Lesson: 19 Geography and Settlement of ancient China

**Outer China:** This area includes three regions:
1) The Tibet-Qinghai, or Tibetan, Plateau
2) The Northwestern Deserts (the Taklimakan and the Gobi)
3) The Northeastern Plain

This area's features are high mountains, a cold and rocky plateau, and large deserts and it isolated Inner China.

**Inner China:** This area includes two regions:
1) the North China Plain
2) the Chang Jiang Basins

The plain has the best conditions for farming (climate, soil)

**Early Settlement and Isolation**
Archaeologists believe the first inhabitants of China were hunter-gatherers lived in caves more than 500,000 years ago. Later, farmers established the first permanent settlements on the North China Plain, near the Huang He, or Yellow River. Harsh geography and vast distances isolated these early inhabitants.

**Different Regions and Ways of Life**
Because of a lack of farmland, most settlers in Outer China were nomads and herders. In Inner China, people farmed and raised animals in permanent settlements. Farmers in the Chang Jiang Basins grew rice. (terraced farming)

Lesson 21: Three Chinese Philosophies

**The Zhou Dynasty** All three schools of thought developed in the later years of the Zhou dynasty. Zhou rulers believed they had the Mandate of Heaven, a divine right to rule China. For a time, the Zhou's practice of feudalism helped stabilize China. However, during the dynasty later years, China collapsed into disorder. Political unrest led many scholars to debate the proper way to rule
Confucianism: Confucius was a famous Chinese philosopher who developed Confucianism. Here are some of Confucius' teachings:
- Peace and order depended upon proper behavior.
- Those in authority must lead by example.
- Those lower in status must obey.

Confucianism led Han leaders to hire civil servants for government jobs based on ability and tested knowledge rather than on family relationships.

Daoism:
- Daoists believed that people should live simply and in harmony with the ways of nature.
- Harmony could be reached by balancing yin and yang, the opposite forces of nature.
- Daoists said that the best rulers were those who ruled the least.

Legalism:
- Legalists believed that people were driven by their own self-interest.
- Legalism taught that rulers could create order in society only through strict laws and harsh punishments.

Lesson 22: First Emperor of China
Creating an Empire

Qin Shi Huangdi was influenced by Legalism. He replaced feudalism with a strong central government under his control. He divided his territory into 36 districts, each governed by three officials. He used harsh measures to enforce his power.

Standardizing the Culture The Emperor of Qin unified China and also greatly expanded its borders. He standardized Chinese laws, money, weights, measures, and writing.

Protecting the Northern Border

Among the emperor’s many construction projects was the Great Wall, which he built to protect China’s northern border from invaders. The wall both helped and hurt the people of China.

Ending Opposition

Many of Emperor Qin's actions aroused opposition. He brutally censored and executed his critics, including Confucian scholars.
The Emperor's Death and the End of the Qin Dynasty

Although the emperor searched for a way to become immortal, he died in 210 B.C.E.

He was buried in a huge tomb, along with many treasures and an army of 6,000 life-size terra-cotta figures. His amazing tomb was discovered in 1974. Revolt broke out after his death, and civil war raged until the Han dynasty was established.

Lesson 23: Han Dynasty

During the Han Dynasty, China went through a Golden Age. During this period, the Chinese made many advances that improved their government and daily life. The Chinese word Han is still used to describe China's culture.

1) Warfare and Government
   - New weapons including the crossbow, iron sword and kite helped Han emperors succeed in war and expand their empire.
   - They organized the government into a bureaucracy. Civil servants who were chosen for their ability worked in the bureaucracy.

2) Agriculture and Industry
   - Several inventions improved production in agriculture and in the silk and salt industries. Farmers used the chain pump for irrigation and iron plows.
   - Workers used foot-powered reeling machines to make silk thread, and they used iron-tipped bamboo drills to mine salt.

3) Art, Medicine, and Science
   - The invention of paper advanced the art of calligraphy and changed the way people communicated.
   - Healers learned about the human body and developed techniques that are still used today.
   - Chinese scientists made careful observations of the heavens, and invented the seismograph and the compass.
Lesson 24: Silk Road

The Silk Road, an ancient network of trade routes, covering most of Asia, promoted an exchange of goods and ideas between China and the West.

The Opening of the Silk Road

- The Silk Road was opened during the Han dynasty and remained a major route of trade for more than 1,000 years.
- The eastern and western parts of the Silk Road presented many dangers and hardships for those who traveled along it.
- To make a profit from trade, goods had to be valuable and easy to carry.
- Silk and ornaments traveled from China to Rome, India, and central Asia.

- Gold, horses, cotton, and spices traveled back to China.

The Eastern Silk Road

- The Eastern Silk Road connected the capital of China to Kashgar.
- Travelers formed camel caravans for protection from bandits and the harsh conditions of desert travel.

The Western Silk Road

- From Kashgar, the Western Silk Road crossed mountains and a desert on its way to Mediterranean ports like Antioch.
- Travelers faced high, slippery mountain trails and dangerous desert wildlife, such as tigers and lions.

Cultural Exchanges Along the Silk Road

- Many goods were exchanged along the Silk Road, including both silk from China and glassware from Rome.
- In addition to new products, ideas and knowledge were exchanged.
- In this way, trade brought cultural changes to both East and West. One of the most important examples of cultural diffusion was the introduction of Buddhism to China.