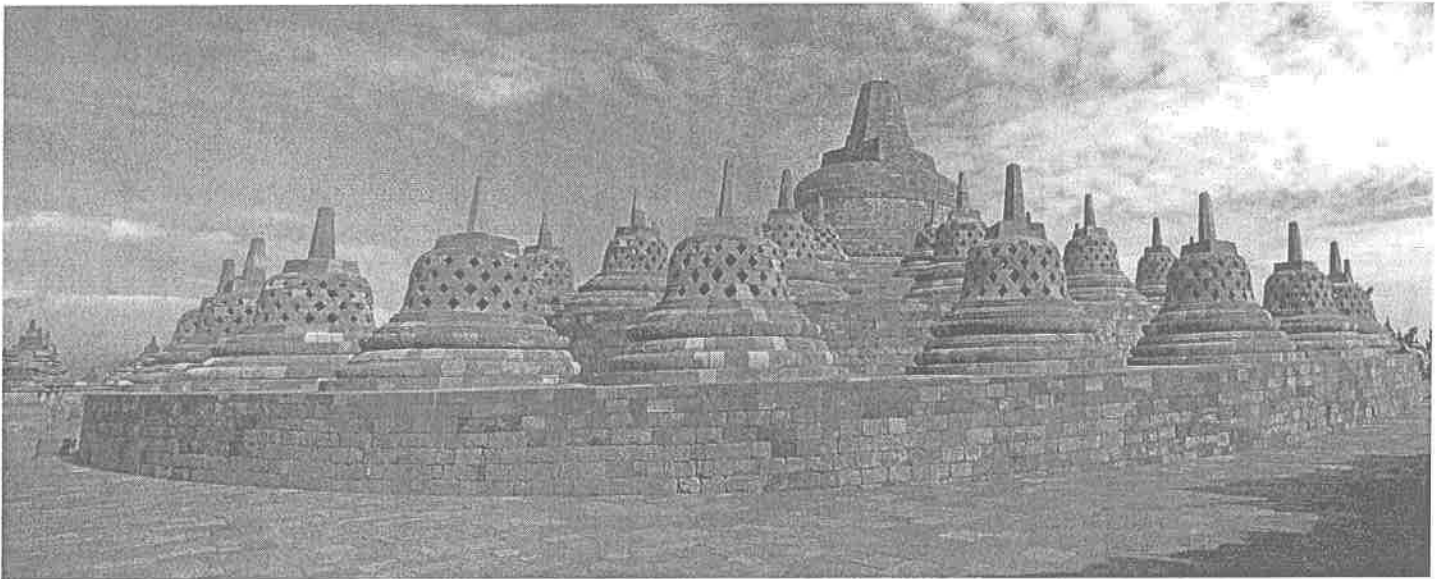


# Classical Civilizations of China/India



Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Period: \_\_\_\_\_

Due Date: \_\_\_\_\_

# Classical Civilizations of China/India

## Vocabulary

Classical Civilization: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

### China

Bureaucracy: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Civil Service Exams: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Expansionism: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Filial Piety: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Great Wall: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Monopoly: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Silk Road: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

## India

Caste System: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Decimal System: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Golden Age: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Stupas: \_\_\_\_\_

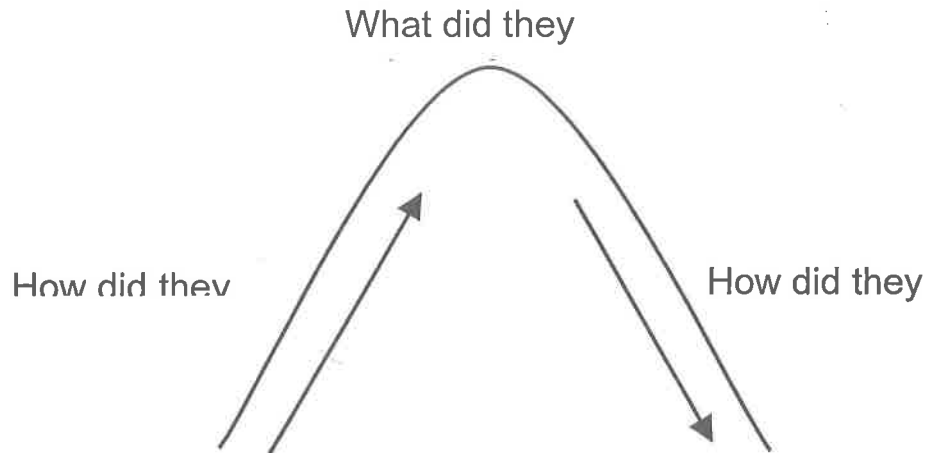
\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

# CLASSICAL CIVILIZATIONS

## *Overview (600 BCE - 900 CE)*

Unit Compelling Question: *Why do civilizations rise and fall?*



### Classical Civilizations in the Mediterranean

Classical Civilization	Rise & Expansion	Decline/Fall
Greece	600 BCE	600 CE
Rome	509 BCE	476 CE

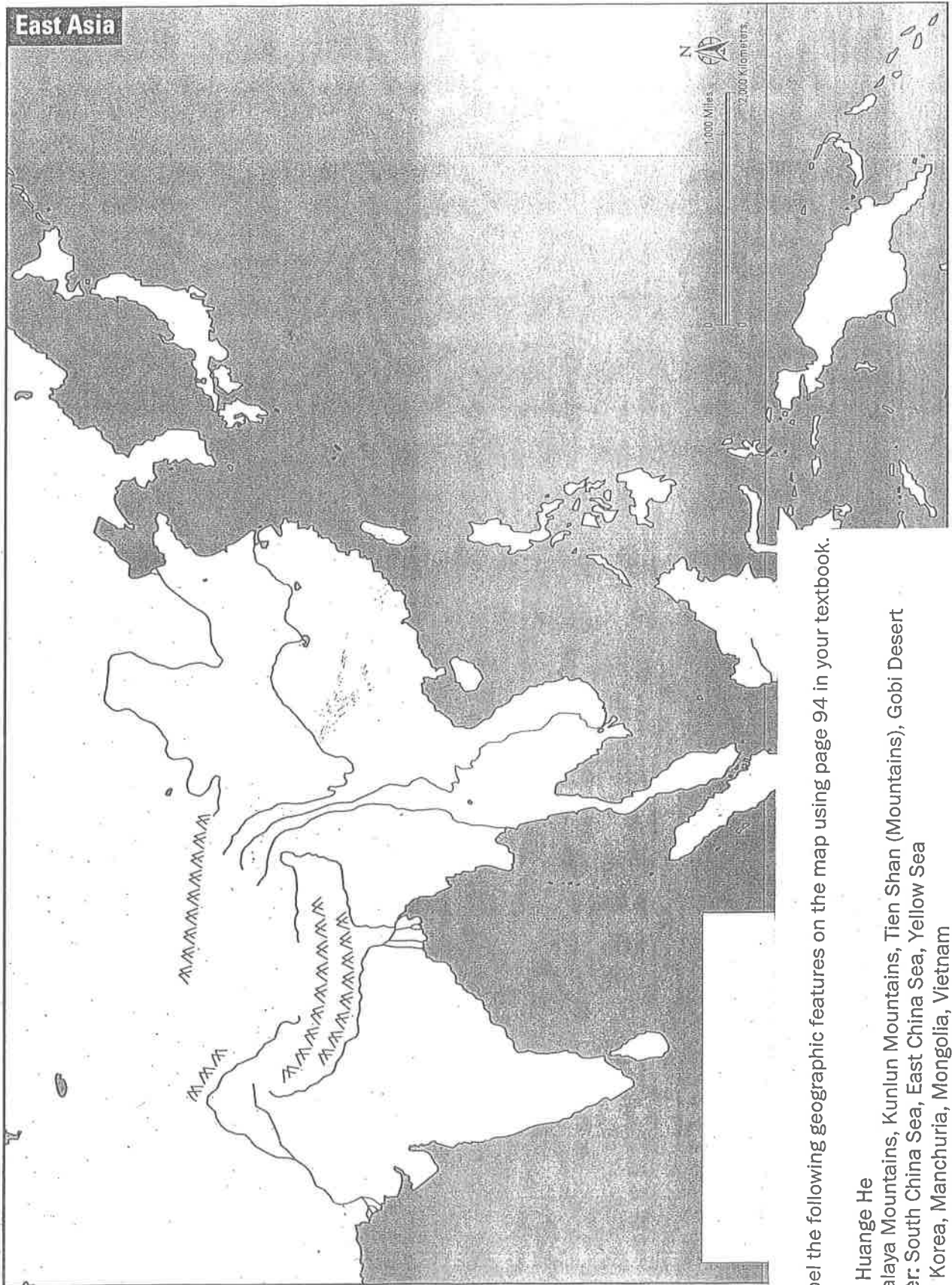
### Classical Civilizations in India and China

Classical Civilization	Rise & Expansion	Decline/Fall
Qin (China)	221 BCE	209 BCE
Han (China)	200 BCE	460 CE
Maurya (India)	321 BCE	180 BCE
Gupta (India)	320 CE	550 CE

### Classical Civilizations in the Americas

Classical Civilization	Rise & Expansion	Decline/Fall
Maya	250 CE	900 CE

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Directions: Label the following geographic features on the map using page 94 in your textbook.

Rivers: Yangzi, Huang He

Features: Himalaya Mountains, Kunlun Mountains, Tien Shan (Mountains), Gobi Desert

Bodies of Water: South China Sea, East China Sea, Yellow Sea

Other Regions: Korea, Manchuria, Mongolia, Vietnam

Using two different colors, draw the boundaries of the Qin and Han Empires.

## Classical Civilizations in China

### I. Qin Empire (221-210 BC)

#### A. Creation

1. Zheng (JUHNG) united China by defeating remnants of the Zhou and crushing feudal lords
2. Zheng declared himself \_\_\_\_\_ (First Emperor) in 221 BC

#### B. Rule of Shi Huangdi

1. applied \_\_\_\_\_ principles
  - a. rewards for merit, punishments for failure
2. abolished \_\_\_\_\_
3. set up military districts with loyal officials to administer them
4. sent inspectors to spy on local officials
5. forced noble families to live in capital of Xianyang
6. gave land to \_\_\_\_\_ and forced them to pay high taxes to support armies/building projects
7. \_\_\_\_\_ weights and measures
8. developed Qin coins
9. standardized \_\_\_\_\_
10. maintained roads/canals for a strong transportation system
11. \_\_\_\_\_
  - a. jailed, tortured or killed anyone who opposed his rule
  - b. attacked feudal nobles/\_\_\_\_\_ scholars
  - c. burned all \_\_\_\_\_ of literature and philosophy
    - i. only books on medicine and agriculture spared

### C. Achievements

1. built the \_\_\_\_\_ connecting several walls throughout China
2. \_\_\_\_\_ soldiers

### D. Collapse

1. upon the death of \_\_\_\_\_ people revolted due to high taxes, forced labor and cruel policies

## II. Han Dynasty (200 BC – 460 AD)

### A. Leaders

1. Liu Bang claimed the \_\_\_\_\_ and took control of China
2. \_\_\_\_\_ (141-87 BC) takes China to new heights

### B. Reign of Wudi

1. strengthened the government and economy in China
2. set up \_\_\_\_\_
3. improved roads and canals to improve \_\_\_\_\_
4. imposed government monopoly on iron and salt
5. followed policy of \_\_\_\_\_
  - a. Chinese had \_\_\_\_\_ in Manchuria, Korea, parts of Vietnam, Tibet and Central Asia
6. opened up a trade route \_\_\_\_\_) to link China to west
  - a. Silk Road stretched 4,000 miles linking China with goods from the \_\_\_\_\_ and beyond

### C. Characteristics of Han Rule

1. \_\_\_\_\_ was official belief system of the state
  - a. \_\_\_\_\_ scholars ran bureaucratic government
2. Used \_\_\_\_\_ exams to find qualified officials

3. \_\_\_\_\_ were excluded from government jobs

#### D. Achievements of the Golden Age of the Han

1. \_\_\_\_\_

- a. wrote text on chemistry, zoology, botany
- b. improved calendar
- c. developed a simple seismography

2. Medicine

- a. studied causes of \_\_\_\_\_
- b. developed herbal remedies
- c. used \_\_\_\_\_

3. Technology

- a. paper made from wood pulp
- b. advanced methods of shipbuilding/developed rudder
- c. wheelbarrow, suspension bridges, fishing reels

#### E. Collapse of Han Empire

1. \_\_\_\_\_ leadership causes the rise of local military leaders
2. \_\_\_\_\_ and debts
3. \_\_\_\_\_ revolts
4. \_\_\_\_\_ broke through the \_\_\_\_\_
5. \_\_\_\_\_ of canals/roads leads to a decline in trade/economy



## The Dynastic Cycle in China

### ACTIVITY 32

Causes and Consequences

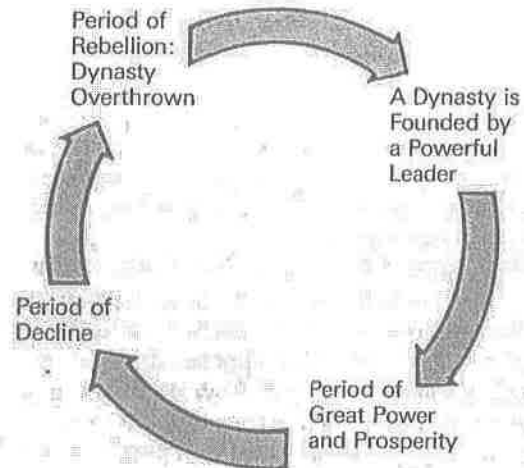
The rise and fall of successive dynasties in ancient China followed a pattern called the *Dynastic Cycle*. This cycle had four stages: the founding of the dynasty, a period of great power and prosperity, a period of decline, and the overthrow of the dynasty. This pattern occurred repeatedly throughout Chinese history.

The Dynastic Cycle began with an individual leader gaining control of the country by defeating his rivals. Once in power, the leader's right to rule became hereditary and a dynasty began. In the next phase of the cycle, the ruler consolidated his power by appointing loyal government officials throughout the country. Taxes were collected, elaborate palaces built, irrigation systems and roads improved, and money spent on the arts and education. During this phase the government grew increasingly ordered and powerful.

Then overspending initiated a period of decline. Extravagant spending by the ruling family and government officials forced peasants to pay higher taxes. As hardship spread through the countryside, the government, still short of money, neglected the repair of dikes and irrigation systems. Floods occurred damaging crops. Finally, unable to defend itself against enemy invasions and beset by discontent at home, the dynasty fell.

A new dynasty eventually emerged, as a new leader took power. The cycle began again.

#### The Dynastic Cycle



2. Emperor Shi Huangdi builds roads, standardizes writing, encourages standardized weights.

3. After twelve years of warfare, Shi Huangdi takes control of all China's warring states.

4. A discontented farmer leads a revolt against the Qin ruler, which leads to defeat of the Qins.

5. Emperor Shi Huangdi completes the Great Wall, neglecting the dikes and irrigation system, and during construction forcing thousands of Chinese to work on the wall.

#### COMPREHENSION Mastering Facts

1. What are the four stages of the Dynastic Cycle?

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#### APPLICATION Recognizing Similarities

The rise and fall of the Qin Dynasty is an example of the Dynastic Cycle. Read the statements about the dynasty, then write the stage in the cycle that matches it.

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# Qin Dynasty and Shi Huangdi

**Do Now:** If you ruled a country, what would you do to maintain control over everything and everyone?

How did Shi Huangdi consolidate and increase his power?





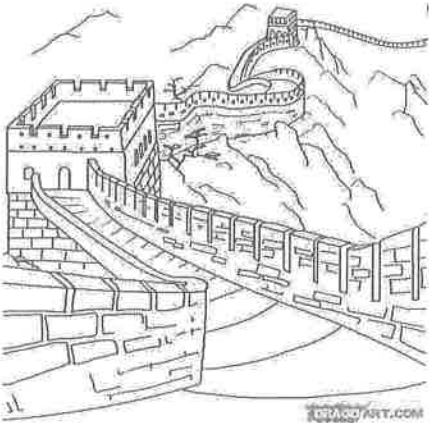
## The Qin Dynasty in China (221 BCE- 206 BCE)


### The Qin Dynasty

In 221 B.C.E., after twenty years of fighting to **conquer** the “warring states,” Shi Huangdi became the first and only emperor of the Qin Dynasty. The Qin was the first dynasty in China’s Classical period and it ruled until 206 B.C.E.

Shi Huangdi **consolidated** power through a philosophy called

**LEGALISM =**

	Actions taken by Shi Huangdi to consolidate power	Your explanation of how this helped him consolidate his power
1.	<p>Shi Huangdi made the nobles leave their land and live at his court.</p> 	<p>This action helped Shi Huangdi <i>consolidate power because ...</i></p>
2.	<p>Shi Huangdi took over all the land, divided them in <b>province</b>, then appointed a leader of each <b>province</b>.</p> 	<p>This action helped Shi Huangdi <i>consolidate power because ...</i></p>
3.	<p>Shi Huangdi built the <b>Great Wall</b> to protect China from invaders.</p> 	<p>This action helped Shi Huangdi <i>consolidate power because ...</i></p>
4.	<p>Shi Huangdi <b>repaired</b> roads and canals.</p>	<p>This action helped Shi Huangdi <i>consolidate power because ...</i></p>
5.	<p>Shi Huangdi <b>forced</b> peasants to work.</p>	<p>This action helped Shi Huangdi <i>consolidate power</i></p>

		<i>because ...</i>
6.	Shi Huangdi <b>forced</b> peasants to join the military.	This action helped Shi Huangdi <i>consolidate power because ...</i>
7.	Shi Huangdi <b>standardized</b> measurements and created <b>uniform</b> national coins. 	This action helped Shi Huangdi <i>consolidate power because ...</i>

# CLOSE READ: Qin Dynasty and Shi Huangdi

## How did Shi Huangdi consolidate and increase his power?

**Directions:** Read through the following introduction and document, then answer the questions that follow.

### The Records of the Grand Historian

*The Records of the Grand Historian* is a comprehensive history of ancient China that covers a 2500-year period from the age of the legendary Yellow Emperor to the reign of Emperor Wu of the Han Dynasty in the 2nd century B.C.E. *The Records of the Grand Historian* was finished in 109 B.C.E in China by the Han dynasty official Sima Qian.

In the excerpt you will be reading, Sima Qian has recorded a conversation where Li Si is speaking in response to a scholar who has challenged the Emperor Shi Huangdi. Li Si was a strong supporter of **Legalism** and served as the Grand Counselor to Emperor Shi Huangdi.

### Pre-Reading Questions

1a. Who wrote this document? When was it written? Where was it written?

Who wrote or recorded this document?	
Who is the <b>speaker</b> in this document? (Hint: The person who recorded this document is <i>not</i> the same as the speaker. )	
What is the <b>perspective</b> of the speaker? (Hint: What ideas or philosophies does the speaker believe in?)	
Based on the speaker's perspective, what <b>predictions</b> can you make about what you might read in this document below?	
<b>When</b> was this document written or recorded?	
<b>Where</b> was it written or recorded?	

1b. **Why** was this document written?

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## The Records of the Grand Historian

1	"...In former times when the world, torn by <b>chaos</b> and <b>disorder</b> , could not be united, different states arose
2	and argued from the past to <b>condemn</b> the present, using empty <b>rhetoric</b> to cover up and confuse the real
3	issues, and employing their learning to oppose what was established by <b>authority</b> . Now Your Majesty
4	[Shi Huangdi] has <b>conquered</b> the whole world, distinguished between black and white, see <b>unified</b>
5	standards. Yet these <b>opinionated scholars</b> get together to <b>slander</b> the laws and judge each new <b>decree</b>
6	according to their own school of thought...
7	
8	"I humbly propose that all historical records but those of Chin [Qin] be burned. If anyone who is not a
9	court scholar dares to keep the ancient songs, historical records or writings of the hundred schools, these
10	should be <b>confiscated</b> and burned by the provincial governor and army commander. Those who in
11	conversation dare to quote the old songs and records should be publicly <b>executed</b> ; those who use old
12	precedents [examples] to oppose the new order should have their families wiped out; and officers who
13	know of such cases but fail to report them should be punished in the same way.
14	
15	"...The only books which need not be destroyed are those dealing with medicine, divination and
16	agriculture. Those who want to study the law can learn it from the officers." The emperor <b>sanctioned</b> this
17	proposal....
18	
19	

Source: <http://acc6.its.brooklyn.cuny.edu/~phalsall/texts/ssuma2.html>

### Close Read Questions

2. What did "Your Majesty [Shi Huangdi]" do in response to the "chaos and disorder" in China (li. 1)?

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3. What does the phrase "opinionated scholar" (li. 6) mean?

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4. How are these “opinionated scholars” (li. 6) responding to Shi Huangdi’s changes?

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5. In line 9, what does Li Si suggest that Shi Huangdi do in response to these “opinionated scholars (li. 6)?”

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6. Reread lines 12-15.

a. What is the consequence for those who “dare to quote the old songs and records”? How does this consequence increase and consolidate the power of Shi Huangdi?

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b. What is the consequence for those who “use old precedents [examples] to oppose the new order”? How does this consequence increase and consolidate the power of Shi Huangdi?

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c. What is the consequence for officers who “know of such cases but fail to report them?” How does this consequence increase and consolidate the power of Shi Huangdi?

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7. To what extent do the consequences Li Si describes, contradict or support the policy of Legalism?

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8. Which books were allowed in the Qin dynasty? Why?

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9. How did Li Si's policy increase the power of Emperor Shi Huangdi?

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The Fall of the Han dynasty

Document 1

*Edict of Emperor Wen on the Primacy of Agriculture, 163 BCE*

For the past several years there have been no good harvests, and our people have suffered the calamities, of flood, drought, and pestilence. We are deeply grieved by this, but being ignorant and unenlightened, we have been unable to discover where the blame lies. We have considered whether our administration has been guilty of some error or our actions of some fault. Have we failed to follow the Way of Heaven or to obtain the benefits of Earth? Have we caused disharmony in human affairs or neglected the gods that they do not accept our offerings? What has brought on these things? Have the provisions for our officials been too lavish or have we indulged in too many unprofitable affairs? Why is the food of the people so scarce? When the fields are surveyed, they have not decreased, and when the people are counted they have not grown in number, so that the amount of land for each person is the same as before or even greater. And yet there is a drastic shortage of food. Where does the blame lie? Is it that too many people pursue secondary activities to the detriment of agriculture? Is it that too much grain is used to make wine or too many domestic animals are being raised?

Source: Sources of Chinese Tradition, compiled by Wm. Theodore de Bary and Irene Bloom, 2nd ed., vol. 1 (New York: Columbia University Press, 1999), 354.

1a. According to Emperor Wen's Edict, what four major problems the Han Dynasty is experiencing?

- (1) \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
- (2) \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
- (3) \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
- (4) \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

1c. According to Emperor Wen's Edict, what are two possible reasons why the Han dynasty is experiencing problems?

- (1) \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
- (2) \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Document 2

*Protecting the Han Frontier*

The Han dynasty was one of great imperial expansion despite nomads north of the Great Wall who were a repeated threat to the Chinese throughout their imperial history. The nomad could simply apply the skills he used daily, those of the horsemanship and archery, to attack the Chinese frontier, while the Chinese peasant farmer had to interrupt his agricultural life and train as a soldier to defend the imperial boundary stretching some 1400 miles.

Source: Barron's SAT Subject Test: World History (2007), p. 97

2a. In Document 10, what does the phrase "imperial expansion" (li. 1) mean?

(1) \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

2b. According to Document 2, what is *one* problem faced by China to the north?

(1) \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Document 3

*Peasant Revolts*

As the Han dynasty aged, signs of decay appeared. Court intrigues undermined emperors who could no longer control powerful warlords, or local military rulers. Weak emperors let canals and roads fall into disrepair. Burdened by heavy taxes and crushing debt, many peasants revolted. Thousands of rebellious peasants abandoned their villages and fled to the mountains. There they joined secret groups of bandits known by colorful names like the “Red Eyebrows” and the “Green Woodsmen”.

Source: Prentice Hall, p. 105

3a. According to Document 3, what were three signs of decay in the Han Dynasty?

- (1) \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
- (2) \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
- (3) \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

3b. How did the peasants respond to the decay in the Han dynasty?

- (1) \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Document 4

*Han Government and Peasant Unrest*

The empire had been crumbling for decades. As frivolous or depraved rulers amused themselves with pleasures of court life, the power and influence of the central government began to wane, and the great noble families filled the vacuum, amassing vast landed estates and transforming free farmers into tenants. Wang Mang [reformist official] tried to confiscate the great estates and abolish slavery. In so doing, however, he alienated powerful interests, who conspired to overthrow him. In 23 CE, beset by administrative chaos and a collapse of the frontier defenses, Wang Mang was killed in a coup d'etat [...]

The court attempted to reduce land taxes [...] but the monopoly of land and power by the great landed families continued. Weak rulers were isolated within their imperial chambers and dominated [...] Official corruption and the concentration of land in the hands of the wealthy led to widespread peasant unrest.

Source: Duiker, W.J., & Spielvogel J.J. (2014). *The Essential World History*. Boston, Massachusetts: Wadsworth

4a. According to Document 12, who turned free farmers into “tenants”?

(1) \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

4b. According to Document 12, reforms did Wang Mang attempt to make?

(1) \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

4c. According to Document 12, how did the powerful people in Han Dynasty respond to his reforms?

(1) \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

4d. According to Document 12, how did the peasants respond to the problems in the Han dynasty? Why?

(1) \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Cases of the Fall of the Han Dynasty

**Directions:** Based on the documents, complete the organizer below. List reasons for the fall of the Han dynasty for each category. You must use information from each document to complete the chart.

Economic Causes	Military Causes	Political Causes	Social Causes

Directions: Label the following geographic features on the map using page 83 in your textbook

Name \_\_\_\_\_

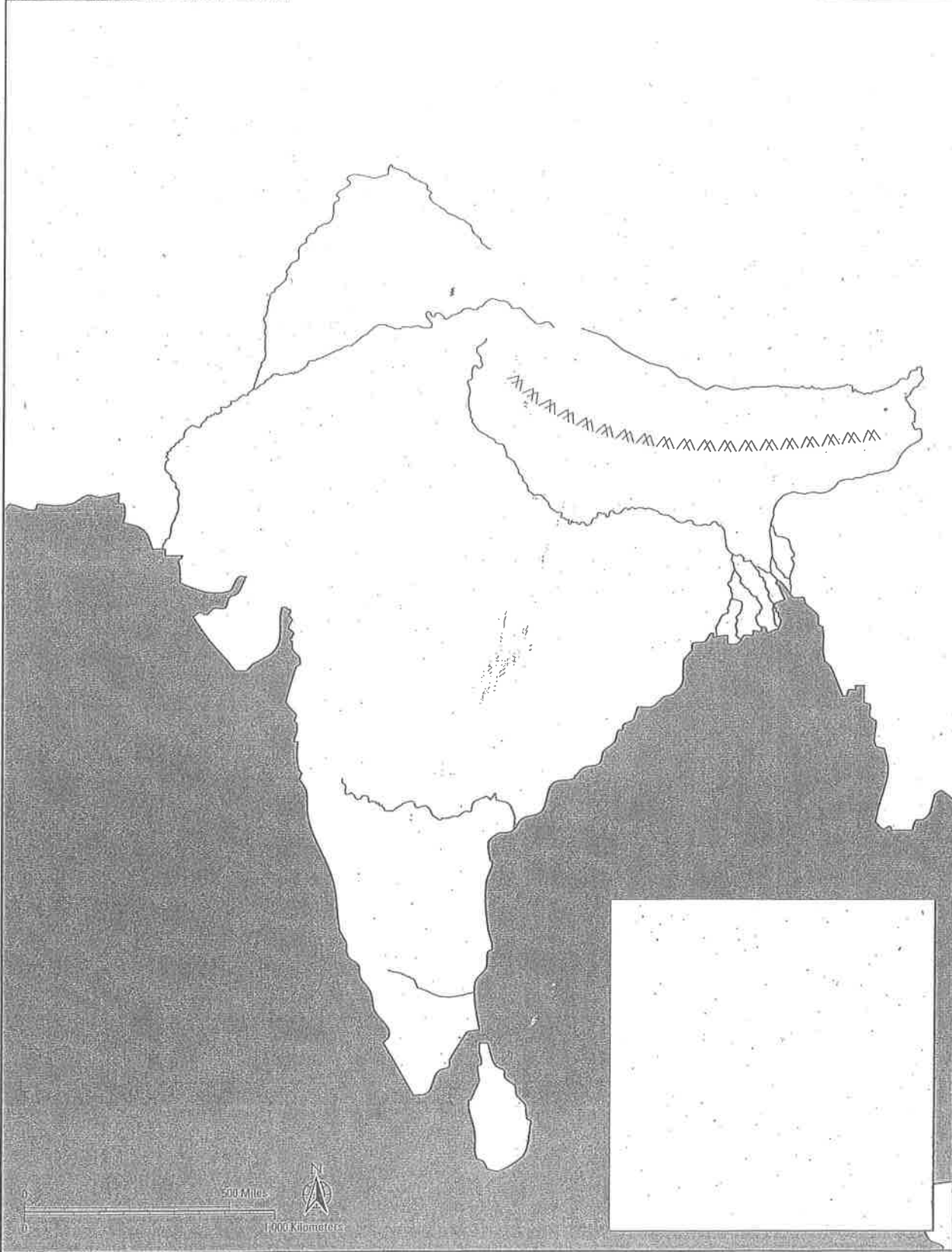
Rivers: Brahmaputra, Ganges, Indus

Features: Himalaya Mountains, Hindu Kush, Deccan Plateau

Bodies of Water: Bay of Bengal, Arabian Sea, Indian Ocean

### The Indian Subcontinent

Using two different colors, draw the boundaries of the Maurya and Gupta Empires.



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## Classical Civilizations of India

### I. Maurya Empire (321-180 BC)

#### A. Location

1. Began in the \_\_\_\_\_ Valley before expanding to control much of India including the \_\_\_\_\_ Plateau

#### B. Leaders

1. \_\_\_\_\_

a. set up well organized \_\_\_\_\_

b. built roads, harbors to assist trade

c. Rule was effective but harsh

i. secret police crushed any \_\_\_\_\_

2. \_\_\_\_\_ (grandson of Chandragupta)

a. Converted to \_\_\_\_\_ after a bloody war on conquest

i. \_\_\_\_\_ violence

ii. became a vegetarian

iii. ruled by moral example

b. preached \_\_\_\_\_ of other religions

c. brought a \_\_\_\_\_ to India

d. built roads, rest houses for travelers to encourage \_\_\_\_\_

e. helps spread Buddhism through \_\_\_\_\_ activity

#### C. Decline

1. rival princes fought for power

2. foreign invasions

## II. Gupta Empire (320-550 AD)

### A. Characteristics

1. ruled much of the \_\_\_\_\_ of India
2. brought a golden age to India
3. left power in the hands of \_\_\_\_\_
4. trade and farming flourished
  - a. farmers grew wheat, rice, sugar cane .
  - b. artisans produced cotton cloth, pottery, metalware for export

### B. Learning Advancements

1. Set up \_\_\_\_\_ to study religion, mathematics, medicine, physics, literature
2. Mathematics
  - a. developed the \_\_\_\_\_ (modern numbers)
  - b. developed concept of \_\_\_\_\_
  - c. developed the \_\_\_\_\_ (based on 10)
3. Medical
  - a. herbs other remedies to treat illness
  - b. doctors could set bones, repair simple facial injuries (\_\_\_\_\_)
  - c. began using \_\_\_\_\_ against small-pox
4. Architecture
  - a. built \_\_\_\_\_ (large dome-shaped shrines)
5. Literature
  - a. collected and recorded fables and folk tales in the Sanskrit language

### C. Gupta Society

1. People broken down into \_\_\_\_\_ based on Hinduism

a. \_\_\_\_\_ were outcasts who were given jobs that were considered impure like cleaning streets or digging graves

2. People lived in \_\_\_\_\_ villages

3. Family Life

a. lived in \_\_\_\_\_ where parents, children, grandparents, uncles and their children all lived together in one home

b. \_\_\_\_\_ marriages are common

c. women are restricted

### D. Decline

1. \_\_\_\_\_ rules

2. \_\_\_\_\_

3. \_\_\_\_\_ invaders

**Chapter 4 Biography Activity Part 2.1**

**MODERN ERA EDITION**

What Shakespeare is to later writers of English poetry and drama, Kalidasa is to the literature of classical India. He was not only the greatest writer in Sanskrit but one of the greatest in all world literature. Despite his importance, Kalidasa himself remains a mysterious figure. ♦ *As you read, think about how a writer's work reflects his or her background. Then, on a separate sheet of paper, answer the questions that follow.*

**Kalidasa (c. A.D. 400?)**

In spite of Kalidasa's importance as a writer, nearly all we know about his personal life is based on legends and on educated guesswork. Many authors leave clues about themselves in their work, but Kalidasa hid his personality very well.

Scholars even disagree about when Kalidasa lived and wrote. Some believe it was as long ago as the first or second century B.C. Many, though, think that the plays and poems reflect the life and style of the great Gupta empire, and that Kalidasa probably lived at the court of the emperor Chandragupta II, about the year A.D. 400. More than 1,500 years later, his plays and poetry are still popular.

Kalidasa "introduces" himself to readers in the prologues to his plays—the only way we know his name. Like the names of other writers in Sanskrit, it is a sort of pen name, meaning "servant of Time [Kali]."

There are seven known works by Kalidasa. As epic poems (such as the *Ramayana*) were a tradition in classical Indian literature, Kalidasa followed this tradition. His epic *Raghu's Dynasty (Raghuvamsa)* is about a warrior-king. Of his three plays, the most famous is *Shakuntala* (a shortening of its full title, "The Recognition of Shakuntala"). Two long lyric poems are *The Cloud Messenger (Meghaduta)* and *The Gathering of the Seasons (Ritusamhara)*.

In *The Cloud Messenger*, a dark-blue rain cloud travels many miles over the countryside to be a link between lovers who are far apart. As the cloud travels, the poet imagines its journey, the storms it brings, and the scenes it sees. According to one tradition, Kalidasa wrote the poem while he was on a long diplomatic embassy for the emperor, missing his wife and his home.

Kalidasa's writing reflects the splendor of imperial court life, but he also describes the natural world in vivid detail. Here the hero of *The Cloud Messenger* tells the cloud about its final destination, his home:

"By its edge is a miniature hill, wondrous, with sapphire-inlaid crest, exquisitely blue and ringed round by golden plantain-trees."

There may be some clues about Kalidasa's life in his writing. For instance, in several places he writes proudly about the palaces and gardens of the ancient capital city of Ujjayini (modern-day Ujjain, in Madhya Pradesh). This city was most likely his home. His poems also clearly describe several regions of India, such as the landscape of the Vindhya Mountains.

Kalidasa's poetry was first translated from Sanskrit in the 1700s. Since then, his style and originality have inspired later writers in both India and Europe.

**“More than 1500 years later, his plays are still popular.”**

**Questions to Think About**

1. When and where do most scholars think that Kalidasa lived and worked?
2. In what language did Kalidasa write?
3. What kind of literary work is *The Cloud Messenger*? What is it about?
4. **Formulating Questions** What kinds of clues about Kalidasa's life have people found in his writing?

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# Classical Civilizations in China/India

## Review Sheet

### China

- The Qin dynasty is known for the following: Shi Huangdi, legalism, and the tomb of terra cotta soldiers.
- Legalism in the Qin dynasty promoted the idea that harsh punishments for crimes will lead to a more orderly society.
- The Han dynasty grew wealthy because they developed extensive trade networks including the Silk Road.
- The Silk Road connected trade between Asia and Europe.
- Confucianism had the greatest influence on the development of social order and political organization. It led to the development of civil service exams during the Han dynasty.
- The Han dynasty collapsed for many reasons. One reason is they grew too large to govern their territories effectively.

### India

- The expansion of the Maurya and Gupta Empires in India was limited by geographic factors like the Himalaya Mountains.
- The Gupta Empire had a combination of wealth and a time of relative peace which led to a period of cultural achievement or a golden age.
- The golden age of the Gupta's was characterized by advancements in mathematics (decimal system) and medicine (vaccines).