

# MJ World History

## Grade 6 / Week 5

Your Week at a Glance
<input type="checkbox"/> The Qin and Han Dynasties

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**Name**

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**Teacher**

NOTE: If you need help with completing this lesson, please contact your teacher.

## LCS 6<sup>th</sup> Grade World History Distance Learning Assignment

### Week 5: Parent Notes

This week, students will complete their study of ancient China using materials from the workbook of their adopted textbook, McGraw-Hill's *Succeeding in Early World History*. The following state standards are addressed in this week's lesson:

SS.6.W.4.8: Describe the contributions of classical and post classical China.

SS.6.W.4.9: Identify key figures from classical and post classical China.

SS.6.G.2.6 Explain cultural diffusion, and identify the influences of different ancient cultures on one another.

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### Learning Activities

**Part I:** Students should read pages 338-343 from the workbook and—to the best of their ability-- answer the questions in the margin to guide their reading and understanding.

**Part II:** Students should access the SPRITE chart in the back of this packet. A SPRITE chart allows you to study a civilization by looking at different areas of life: social, political, religious, intellectual, technological, and economic. Follow the directions provided on the SPRITE chart.

### OPTIONAL ONLINE RESOURCES

Short video on the Han Dynasty - <https://youtu.be/kLStXl6CmS8>.

LESSON 3 SUMMARY

# The Qin and the Han Dynasties

SS.6.G.1.7, SS.6.G.2.2, SS.6.G.4.4, SS.6.E.3.2, SS.6.W.4.6, SS.6.W.4.8, SS.6.W.4.9, SS.6.W.4.10

## 1. EVALUATING

Underline the changes Qin made to unify and strengthen China. Which change do you think was the most important in creating a unified China? Why do you think so?

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## The Qin Emperor

The Period of Warring States kept the Zhou dynasty fighting for more than 200 years. Rulers of local states were strong, and they ignored the demands of the weaker kings. One of these states was Qin. The ruler of Qin sent out a large cavalry force to defeat neighboring states in 221 B.C. This ended the Zhou dynasty. The Qin now controlled China from the Huang He to the Chang Jiang.

The Qin ruler called himself Qin Shihuangdi, which means “the First Qin Emperor.” This marked a new beginning for China. Changes made by the Qin would impact China for many centuries.

## How Did Qin Change China?

Control of provinces was passed from father to son under the Zhou dynasty. Qin decided that only he would appoint governors. By taking direct control of the provinces, Qin hoped to strengthen and unify China.

Qin was a dictator. He had absolute control and punished or killed anyone who disagreed with him. Instead of following the Mandate of Heaven, Qin’s way of governing was legalism. He created an efficient but cruel government. Writings that he disliked were burned. He increased the government’s power by appointing **censors**. A censor had to make sure government workers were actually doing their jobs.

Qin also developed a **currency**, or type of money, that everyone had to use. This helped unify China. In addition, he had scholars simplify the Chinese writing system and clarify its rules. Qin began building projects throughout the empire. His tomb, for example, was so large that it housed an army of life-sized clay soldiers and horses. He had farmers build palaces, roads, dams, and a huge canal. The purpose of the canal was to transport supplies to soldiers in distant territories. It connected central China’s Chang Jiang to what is today the city of Guangzhou in southern China.

## Why Was the Great Wall Built?

Since Qin had united China into one empire, he wanted to protect his lands from invasion. A large desert, known as the Gobi, was on the edge of China’s northern border.

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**LESSON 3 SUMMARY, *continued***

Nomads, who the Chinese knew as the Xiongnu, lived in the Gobi. The Xiongnu fought on horseback and were known for attacking settlements. To remain safe from these warriors, other rulers had constructed walls in the north. Qin decided to join and strengthen the walls. He put hundreds of thousands of farmers to work, and the Great Wall was built.

**The End of Qin Rule**

Qin was a confident ruler. After his victories in 221 B.C., he believed his dynasty would rule China forever. However, the Qin dynasty ended soon after his death in 210 B.C. Qin rule was very harsh. Both aristocrats and farmers revolted against it, which led to fighting throughout China. The Qin dynasty was completely over by 206 B.C., and a new dynasty came to power.

**Han Rulers**

The Han dynasty rose to power in 202 B.C. and would rule China for more than 400 years. Liu Bang, a farmer who became a soldier, was its founder.

**ANALYZING MAPS**

2. Look at the map of both the Qin and Han dynasties. Use the map to answer these questions: Did Han rulers support emperor Qin’s earlier decision to build the Great Wall? How do you know?

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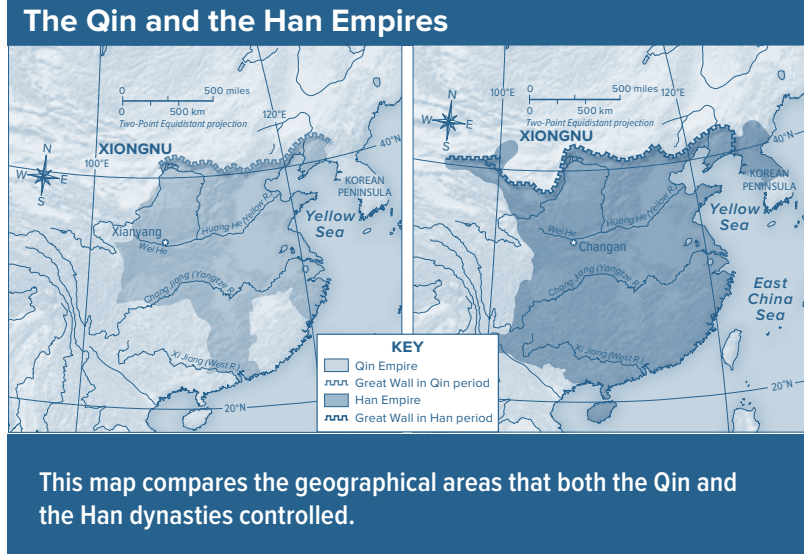
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**Han Wudi**

Han Wudi was the first strong emperor of the Han dynasty. He ruled from 141 B.C. to 87 B.C. He wanted to improve China’s government. Han Wudi broke with tradition and looked for smart and dedicated people for **civil service**. Government workers were chosen on the basis of competitive tests, rather than on their family connections or social class.

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**LESSON 3 SUMMARY, *continued***

**3. MAKING AN ARGUMENT**

Under Han rule, people were chosen for civil service by exams, rather than being appointed. Was this a better way to run the government than the previous system? Why or why not? Make an argument for or against the civil service exams created under Han rule. Be sure to include social classes and education issues in your answer.

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Share your argument with a partner. Then listen to your partner’s argument. Together, identify the specific claims in each of your arguments. Finally, identify which claims are supported by evidence from the text and any claims that are not.

To find qualified officials, Han Wudi followed this process:

- First, scholars and officials recommended candidates.
- Next, candidates took written tests.
- Officials graded the test, and the emperor looked over the results.
- Finally, candidates who received the highest scores were hired for the jobs.

Government improved with the civil service system, but it still favored the rich. The system was supposed to make government work open to anyone with talent and ability. However, only wealthy families could afford to educate their sons for the difficult tests.

**Education**

To prepare students for civil service exams, the government opened schools where students studied law, history, and Confucianism. Students who passed the exams earned jobs as government workers or teachers. Also, they were respected in society because they were educated.

**The Empire Expands**

Farmers had to produce more crops to feed the growing population in China. Under Han rule, the population grew to about 60 million. By this time, many farmers only had a small piece of land, since land was divided among sons when a father died. They could barely produce enough food for their own families. Most sold their land and became **tenant farmers**, working on the estates of wealthy landowners while remaining poor themselves.

Han armies, meanwhile, conquered more lands. They pushed north to Korea, south into southeast Asia, and west into northern India. They even pushed back the Xiongnu. These gains allowed the Chinese to live in peace for about 150 years.

**Han Culture**

Literature and the arts flourished in this long period of peace. Writers recorded current events and copied old historical works. Painters and sculptors expanded their audience beyond the rulers and aristocrats. They began creating beautiful art for less prominent families.

Confucius’s ideas once again became popular. Filial piety gained influence as well. Family ties were strengthened because the government became more stable. The new, educated class of civil servants also influenced the government. However, other social classes remained the same, and the daily life of most changed very little under the Han.

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**LESSON 3 SUMMARY, *continued***

**Chinese Inventions**

The Han dynasty was a time when new technology helped farmers and workers produce more than ever before. Their inventions during this time included:

- the cast-iron plow, which broke up the soil more easily than wooden plows.
- iron tools and techniques to drain swamps and direct water to dry fields.
- waterwheels to grind more grain.
- iron drill bits to mine more salt.
- wheelbarrows to carry heavy material on building sites.
- silk manufacturing.
- paper, allowing people to keep written records.
- rudders and a new way to move the sails of ships so they could sail against the wind. This meant ships could travel farther, and China’s merchants shipped their goods to areas such as India and the Red Sea.

**Medical Advances**

The Han dynasty also was known for its advances in medicine. Doctors began using herbs to treat illnesses and found that certain foods prevented disease. They also began a treatment known as **acupuncture**, in which doctors helped ease pain by using thin needles to pierce patients’ skin at specific points to increase the flow of energy.

**On the Silk Road**

Chinese traders gained great wealth during the Han period. They sent expensive goods to other parts of the world. Trade eventually caused an exchange of different ideas and goods between China and other parts of the world.

**New Contacts With the West**

Emperor Han Wudi became interested in exploration. He sent a man named Zhang Qian to explore areas west of China. Zhang was supposed to recruit allies to help China fight its enemies.

Zhang returned to China after 13 years with no allies. However, he had learned about the geography, people, and culture of other places. He visited a kingdom where he saw large, strong horses. It was most likely in the area of present-day Kazakhstan.

**4. MAKING CONNECTIONS**

The Han dynasty oversaw achievements of many types.

a. Choose three major achievements made during the Han dynasty to fill in the chart.

**Han dynasty:**


b. Describe how two of these achievements made significant impacts on the world.

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**LESSON 3 SUMMARY, *continued***

**ANALYZING MAPS**

5. Look at the map showing the movement of goods along the Silk Road. Choose two of the goods shown in the map key. Use the map routes, compass, and place names to describe the movement of those goods along the appropriate trade routes.

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Han Wudi was pleased with Zhang's report because he wanted horses for his soldiers. This led to trade between China and western regions.

Chinese merchants exchanged silk, spices, and other luxury goods for horses. The trade route to the west came to be known as the Silk Road to honor China's most famous export.

### Trade Expands

The Silk Road was more than just a single road. It was a network of trade routes. Over time, it grew to be 4,000 miles (6,436 km) long and ran from western China to the Mediterranean. Travel along the road was difficult because the road was rough and there were bandits. Trade routes also linked east and west by sea and were sometimes called the spice routes.

Merchants traded many items along the Silk Road, including luxury items, fruits, vegetables, flowers, and grains. The Silk Road spread Chinese inventions such as paper to other regions.

#### Trading in the Ancient World

The Silk Road and its various branches started in Changan and ended at Antioch and Constantinople.

### Buddhism Reaches China

Buddhism spread across the Silk Road from India to China. At first, the Chinese were not interested in the new religion. However, in the unrest following the collapse of the Han dynasty, Buddhism began to spread through China.

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LESSON 3 SUMMARY, *continued*

## Why Did the Han Dynasty Collapse?

Han Wudi had been a strong emperor, but those that followed him were weak and dishonest. Farmers were forced to give up their property by corrupt officials and greedy aristocrats. People rebelled, and the Han capital, Luoyang, was destroyed. By A.D. 220, civil war had divided China. It remained divided into small kingdoms for about 400 years.

## Buddhism Wins Followers

Many Chinese were frightened by the fall of the Han dynasty and the civil war that followed. They turned to Buddhist ideas because the new religion promised that devotion could end suffering and lead to eternal happiness. Daoists and followers of Confucius appreciated Buddhist philosophy. Its ideas had influenced their own rituals and beliefs. Buddhism became one of China's major religions by the A.D. 400s.

### 6. MAKING INFERENCES

Buddhist ideas spread from India to China. Was this exchange of ideas easy or difficult to achieve, and why?

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## REVIEW LESSON 3

1. **DETERMINING CENTRAL IDEAS** Why did Qin Shihuangdi's rise to power mark a new beginning for China? How did his rule prepare the way for the Han dynasty that followed?
2.  **EVALUATING** With the end of Qin rule, the Han rose to power. On a separate sheet of paper, write an essay to answer this question: Why is the Han dynasty one of the most important dynasties in China's history? Cite specific examples in your answer, both from the Han dynasty and those that came before.



### SPRITE CHART: HAN DYNASTY

Directions: Find examples of each category from your readings (pages 340-343) on the Han Dynasty. Make sure you write in complete sentences. The first one is done for you.

Categories	Han Dynasty
<b>Social</b> Family, Gender Relations, Social Classes, Injustice, Lifestyles	Confucianism came back under the Han Dynasty so family ties became stronger. Social classes basically stayed the same. Daily life changed very little during the Han Dynasty, especially for farmers. (page 340)
<b>Political</b> Leaders, Nobles, Type of Government, War, Treaties, Laws, Power	
<b>Religious</b> Religious Beliefs, New Religions, Holy books, Beliefs, Teachings	
<b>Intellectual Achievements</b> Art, Music, Writing, Literature, Philosophy, Math, Science, Education <b>Medicine</b>	
<b>Technological</b> New Inventions, Tools, Weapons, Technical Solutions, (water, farming, roads, etc.)	
<b>Economic</b> Money System, Bartering Trade, Types of Business, Products	

Short Response: In 3-5 sentences, explain why the Han Dynasty is considered one of the most important dynasties in China's history. Use at least two different categories from your SPRITE chart in your answer.