**Essential Questions**

By the end of this unit, you will know...

* Why is China important in the world today?
* How has China influenced the world?

**Objectives**

By the end of this unit, you will be able to...

* Describe how geography influenced life in Ancient China.
* Describe Chinese culture during the Shang, Zhou, Qin, and Han dynasties.
* Identify the cultural achievements of early China.
* Compare and contrast the major beliefs of Daoism, Legalism, and Confucianism.
* Explain how Emperor Qin Shi Huangdi united China.

**Assessments**

Your knowledge this unit will be assessed by...

* Unit Exam (tentative date 12/13)
* Quiz on Geography and the Shang and Zhou Dynasties (tentative date 12/3)
* Quiz on the Qin and Han Dynasties (tentative date 12/7)
* Quiz on Art, Culture, and Philosophy (tentative date 12/10)
* Calligraphy project (in art room with take home writing portion)
* Formal Essay about Emperor Qin Shi Huangdi
* Homework
* Socratic seminar on Chinese philosophies

Specific assignments and deadlines will be posted on worldhistorycp2.weebly.com.

**Glossary of terms, people and places:**

Quiz 1: Geography and Government (Shang and Zhou Dynasties)

* Dynastic Cycle: rise and fall of dynasties
* Dynasty: Line of rulers in the same family; the first four Chinese dynasties were, in order:
  1. Shang
  2. Zhou
  3. Qin
  4. Han
* Feudalism: system of government in which local lords government their own lands but were loyal to a king above them
* Loess: yellow soil blown by the wind from the Western deserts into Chinese rivers
* Mandate of Heaven: belief that a dynasty’s success showed the gods’ approval; natural disasters, invasions, or revolts showed that the dynasty had lost the Mandate of Heaven and it was time for a new dynasty to take over
* Mongolia: country to the north of China; often tried to invade
* Oracle bones: animal bones on which priests would write questions to ask the spirits; they would burn the bones until they cracked and then interpret the cracks’ meaning; also famous because they show the earliest examples of Chinese writing
* Shang Dynasty: the first dynasty in Ancient China; known for developing writing and bronze
* Yellow River: the major river in China; also known as the Huang He River and the “river of sorrows;” when it flooded it fertilized the land around it but could also cause destruction
* Yin and Yang: two divine forces that must be balance; yin represented Earth, darkness and female forces while yang represented Heaven, light, and male forces
* Zhou Dynasty: second dynasty in China which overthrew the Shang Dynasty; famous for developing the idea of the Mandate of Heaven; during their rule silk and books were created

Quiz 2: China United (The Qin and Han Dynasties)

* Civil Service Exams: exams in the Han Dynasty to choose government officials who were intelligent; based on the teachings of Confucius
* Golden Age: a time period of peace and cultural growth; in China, the Han Dynasty was a Golden Age
* Great Wall: built between China and Mongolia to intimidate invaders
* Han Dynasty: family that overthrew the Qin dynasty and established a moderate government based on Confucianism; they began the silk road and set up the civil service exams
* Qin Shi Huangdi: the first emperor of China who united China, made new currency, writing system, and roads and began construction of the Great Wall; also known for cruelty
* Silk Road: trade route between Europe and China
* Warring States Period: time between the Zhou and Qin Dynasties when there was no clear ruler

Quiz 3: Art, Culture and Philosophy

* Acupuncture: traditional medical treatment in which a doctor inserts needles under the patient’s skin at certain points to relieve pain or treat illness
* Buddhism: faith founded by the Buddha in India which spread to China and become popular; many people combined Buddhist beliefs with Daoism and Confucianism
* Calligraphy: fine handwriting
* Confucius: a teacher and court advisor in ancient China whose students wrote down his teachings in the *Analects;* he focused on the importance of family and relationships
* Daoism: belief that people should seek harmony with nature and that government should be as limited as possible
* Confucianism: beliefs based on Confucius’ teachings; taught that government should be beneficial to people and rulers should treat subjects like their children
* Filial Piety: loyalty to one’s parents and/or elders
* Four Treasures: the materials for calligraphy, including the brush, paper, ink, and ink stone
* Five Relationships: Confucius taught that harmony would be found when people accepted their place in society; the relationships were father-son, older brother-younger brother, husband-wife, ruler-subject, and friend-friend
* Han Feizi: the founder of Legalism
* Legalism: belief that all people are evil and the only way to have order is through harsh laws and strict punishments



