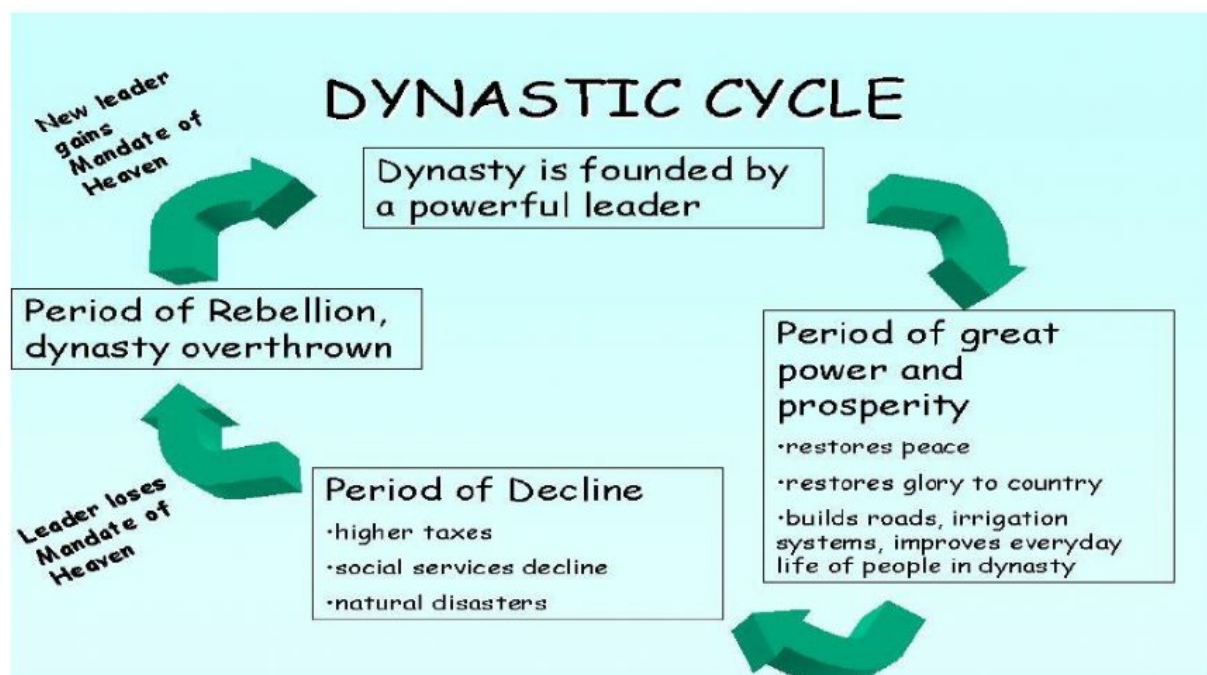


The Dynastic Cycle and the Mandate of Heaven

Read the description and study the chart below, then turn the paper over and answer the questions. When the questions are finished, complete the challenge activity.

Mandate of Heaven:

The Chinese believed that heaven gave the leader the **mandate**, or right, to rule. The people must respect that mandate, and they owed complete loyalty and obedience to the leader. In exchange for this loyalty, the people had the right to expect good leadership. If there were problems in the dynasty (war, famine, floods, drought) this was a sign that the ruler had lost the **Mandate of Heaven** or the right to rule. The Mandate of Heaven helped explain the Dynastic cycle. The Dynastic cycle shows how a leader gains power and can lose power.



1. What is the Dynastic Cycle?

2. How does a ruler maintain the Mandate of Heaven?

3. How long could a dynasty rule under the Mandate of Heaven?

4. How does a leader lose the Mandate of Heaven?
