Ancient China

Section 4

MAIN IDEAS
1. Han dynasty government was based on the ideas of Confucius.
2. Family life was supported and strengthened in Han China.
3. The Han made many achievements in art, literature, and learning.

Key Terms and People
sundial a device that uses the position of shadows cast by the sun to tell time
seismograph a device that measures the strength of an earthquake
acupuncture the practice of inserting small needles through the skin at specific points to cure disease or relieve pain

Key Terms and People
innovation a new idea, method, or device

Section Summary
HAN DYNASTY GOVERNMENT
Liu Bang (lee-oo bang), a peasant, led the army that won control of China after the collapse of the Qin dynasty. He earned the people’s loyalty and trust. He lowered taxes for farmers and made punishments less severe. He set up a government that built on the foundation begun by the Qin. Liu Bang’s successor, Wudi (woo-dee), made Confucianism the official government policy of China. To get a government job, a person had to pass a test based on Confucian teachings. However, wealthy and influential families still controlled the government.

What was one aspect of the Qin government that the Han changed?

_______________________
_______________________

Why does Confucian thinking devalue merchants?

_______________________
_______________________
_______________________

FAMILY LIFE
A firm social order took hold during Han rule. In the Confucian view, peasants made up the second-highest class. Merchants occupied the lowest class because they merely bought and sold what others had made. However, this social division did not
indicate wealth or power. Peasants were still poor and merchants were still rich.

During Wudi’s reign, the family once again became the center of Chinese society. Children were taught from birth to respect their elders. Within the family, the father had absolute power. Han officials believed that if the family was strong and people obeyed the father, then people would obey the emperor, too. Chinese parents valued boys more highly than girls. Some women, however, still gained power. They could influence their sons’ families. An older widow could even become the head of the family.

HAN ACHIEVEMENTS
The Han dynasty was a time of great accomplishments. Art and literature thrived, and inventors developed many useful devices. Han artists painted portraits and realistic scenes that showed everyday life. Poets developed new styles of verse. Historian Sima Qian wrote a complete history of China until the Han dynasty.

The Han Chinese invented paper. They made it by grinding plant fibers into a paste and then letting it dry in sheets. They made “books” by pasting sheets together into a long sheet that was rolled into a scroll.

Other Han innovations included the sundial and the seismograph. They developed the distinctive Chinese medical practice of acupuncture (AK-yoo-punk-cher). These and other Han inventions and advances are still used today.

CHALLENGE ACTIVITY
Critical Thinking: Drawing Inferences Could the Han dynasty have flourished so well if the Qin had not set up a strong government structure? Write a brief essay presenting your point of view on this question.
DIRECTIONS  Write a word or phrase to describe the term given.

1. acupuncture ______________________________________________________
2. seismograph ______________________________________________________
3. sundial __________________________________________________________

DIRECTIONS  Read each sentence and fill in the blank with the word in the word pair that best completes the sentence.

4. _______________________ was born a peasant, but he became the first Han emperor after his army won control of China after the fall of the Qin dynasty. (Wudi/Liu Bang)
5. Under the _______________________ dynasty, the Chinese made several advances in art, literature, medicine, and science. (Qin/Han)
6. A _______________________ is a device that measures the strength of an earthquake. (seismograph/sundial)
7. The practice of inserting fine needles through the skin at specific points to cure disease or relieve pain is called _____________________. (seismograph/acupuncture)
8. A _______________________ is an early type of clock. (seismograph/sundial)

DIRECTIONS  Look at each set of three vocabulary terms following each number. On the line provided, write the letter of the term that does not relate to the others.

_____  9. a. acupuncture       b. paper       c. Great Wall
_____ 10. a. Shi Huangdi     b. Han dynasty  c. Wudi
Vocabulary Terms
9. b
10. a

SECTION 2
Summary
(First Page) Kings granted land to nobles in exchange for loyalty and military service.
(Second Page) to return China to the ideas and practices of a time when people knew their proper roles; Students should circle the sentence: They regarded humans as just a part of nature, not superior to any other thing.

Challenge Activity
Answers will vary. Student plays should demonstrate an understanding of the teachings of Daoism and Legalism.

Letter
Answers will vary. Student letters should demonstrate comprehension of the chosen vocabulary terms.

Vocabulary Terms
1. c
2. a
3. c

True/False
4. F; Laozi was the most famous Daoist teacher and is credited with writing the basic text of Daoism, The Way and Its Power.
5. T
6. F; Legalism was the belief that people were bad by nature and needed to be controlled through strict laws and punishments.
7. F; Daoism stressed living in harmony with the Dao, the guiding force of all reality.

SECTION 3
Summary
(First Page) His rule was marked by strict laws and severe punishment, which are Legalist beliefs; possible answers—uniform law system, standard rules and punishments, standardized written language, uniform money system
(Second Page) Possible answers—standardized currency system, standardized weights and measures, unified writing system, new highway system, canals; to protect China from northern nomads

Challenge Activity
Answers will vary. Students should support their positions with ideas from Confucian and Daoist teachings.

True/False
1. F; The Great Wall, a barrier that linked earlier walls across China’s northern frontier, was built to stop nomads from invading China.
2. F; The emperor who unified China gave himself the title Shi Huangdi, which means first emperor.
3. T
4. T

Sentences
Answers will vary. Sample answers:
5. Shi Huangdi ordered the destruction of writings.
6. The Great Wall require the labor of thousands of soldiers and workers.

SECTION 4
Summary
(First Page) Possible answers—lowered taxes, reduced punishments, made Confucianism official government policy; merchants did not make anything but only bought and sold what others had made.
(Second Page) Father; Students should circle the sentence: An older widow could even become the head of the family; paper

Challenge Activity
Answers will vary. Student essays should support their positions.

Words or Phrases
Answers will vary. Sample answers:
1. practice of inserting needles through the skin to cure disease or relieve pain
2. a device that measures the strength of an earthquake

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3. Uses shadows cast by the sun to tell the time

**Fill in the Blank**
4. Liu Bang
5. Han
6. seismograph
7. acupuncture
8. sundial

**Vocabulary Terms**
9. c
10. a

**SECTION 5**

**Summary**
(First Page) iron plow, wheelbarrow; possible answer—to prevent other cultures from learning how to make silk, which would lower its cost.
(Second Page) Central Asia; It gave people hope in troubled times; Students should underline the sentence: *Then they used the ideas of Daoism to help describe Buddhist beliefs.*

**Challenge Activity**
Answers will vary. Student stories should explain why the secret of silk was so guarded and what penalties people faced for revealing the secret.

**Fill in the Blank**
1. wheelbarrow
2. Silk Road
3. Diffusion
4. silk
5. diffusion
6. Silk Road
7. silk

**True/False**
8. T
9. F; The Silk Road was a 4,000-mile-long network of routes that stretched westward from China to the Mediterranean Sea.

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**The Hebrews and Judaism**

**SECTION 1**

**Summary**
(First Page) Students should circle: Hebrews; Students should underline: *God promised to lead him to a new land and to make his children into a mighty nation* and answer Canaan.
(Second Page) because he led the Israelites out of Egypt; human life, self-control and justice; Students should circle Saul, David, and Solomon and answer Solomon.

**Challenge Activity**
Student commandments will vary but should reflect reasonable ideas.

**Fill in the Blank**
1. David
2. Moses
3. Ten Commandments
4. Abraham
5. Diaspora

**Descriptive Phrases**
Answers will vary. Sample answers:
6. the dispersal of the Jews
7. when Moses led the Israelites out of Egypt
8. the religion of the Hebrews
9. Israelite, son, king
10. moral laws from God to Moses

**SECTION 2**

**Summary**
(First Page) Students should underline: *God, education, justice, obedience*; the belief in only one God.
(Second Page) Students should circle: Torah; a collection of commentaries, folktales, and stories written by scholars.

**Challenge Activity**
Students stories should include the idea of a modern-day Talmud and a Commandment.