

Chapter 5 notes

Lesson 1

- The Huang He River is also known as the Yellow River.
- The Gobi Desert in Northern China makes transportation in the area difficult.
- The Chang Jiang River is also known as the Long River and stretches for over 3,000 miles.
- Rice is the primary crop grown along the Long River.
- The steppes north of the Yellow River are not suitable for crops but are good for herding animals.

Lesson 2

- A dynasty is a line of rulers who belong to the same family.
- The Shang dynasty ruled from 1700 BC and was the first dynasty of China.
- The Chinese developed a picture writing system similar to Cuneiform
- Ancient Chinese priests used oracle bones to find answers about the future.
- The Zhou from western China conquered the Huang He Valley around 1100 BC.
- The idea that governments were given the right to rule by god in China was known as the Mandate of Heaven
- Metal coins were first used as currency in China during the Zhou dynasty.
- Iron tools and weapons made life easier during the Zhou dynasty.
- The period of warfare after the fall of the Zhou dynasty is often called the Warring States Period.
- China's most famous scholar was Confucius.

Lesson 3

- An emperor is a supreme ruler of an empire.
- The Qin dynasty developed into the first Chinese empire.
- Under Shihuangdi's rule, China was divided into provinces
- Shihuangdi weakened the power of the nobles by letting farmers own land.
- Shihuangdi standardized many things during his reign in order to make life easier for his people.
- The beginnings of the Great Wall of China were put in place under Shihuangdi's rule.
- The common people were the most important citizens of the Qin Empire.
- The philosophy of legalism emphasized a system of rewards and punishments.
- Shihuangdi's tomb was protected by a "spirit army" of life sized clay soldiers.
- The Han dynasty overthrew Shihuangdi's son to take control of China.

Lesson 4

- The Han dynasty valued education more than anything else.
- In order to become a government official in the Han dynasty, people had to pass a special test.
- The Han dynasty made many advancements in Science and technology including a seismograph to detect earthquakes.
- Silk became a major industry during the Han dynasty.
- During the Han dynasty, the emperor was all-powerful.