Ancient China

Ms. Melick’s Core
Geography of China

- Food in ancient China
  - Northern China had little rainfall, and the winters there are bitter.
  - Farmers in Northern China grew mostly wheat, and millet.
  - South China was warmer and wetter.
  - Farmers in Southern China grew rice, vegetables, fruits, beans, gourds, snow peas, strawberries, dates, and melons.
  - China had lots of climates.
  - Lots of climates = lots of varieties of food.
  - Flour came from grain.
  - Tea, hemp, cotton, and fruits.
  - Chicken, ducks, oxen, pigs, etc.
  - Chinese people ate with chopsticks.
  - Many foods were steamed/stewed before eaten.
  - To save fuel, the Chinese people chopped the food into small pieces.
  - China lived in a simple diet of beans, grains, vegetables, and a little meat.
  - Flour was grown in Northern China.
  - Southern China crops were mostly rice.
  - Later tea was added.
  - Lots of Chinese farmers kept livestock.
  - The art of cooking has been celebrated in China since early times.
Geography in Ancient China

• Tea
  – Sipped from small bowls.
  – Made by boiled water with leaves.
  – Drying leaves made different types of tea.
  – Chopped and blended/ sometimes with flowers.
  – Grown in China, most of it.
  – Used for fine art.
  – Flavored.
  – In the 13th century people began to steep loose leaves in hot water, that’s when the tea pot arrived.
Geography in Ancient China

• Bodies of Water
  – The Yellow River was ruled by the Shang until 1122 B.C.
  – The Yangtze River was ruled by the Shang until 1122 B.C.
  – There is a canal between the Yellow and the Yangtze River.
Geography in Ancient China

• Cooking
  – People cooked in pots called dings.
  – The cooking pots were divided into several spots so many foods could be cooked at the same time.
  – The dings were made during the stone age.
  – The dings were made by three clay pots stuck together.
Geography in Ancient China

• Irrigation
  – The endless chain, a machine invented around 100 A.D. pumped water from streams, and irrigation ditches to farm fields.
  – The endless chain pump is operated by foot power.
  – Two men pumping the pedals can water the fields for an entire village.
Jobs in Ancient China

• Trading in China: The Silk Road
  – It was 4000 miles across Asia
  – There were many things were traded on the Silk Road such as ideas and goods like silk and jade in return for spices and glasses.
  – It lasted about 1000 yrs.
Jobs in Ancient China

• The Great Wall
  – It was meant for protection from invaders
  – Made out of dirt, wood and stone
  – Was 3000 mi. long
Jobs in Ancient China

• Tools and inventions
  – Made simple compasses out of a lodestone spoon that pointed south
  – Had rudders on boats to steer them
  – Had lots of sophisticated weapons at a really early age
  – Invented kites for military purposes
  – Invented the crossbow
  – Invented the wheelbarrow
Jobs in Ancient China

• Tools and inventions continued
  – Made the first seismograph
  – Had an accurate working clock
  – Had iron plows with moldboards
  – Made gas lamps
  – Made pots with the “lost wax” method
  – Had iron swords
  – Had fish-scale armor
Jobs in Ancient China

• Technology and economy
  – Experts in making bronze art and iron weapons
  – Mined lots of salt
  – Used bells to make music
  – Had lots of silk
  – Knew the moon shined because of the sun
  – First to record a lunar eclipse
Chinese Government

• Civil Service
  – Started government during Han Dynasty.
  – Only educated administrators could be in government.
  – They created a test to be in the government.
  – Top palace examination could be ministers or they could marry princesses.

• Government
  – They had a King
  – The King controlled the land
  – The King set up smaller kingdoms ruled by family members.
  – Death of smaller Kingdom ruler power passed to either the brother or son.
  – They used slaves as sacrifices.
Chinese Government

• Great Wall of China
  – Was built in 214 b.c.e.
  – Was built to keep the Xiongnu nomads out.
  – They built the wall high, because they would have to leave the horses down.
  – There were guards at the Great Wall.
  – If enemy approaches they would light fires on the roofs.

• Terra-cotta army
  – Was to guide the Emperor Qin’s spirit to the next life.
  – No statues were alike because it was based off of everyone in the Qin army.
Chinese Government

• Army
  – Fought off bandits
  – Kept workers from running away
  – They were spies
  – They bribed people
  – Had alliances to conquer new territory.
  – There was a empire larger than any earlier dynasty’s.
  – Used harsh measures
  – Killed their own people

• Warfare
  – One battle half a million people died
  – Sun Zi wrote the first military handbook called *The Art of War*.
  – Chariots carried a charioteer, an archer and an halberdier.
  – When they invented the crossbow it was one of the most deadly weapons on the battlefield.
  – Normally the weapons were made out of bronze.
  – The armor was made out of small iron plates.
Chinese Government

• Transportation
  – When they invented the wheel barrow that enabled the people to carry one person at a time and they could carry heavy loads.
  – Large ships could steer by using sternpost rudder.
  – Harness invented for cart that enabled heavier loads to be carried by oxen and horses.
  – Common boats on water are called Sampans which means three planks.
  – Camels formed long caravans that traveled on the Silk Road.
Social Classes

• Top
  – Nobles
    • Fought in army
    • Lived in palaces
    • Hunted with king

• Middle
  – Craftspeople
    • potters, medalists, bronze workers
    • Bronze workers made weapons
    • Made things for the king
Social Classes

• Middle
  – Tradesmen
    • Traded goods
    • Money was sea shells
    • Get money from neighboring regions

• Bottom
  – Slaves
Clothing

• Very different from rich and poor
  – Farmers and Peasants
    • Loose baggy clothes
    • Rough fabric
    • Plant fibers
  – Officials, rich ladies, people of imperial court, scholars
    • Robes of silk
• Merchants who traded silk were forbidden to wear it
• Many punished for wearing under outer layer
• Cotton was popular, never replaced silk
Housing

• King lived in palace
  – Beautiful gardens
  – Royal carpets

• Rich people lived near palace

• Relatives lived near/next to palace
Home

• 3 generations in 1 house
• House divided by courtyards
• Grandfather the head man
• Members of family expected to be loyal
• Name:
  – Family name, then personal name
The People

• Thought everything should be different:
  – Rich to poor
  – Women to men
• Kids don’t go to school
  – Helped parents
  – Farming
  – Household jobs
• Rich girls didn’t go to school
• Rich boys did
Family Life

- Family life very important
  - Special attention given to elderly
- Men could only have 1 wife
- Main purpose was to have a son
- Related families formed into large clans
  - 5-6 people to a family
Family

• Confucism
  – Said that loyalty to the family was very important
  – Encouraged people to honor their ancestors

• Three generations of one Family normally lived in one house.
  – The oldest male (usually the grandfather) was the head of the house hold.
  – Daughters were married off at an early age and became part of their husbands household.
Fashion

• Men
  – Men wore their hair long because it was a sign of disrespect to cut off hair you had inherited from their father

• Women
  – Women of high class bound their feet at an early age so they grow with toes tucked under their feet.
  – Small feet was considered less a sign of beauty, then a symbol of status to the man whom she married.
  – This is because if a man could support a wife who couldn’t work than he must have a lot of money.
  – The process was very painful and couldn’t be undone.
Social Class

- **Emperor**
  - Made laws. Came from ruling family. Each new dynasty, another family took power.

- **Noblemen and Government Officials**
  - Noblemen enjoyed a life of wealth.
  - Government Officials would be picked from anywhere and had to pass a difficult examination.

- **Farmers and Peasants**
  - Considered the backbone of China.
  - Lived a life of poverty and hunger.
  - Worked to in the fields.

- **Craftsmen and Artisans**
  - Made beautiful pottery, silk, etc. for trade.

- **Merchants and Traders**
  - Although they lead a life comfort compared to farmers and artisan, they were considered the least important because they did not produce anything.
Chinese Culture
Chinese Culture

• Wax Method
  – Artists made a model of a work
  – Artists covered the model in a thick layer of clay
  – When the clay was dry, they heated it up
Chinese Culture

• Medicine
  – They put everything that Chinese knew about diseases into an encyclopedia
Chinese Culture

• Pottery
  – Made bowls, jars, plates and more
  – 2 types: fired at 1470 degrees Fahrenheit and pottery was baked at a higher temperature
  – Stoneware, porcelain and earthenware
  – earthenware- black to gray inside
  – Porcelain- high temperature- pure white inside
Chinese Culture

• Chinese Art
  – Earlier they used bronze
  – Later they used paints
  – They made bronze tools for army
Chinese Culture

• Temples
  – They worshiped in temples
  – Built in caves
  – Huge carvings of spirits, demons, and teachers
Chinese Culture

• The Great Wall of China
  – Made for defense
  – Built in different sections
  – Extends about 4,500 miles
  – Most built in Ming Dynasty (5th and last period major period of construction)
  – Mostly made of brick, limestone, and granite
  – Some parts made of dirt and wood
  – Watched towers to help army spot enemies
  – Large gates built in some areas
  – Some places could fit a whole army
  – Manchus (nomadic tribe) took over in 1700’s and the construction stopped
Chinese Culture

• Architecture
  – 3 gen. of family under one roof
  – Traditional home was divided into sections
  – Main gate was in the outer courtyard
  – Side rooms were like guests/library
  – Only the family could go in the inner courtyard
  – The family goes into the main building
China Entertainment

- Played board games
- Played chess and dice game
- Played War (reenacted battles)
China Medicine

- Thought ying and yang (someone's spirit) was out of balance when someone became sick
- Chinese medicines date back to 2,000 B.C.
- Doctors believed people could become immortal
China Calligraphy

• Li Shu
• Han Dynasty - keeping record
• Kai Shu
• 250 B.C.E - Ordinary Writing
• Xing Shu
• 300 B.C.E - artistic writing
China Terra Cotta Warriors

- Were found in Dragon Emperors tomb
- Protect dragon emperor in afterlife
- Clay horses and chariots
China Confucianism

- Confucius 479-551 B.C.
- Developed rules
- Believed family was worthy of respect
- Good government
- Provided China with a long lasting society
China Shrines

- People had shrines in their homes
- Worshiped gods
- Smaller than temple
China Pottery

- Tomb models carefully detailed and glazed
- Porcelain white and smooth
- Valuable
- Discovered by European explorer Johann Bottger