have brought order to the mass of beings."

-Qin Shihuangdi

Qin Shihuangdi did strengthen and organize China, but many people disliked him because of his harsh laws and punishments. Many people also disliked how he spent lavish amounts of money to build palaces and a gigantic tomb for himself. He had an entire lifelike army—over 6,000 soldiers and horses—built of clay and placed in the tomb.



A Part of the terra-cotta army found in Qin Shihuangdi's tomb

Then and Now

Why do you think modern historians disagree in their evaluation of Qin Shihuangdi's leadership?





WH6.6.6 Detail the political contributions of the Han Dynasty to the development of the imperial bureaucratic state and the expansion of the empire.

The Han Dynasty

Main Idea Developments during the Han dynasty improved life for all Chinese.

Reading Connection How much time do you spend studying for tests? Find out why some Chinese people spent years studying for one special test.

In 202 B.C. Liu Bang (lee • OO BAHNG) founded the Han dynasty. Liu Bang was a peasant who became a military leader and defeated his rivals. He declared himself Han Gaozu—"Exalted Emperor of Han." Although Han Gaozu threw out the harsh policies of the Qin dynasty, he continued to use censors and also divided the empire into provinces and counties.

What Was the Civil Service? The Han dynasty reached its peak under the leadership of Han Wudi (HAHN WOO•DEE), which means "Martial Emperor of Han." He ruled from 141 B.C. to 87 B.C. Because



▲ This painting shows students taking a civil service examination. Why did the civil service system favor rich job seekers?

Wudi wanted talented people to fill government posts, job seekers had to take long, difficult tests to qualify for the bureaucracy. Those with the highest scores got the jobs.

In time, Wudi's tests became the civil service examinations. This system for choosing Chinese officials was used for 2,000 years. The system was supposed to allow anyone with the right skills to get a government job. However, it actually favored the rich. Only wealthy families could afford to educate their sons for the difficult exams.

Students preparing for these tests learned law and history. More importantly they studied the teachings of Confucius, which had become the official teachings throughout the empire. Students began to memorize the works of Confucius at age seven. After many years of schooling, the students took their civil service examinations. Only one in five passed. Those who failed taught school, took jobs as assistants to officials, or were supported by their families.

The Chinese Empire Grows A large bureaucracy was needed to rule the rapidly growing empire. The population had grown from about 20 million under Han Gaozu to more than 60 million under Han Wudi. This happened in part because Chinese agriculture continued to thrive.

Over time, however, problems began to develop. When farmers died, their land was divided among their sons. When their sons died, their land was again divided among their sons. Gradually, over several generations, the amount of land a family had to farm became smaller and smaller. By the middle of the Han dynasty, the average farmer owned only about one acre of land.

With so little land, farm families could not raise enough to live. As a result, many sold their land to aristocrats and became







tenant farmers. Tenant farmers work on land that is owned by someone else and pay their rent with crops. Eventually, aristocrats owned thousands of acres and became very wealthy, but the peasants remained trapped in poverty.

China's empire grew in size as well as in population. Han armies added lands to the south and pushed Chinese borders westward. The Han dynasty also made the country more **secure**. After Wudi's armies drove back the Xiongnu—the

nomads to the north—China remained at peace for almost 150 years.

During this period of peace, new forms of Chinese literature and art appeared. In literature, the Chinese emphasized the recording of history. Scholars and historians wrote new histories of current events and made copies of old literature.

During the Han dynasty, the focus of art also changed. In earlier periods, artists mostly created religious works for the kings and nobles. Under the Han rulers, many





WH6.6.7 Cite the significance of the trans-Eurasian "silk roads" in the period of the Han Dynasty and Roman Empire and their

beautiful works of art were created for minor families. For example, some wall carvings in the tombs of such families feature scenes of everyday life and historical events. They also include highly decorated products made of the best quality silk.

Although the idea of filial piety had existed in the Zhou dynasty, it became very strong during the Han dynasty as the ideas of Confucius spread and became popular. The stability of the government also helped to strengthen family ties. Although the new scholar class had great influence over the government, the social classes in Chinese society remained the same, and daily life was very similar to what it had been before.

An Era of Inventions New inventions during the Han dynasty helped Chinese workers produce more goods and manufacture more products than ever. Millers used newly invented waterwheels to grind more grain, and miners used new iron drill bits to mine more salt. Ironworkers invented steel. Paper, another Han invention, was used by officials to keep government records.

Chinese medicine also improved under the Han. Doctors discovered that certain foods prevented disease. They used herbs to cure illnesses and eased pain by sticking thin needles into patients' skin. This treatment is known as **acupuncture** (A • kyuh • PUHNGK • chuhr).

The Chinese also invented the rudder and a new way to move the sails of ships. These changes allowed ships to sail into the wind for the first time. Chinese merchant ships could now travel to the islands of Southeast Asia and into the Indian Ocean. As a result, China established trade connections with people who lived as far away as India and the Mediterranean Sea.

Reading Check Identify Which inventions helped Chinese society during the Han dynasty?

The Silk Road

Main Idea The Silk Road carried Chinese goods as far as Greece and Rome.

Reading Connection Many of the things we buy today are made in China. How do these goods get to the United States? Read to learn how goods made in China long ago made it all the way to Europe.

Chinese merchants made a lot of money by shipping expensive goods to other countries. Silk was the most valuable trade product. Some of it went by ship to Southeast Asia. However, most went overland on the Silk Road.

What Was the Silk Road? Merchants from China began traveling far westward when the emperor Han Wudi sent out a general named Zhang Qian (JAHNG CHYEHN) to explore areas west of China. Zhang had been sent on a mission to find allies for China against its enemies, especially the Xiongnu to the north.

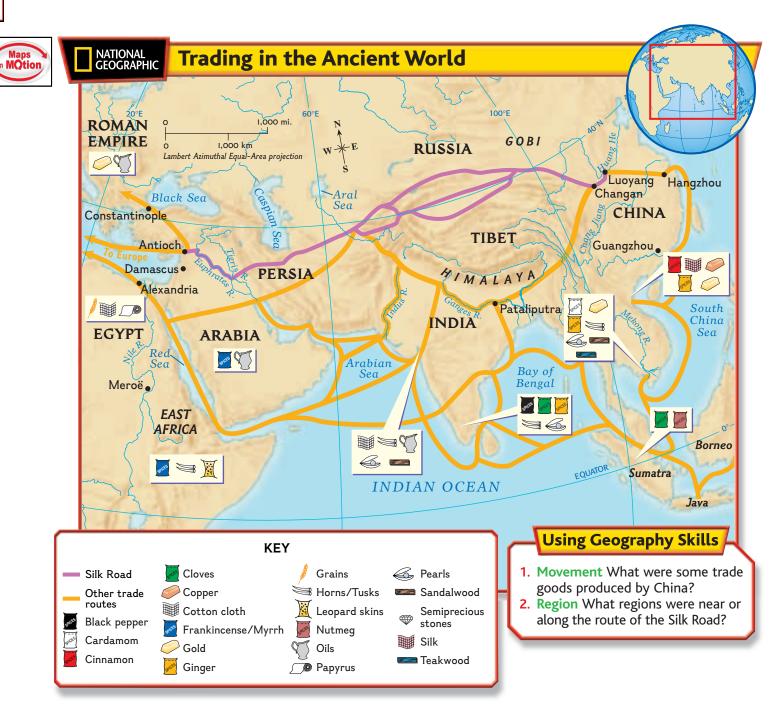
After a journey of about 13 years, Zhang returned to China having failed to find allies for China. However, Zhang had discovered a kingdom far to the west, perhaps in modern-day Kazakhstan, where there were horses of exceptional strength and size.

Emperor Wudi was delighted to hear this because the cavalry of his enemies, the Xiongnu, gave them a great advantage over his army, which was mostly infantry. The emperor encouraged trade to get these horses so that his cavalry could defeat the Xiongnu. The result was the Silk Road, a large network of trade routes stretching 4,000 miles (6,436 km) from western China to southwest Asia. By the A.D. 100s, the various portions of the route were completed.

Merchants used camels to carry their goods across deserts and mountains to central Asia. From there Arabs carried the goods







to the Mediterranean Sea. The trip over the Silk Road was extremely difficult, dangerous, and quite expensive.

The Silk Road was broken up into smaller segments, each traveled by different merchants. This was because the terrain was so difficult and changed so much over the course of the Silk Road. There were high, snowy mountains; vast deserts; and long regions of rocky land, as well as rivers and long plains to cross. It would have been extremely difficult for the same animals and

carts to survive the entire journey. Most merchants traveled part of the journey and then sold their goods to someone else who traveled another portion of the journey. Goods passed from one person to another until they went from China all the way to kingdoms along the Mediterranean Sea.

Merchants had to pay taxes to many kingdoms as they moved the goods east and west. Each person who bought goods then charged higher prices to the next person. For this reason, they carried mostly



Four Chinese Dynasties SHANG OIN HAN **ZHOU** When 1750-1045 B.C. 1045-256 B.C. 221-206 B.C. 202 B.C.-A.D. 220 **Important** Numerous kings Leaders with large armies and control over the land: ruled from capital Qin Shihuangdi city of Anyang Wu Liu Bang Main Ideas and Developed social Longest-lasting Strengthened Population and classes that landmass grew **Accomplishments** dynasty in central included farmers. Chinese history; under Han; government; merchants. established created single opened China aristocrats. Mandate of to trade and monetary and royal family Heaven system commerce by building Silk Road Influences on Influenced Chinese Introduced use Created Developed religion and culture; irrigation and of censors to **Chinese Culture** government's created Chinese flood-control civil service check on written language systems to help government examination; farmers grow officials; Qin major inventions: more crops built the first steel, paper, **Understanding Charts** Great Wall acupuncture, to keep out advanced sea The four dynasties of early China were invaders travel separated by brief periods of unrest. 1. Under which dynasty was a single monetary system put in place?

high-priced goods such as silk, spices, tea, and porcelain. In return, they earned great wealth.

contributed the most to Chinese culture? Why?

2. Evaluate Which dynasty do you think

The Impact of the Silk Road General Zhang also told the emperor of a mighty empire to the west with large cities full of people "who cut their hair short, wear embroidered clothes, and ride in very small chariots." Zhang was describing the Roman Empire.

The trade begun by the Silk Road brought China into contact with many other civilizations. Some merchants traveled by sea. This sea trade linked the Chinese to civilizations in Southeast Asia, southern India, and Egypt. Both the sea and land trade routes led to an exchange of many different goods and ideas.

Over the years merchants traded many items in addition to silk. These included fruit, vegetables, flowers, grains, and other products. For example, China sent peaches and pears to India, while India sent cotton and spinach to China. In time, Chinese technological advances, such as paper, would also travel to other countries along the Silk Road.

Reading Check Conclude Why did merchants carry mostly expensive goods on the Silk Road?







Major Changes in China

Main Idea Unrest in China helped Buddhism to spread.

Reading Connection What do you do when you feel frightened or unsafe? Read to find out how those feelings triggered the spread of Buddhism from India to China.

As you read in Chapter 4, Buddhism began in India, but it soon spread to other countries as well. Merchants and teachers from India brought Buddhism to China during the A.D. 100s. At first, only a few merchants and scholars were interested in the new religion. In time, however, Buddhism became very popular. This was due in part to the collapse of the Han dynasty.

The Han emperors after Wudi were weak and foolish. As a result, the central government lost respect and power. At the same time, as you read earlier, the aristocrats

began grabbing more land and wealth. Dishonest officials and greedy aristocrats caused unrest among the farmers.

Wars, rebellions, and plots against the emperor put an end to the Han dynasty. In A.D. 190 a rebel army attacked the Han capital, **Luoyang** (loo•WOH•YAHNG). By A.D. 220, China had plunged into civil war. To make the situation worse, the northern nomads invaded the country.

The collapse of the government and the beginning of the civil war frightened many Chinese. They felt unsafe. Buddhist ideas helped people cope with their stress and fears. Even the followers of other religions found Buddhism attractive. Followers of Confucius and Daoists admired Buddhist concepts. By the 400s, Buddhism had become popular in China.

Reading Check Identify What groups in China were the first to adopt Buddhism?

History nline

Study Central Need help understanding the influence of Silk Road? Visit ca.hss.glencoe.com and click on Study Central.

Section (3) Review

Reading Summary

Review the Main Ideas

- The short-lived Qin dynasty helped to unify China.
- During the Han dynasty, people began taking tests for government jobs. New inventions, such as the waterwheel and paper, were created.
- The Silk Road was an important trade route that linked China to the West.
- As the Han dynasty lost power, many Chinese became followers of Buddhism.

What Did You Learn?

- Why did Qin Shihuangdi have the Great Wall built?
- **2.** What was the purpose of the civil service examinations?

Critical Thinking

- 3. Geography Skills What geographic features made using the Silk Road difficult?
 CA CS3.
- Cause and Effect Draw a diagram to show the causes of the Han dynasty's fall. CA 6WS1.3



- 5. The Big Ideas How did Qin Shihuangdi make China's society more stable? CA HR3.
- 6. Expository Writing Pretend you are Zhang Qian and have visited modern-day America. Write a letter to the emperor describing the United States.

 CA 6WS1.0
- 7. Economic
 Analysis Merchants on the
 Silk Road had to pay high taxes
 and pay for protection. Explain
 why they used the Silk Road if
 the costs were so high. How
 did they overcome the high
 costs? CA HIG.



Analyzing Sources imary Sources

WH6.6.3 Know about the life of Confucius and the fundamental teachings of Confucianism and Daoism.



▲ Chinese emperor Liu Bang

In ancient China, emperors and local rulers wielded enormous power. As you have learned, the Chinese had many different ideas about leadership. For some, leadership was about power and fame. For others, a strong leader needed to be wise and of good character.

Read the following passages on pages 304 and 305, and study the picture and caption below.

Reader's Dictionary

magnificence (mag•NIH•fuh•suhns): wonderful appearance

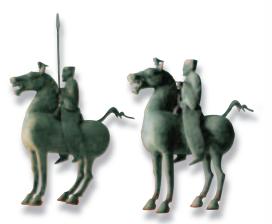
excessive (ihk • SEH • sihv): extreme **courteous** (KUHR • tee • uhs): polite

Traveling Companions

This set of bronze figures comes from the tomb of a Chinese official buried in the A.D. 100s. The entire procession included 17 soldiers, 28 attendants, 39 horses, and 14 carriages.







Han Gaozu's Palace

The Chinese historian Sima Qian lived during the Han Dynasty. Qian recorded the following conversation between Gaozu, the first Han ruler, and Gaozu's chief minister, to illustrate why the emperor built large palaces.

Chief Minister Xiao was in charge of the construction of the Eternal Palace. . . . When Gaozu arrived and saw the **magnificence** of the buildings, he was outraged. "Warfare has kept the empire in turmoil for years, and victory is not yet assured. What is the idea of building palaces on such an **excessive** scale?"

"It is precisely because the fate of the empire is not yet settled," Xiao He responded, "that we need to build palaces and halls like these. The true Son of Heaven treats the four quarters as his family estate. If he does not dwell in magnificent quarters, he will have no way to display his authority, nor will he establish the foundation for his heirs to build on."

On hearing this, Gauzo's anger turned into delight.

—Patricia Buckley Ebrey, *The Cambridge Illustrated History of China*

Confucius on Leadership

Confucius believed that leaders had to be good people to govern well.

"If you showed a sincere desire to be good, your people would likewise be good. The virtue of the prince is like the wind; the virtue of the people is like grass. It is the nature of grass to bend when the wind blows upon it."

—Confucius, as quoted in Simple Confucianism

"If leaders are **courteous**, their people will not dare to be disrespectful. If leaders are just, people will not dare to be [ungovernable]. If leaders are trustworthy, people will not dare to be dishonest."

—Confucius. Analeets

Laozi's Ideal Leader

The Daoist philosopher Laozi also believed that a leader had specific qualities.

The best of all rulers is but a shadowy presence to his subjects.

Hesitant, he does not utter words lightly. When his task is accomplished and his work

The people all say, "It happened to us naturally."

—Lao Tzu, Tao Te Ching, D.C. Lau, trans.

DBQ Document-Based Questions

Traveling Companions

 How important do you think an official who traveled with such a procession was? Explain.

Han Gaozu's Palace

2. Why did Gaozu at first object to the building of the palaces? Do you agree with Xiao He's reasons for building the palace? Explain.

Confucius on Leadership and Religion

Rewrite Confucius's sayings in your own words.

Laozi's Ideal Leader

4. What kind of leader is Laozi's ideal leader?

Read to Write

5. Imagine that you have been appointed a regional governor during the Han dynasty. Write a letter to your local officials explaining your ideas of how a leader should act. Base your arguments on these sources. Explain why you disagree with some sources and agree with others. CA HR4. CA 6WA2.5





Review Content Vocabulary

Match the words with the definitions below.

- ___ **1.** dynasty
- 2. aristocrat
- ____ **3.** bureaucracy
- 4. mandate
- 5. social class
- ___ 6. filial piety
- ____ 7. acupuncture
- 8. Daoism
- Confucianism
 - a. right to command
 - **b.** line of rulers in the same family
 - **c.** upper class whose wealth is based on land
 - **d.** The ideas of ____ included a duty to participate in government.
 - e. appointed government officials
 - **f.** head of family honored by other members
 - g. treatment using thin needles
 - **h.** people with a similar position in society
 - i. The teachings of Laozi are the basis of ____.

- **16.** How did developments during the Han dynasty affect the Chinese people?
- **17.** What was the purpose of the Silk Road?
- 18. What event helped to spread Buddhism?

Critical Thinking

- **19. Contrast** How is the ancient Chinese writing system different from cuneiform and hieroglyphic writing? **CA** 6RC2.2
- **20. Describe** How did Shang artisans create bronze urns? **CA** 6RC2.0
- **21. Analyze** How is Daoism the opposite of Confucianism in some ways? **CA GRC2.3**

Geography Skills

Study the map below and answer the following questions.

- **22. Human/Environment Interaction** Which dynasty controlled more land? **CACS3.**
- **23. Location** In what direction did the Qin dynasty expand farther? **CA CS3.**
- **24. Analyze** How do you think the East China Sea affected expansion? **CACS3.**

Review the Main Ideas

Section 1 • China's First Civilizations

- **10.** What geographical features shaped China's civilizations?
- **11.** Why did the Shang rulers become powerful?
- **12.** Under which empire did the Mandate of Heaven begin?

Section 2 • Life in Ancient China

- **13.** What were the three main classes in Chinese society?
- **14.** Identify three Chinese philosophies and the reason they emerged.

Section 3 • The Qin and Han Dynasties

15. What methods did Qin Shihuangdi use to defend China?





Read to Write

- 25. The Big Ideas Narrative Writing Write a short story describing life in China during the Han dynasty. Describe how new policies and leaders changed the way people lived. (CA 6WA2.)
- 26. **Using Your** FOLDABLES Choose one person that you included in your foldable. Write a list of 10 questions that you would ask that person in an interview. Exchange lists with a partner and play the role of the person being interviewed. **CA HRI.**

Using Academic Vocabulary

27. Separate the words below into three categories: Verbs, Nouns, and Adjectives. Keep in mind that some of the words can be placed in more than one column.

recover promote interpret currency link civil item found convince secure

Linking Past and Present

28. Comparing The Chinese built the Great Wall to protect themselves. Research ways that countries today protect themselves from enemies. What is similar and different about today's defenses? **CA** 6WA2.3

Building Citizenship

29. Plan a Debate With your class, plan and participate in a three-way debate. Divide into three teams. One team will represent the Legalists, one will represent followers of Confucius, and one will represent Daoists. Begin the debate by asking the question "Which philosophy is best for a democratic society?" (CA 6WA2.5)

Reviewing Skills

the material from this chapter. Create a time line of the dynasties in early China. Under each time line entry, list the important leaders and achievements. (CACS2.)



Self-Check Quiz To help prepare for the Chapter Test, visit ca.hss.glencoe.com

Monitoring Read the paragraph below. Make a list of the words to help you understand *Legalism*. CA 6RWI.4

[Hanfeizi] believed that the government needed to issue harsh laws and stiff punishments to force [people] 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 lead to cruel laws and punishments for Chinese farmers.

—from page 291



Standards Practice

Select the best answer for each of the following questions.

- 32 A follower of Confucianism would
 - A give up all concerns about the world.
 - **B** live in harmony with nature.
 - **C** agree that humans are naturally evil.
 - **D** put the needs of family and community first.
- 33 In order to strengthen the Han government, Han Wudi used _____ to select the most talented people for government jobs.
 - A civil service exams
 - **B** physical labor
 - **C** private schools
 - **D** wealthy families

