



4.2.1 Study: Classical China

MS World History

Study Guide

Name: _____

Date: _____

Use this guide to take notes as you work through the activity. Taking good notes can help you remember important ideas. Your notes on this guide will help you prepare for quizzes and tests.

Main idea: Qin Shi Huang became China's first emperor and united China under the Qin dynasty.

1. Put the events from the history of ancient China in order by numbering them 1 through 4.

Order	Events
	Confucianism became an important religion in China and helped define Chinese government and culture.
	The Qin dynasty defeated the other states and took control of China, unifying the Chinese for the first time.
	The first Chinese civilizations arose near major rivers and were ruled by a series of dynasties – the Xia, Shang, and Zhou.
	The Warring States period – which saw battles between the seven Chinese states for control of China – lasted for almost 200 years.

2. Answer the following questions about Qin Shi Huang, the first ruler to unify the many separate states of China.

- a. What wall did Qin Shi Huang order built to protect China from invasion?

- b. Qin Shi Huang wanted to replace Confucianism with a new philosophy. What was it called? What did the Chinese think of it?

c. How long did the Qin dynasty last?

3. Identify important policies related to Qin Shi Huang's administration. Write the name of each policy next to its description.

a. Qin Shi Huang forced the leaders of individual states to move to the capital so that he could give them orders directly.

b. Qin Shi Huang believed that people needed strict rules and harsh punishments in order to perform tasks correctly.

c. By establishing a system in which people performed functions according to strict rules, Qin Shi Huang's government ran smoothly.

d. During the Qin dynasty, people got jobs based on their skills and abilities, rather than their family connections.

4. Complete the following sentences.

a. Qin Shi Huang's _____ of weights, measures, written language, and values of money made trade and communication across China much _____.

b. Qin Shi Huang ordered _____ protecting China to be constructed, and he built _____, which made trade and travel easier.

Main idea: A stable government under the Han dynasty allowed China to become a more advanced civilization.

5. The Qin dynasty was followed by the Han dynasty, which came to power in 202 BCE. Answer the following questions about the Han dynasty.

a. How did Liu Bang establish the Han dynasty? What was unusual about his rise

to power?

b. What kind of ruler was Emperor Gaozu? What did the Chinese people think of him?

c. How long did Emperor Wu rule? What were his achievements?

d. How did the Han dynasty end?

6. Historians believe the Han dynasty remained powerful for so long because it kept the successful policies of the Qin dynasty, while changing the Qin policies that had upset people. Place an X in the box to indicate whether each Han dynasty policy was an old one kept from the Qin dynasty or a new one put in place by the Han dynasty.

Policy	Old Qin policy	New Han policy
Creating a standardized money system		
Promoting Confucianism instead of Legalism		
Improving education by opening new schools across China		
Giving people positions in government based on merit, not family connections		
Encouraging trade and helping establish the		

Silk Road		
Using an organized bureaucracy to run the government		

7. During the Han dynasty, the Chinese experienced a golden age. Use the table to take notes on the Han dynasty's achievements in the arts, medicine, technology, and papermaking.

Arts	
Medicine	
Technology	
Papermaking	

Main idea: Trade on the Silk Road introduced China to new goods and ideas.

8. Complete the sentence: The Silk Road was a network of _____ that allowed Chinese merchants to _____ goods with people from other parts of the world.

9. Which parts of the world did the Silk Road allow the Chinese to trade with?

10. What items did the Chinese want in exchange for their silk?

11. Besides goods, what did the Chinese exchange with the outsiders they met? Was

there a downside to these exchanges?

12. One of the most important ideas to reach China via the Silk Road was Buddhism. Put the events related to the spread of Buddhism in order by numbering them 1 through 5.

Order	Events
	Buddhists traveled from India to China along the Silk Road.
	Buddhist teachings conflicted with Confucian values.
	Buddhism was founded in India in 500 BCE.
	The Han dynasty weakened, and people began to question Confucianism.
	The Han dynasty collapsed, and Buddhism became popular across China.

Key Terms

Use this table to write definitions for the key terms from this activity in your own words. If you're confident you know a term, put a check mark next to it and move on.

Key Term	Definition
Buddhism	
Confucianism	
Emperor Wu	

Great Wall of China	
Han dynasty	
Legalism	
Qin dynasty	
Qin Shi Huang	
Silk Road	
trade route	
Warring States period	

If you noticed other unfamiliar terms in this activity, use the blank rows to list them and their definitions.

☐ *I have answered all the questions on the study guide and feel confident that I understand the main ideas of the sections. I'm ready to move on!*

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4.2.1 Study: Classical China

6/7

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4.2.1 Study: Classical China

7/7

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