

Ancient China Timeline

Name: _____

| Years/Time Periods | Important Events During This Time Period |
|---|---|
| 8000 to 2205 BC | Earlier settlers built small villages and farms along the Yellow and the Yangtze Rivers |
| <p>ANCIENT CHINA begins</p> <p>2205 to 1575 BC</p> | <p>Earliest use of bronze</p> <p>Xia Dynasty begins; historians debate whether this dynasty was legend or real</p> <p>Beginning with this dynasty, the king was no longer selected by ability</p> <p>Now, the kingdom began to be passed to a family member (typically from father to son)</p> |
| <p>1570 to 1050 BC</p> <p>Shang Dynasty</p> | <p>Early settlements along the Huang River had chiefs or rulers</p> <p>These rulers organized workers and commanded warriors and eventually began to take control of nearby villages. With this new control, these leaders created small kingdoms.</p> <p>A ruler from one of these smaller kingdoms expanded and formed the Shang Dynasty. "This is the earliest dynasty for which we have a written record." (textbook, page 256)</p> <p>This dynasty had over 31 rulers and moved the capital at least 6 times.</p> <p>They organized farmers to use the land more efficiently; with the bigger harvests, the "rulers could support many soldiers"; "these soldiers attacked neighboring areas to expand their territory"</p> <p><u>Achievements of this dynasty:</u></p> <p>Oracle Bones--earliest written records from China--they are animal bones or turtle shells carved with writing that were used to tell the future; writing was pictographs (pictures that represent words or ideas)</p> <p>By 1300 BC, they had a fully developed writing system.</p> <p>Best known for metalworking using bronze ; they made decorated pots, cups, and weapons used them in religious ceremonies</p> |
| <p>1050 to 256 BC</p> <p>Zhou Dynasty</p> | <p>The Zhou Dynasty conquered the Shang Dynasty around 1050 BC; the Shang were overtaken because their leaders had become corrupt and cared only about themselves</p> |

The new **Zhou** dynasty believed they had been successful in gaining power because they had **Mandate of Heaven** or the right to rule from “the highest force of nature” (called heaven).

Because they had the **Mandate of Heaven**, these new rulers would have to **act** virtuously, be **kind** and **just**, serve the **people**, and **stop** corruption.

Leaders were “permitted to seize control by force (if necessary)....because.....(v)ictory served as proof that heaven supported the change in leadership.”

This dynasty **conquered** many lands to expand their kingdom. There were many different **cultures** and a great deal of **territory (land)**. The king put members of his **family** in charge of different **regions** in the kingdom as a way to keep **control**. The effect was making the kingdom **weaker** because the connection between the Zhou leader and the local leaders was hard to maintain.

The people saw **uprisings** and **natural** disasters as evidence that a kingdom had lost its **Mandate of Heaven**. Many regions or small states had **warlords** (military rulers of small states) who said they were **loyal** to the Zhou king, but really wanted **power** for themselves.

As a result of all this fighting, these smaller battles grew into a large war. This period of time was called the **Warring States** Period (475 to 221 BC). Millions **died** and much land was **destroyed**. The last Zhou ruler was overthrown in **256** BC.

Achievements of this dynasty:

Invention of **crossbow**; people learned to make **iron** (stronger than bronze) and made strong **weapons**; it also made stronger **farm** tools; built a **network** of roads to help trade; **coins** were used for the 1st time

Sources:

https://www.ducksters.com/history/china/timeline_of_ancient_china.php

<http://www.indiana.edu/~e232/Time1.html#A>

Textbook