Interactive Notebook Setup

- 8/14/2018
- Shang and Zhou Dynasties
- This will be on one page
Shang Dynasty

- Ancient Chinese civilizations formed around the Huang He (Yellow) & Chang Jiang (Yangtze) Rivers
- Flooding from these rivers was unpredictable
Shang Dynasty

- Because of features like the Gobi & Taklamakan deserts and the Himalayan mountains, Ancient China was quite isolated.

- As a result, they did not conduct much trade with the west, but rather produced most of their own products.
Shang Dynasty

- There is evidence of farming in China beginning around 7,000 BCE.

- The first dynasty that there is any evidence of is the Xia (shyah) Dynasty.

- However most information comes from legend and oral histories and much of the evidence is disputed.
Shang Dynasty

- The first dynasty to leave written records was the Shang Dynasty.
- The Shang Dynasty lasted from around 1750 BCE to 1046 BCE.
- The Shang Dynasty formed on the Huang He River.
Shang Dynasty

- The Shang Dynasty was ruled by a king

- The aristocratic warriors would govern these territories as representatives of the king

- An aristocracy is a form of government where an elite group of wealthy families rule and pass power from one generation to the next
Shang Dynasty

- The people of the Shang Dynasty believed in life after death.
- They also believed their lives were directly impacted by their ancestors.
- Called Ancestor Worship/Veneration
  - Negatively and positively.
- Important to honor ancestors and work to protect their legacy.
People of the Shang Dynasty believed in a polytheistic religion.

The supreme deity in their religion was Shangdi.

Rulers and priest used things called oracle bones to communicate with the gods.

Rulers would ask about coming battles, sickness, invasions, major law decisions.
Oracle Bones
Shang Dynasty

- Written language was pictographic & ideographic

- Written language had no connection to spoken language

- Advantages and disadvantages
The Zhou Dynasty

- Overthrew the Shang Dynasty

- The Shang were overthrown in the Battle of Muye around 1046 BCE
The Zhou Dynasty was the longest lasting dynasty in Chinese history.

The Zhou Dynasty lasted from 1046 BCE - 256 BCE.

Leaders of the Zhou Dynasty claimed to possess the Mandate of Heaven, which justified their rule.
The Zhou Dynasty

- Kings of the Zhou Dynasty claimed they ruled by the decree of Tian or Heaven

- Kings claimed that if they continued to rule than it was because Heaven allowed them to

- If a king/dynasty was overthrown it was because they had lost the MOH

- Kings/dynasties would lose the Mandate of Heaven because they became corrupt, ineffective, and or selfish rulers
The Zhou Dynasty

- Since the kings ruled because of the Mandate of Heaven it was their responsibility to keep the gods happy.

- If the gods were happy than their people would be protected and cared for by the gods.

- M.O.H created the Dynastic Cycle.
The New Dynasty
Restores peace
Appoints loyal officials
Redistributes land to peasants
Builds canals, irrigation systems, and roads
Repairs defensive walls

The Dynastic Cycle in China

The Aging Dynasty
Neglects government duties
Ignores corrupt officials
Loses control of the provinces
Allows defensive walls to decay
Imposes heavy taxes to pay for luxuries

Problems
Floods, famine, earthquakes
Invasions
Armed bandits in the provinces
Peasant revolts

New dynasty claims the Mandate of Heaven
Aging dynasty loses the Mandate of Heaven
The Zhou Dynasty

- Aristocratic warriors maintained regional power

- Feudalist system developed during the Zhou Dynasty

- King struggled to maintained unified power starting in the 5th cent BCE
The Zhou Dynasty

- **State built irrigation systems** to increase agricultural production

- **Developed advanced iron work**

- **Iron was used for making weapons, better agricultural tools, and craft/trade items**
Advancements of the Zhou Dynasty

- During the Zhou Dynasty regular use of iron began
Advancements of the Zhou Dynasty