

World History  
Ancient River Valley Civilizations  
Ancient China

Location: along the Huang He River

Geographic Advantages:

1. Water from the rivers
2. Fertile soil
3. Protection from invasion by mountains, deserts and oceans

Government:

- China was ruled by emperors who came from dynasties.
- Emperors were thought to have the Mandate of Heaven, or the approval of the gods so people followed them devoutly.
- Edicts were public order or announcement that has authority

Beliefs:

- family was the center of all Chinese society. Respect for parents and elders is referred to as Filial Piety.

Social Classes:

1. Emperors and warrior - nobles owned land
2. artisans who worked in special crafts like bronzework and silk-making
3. peasants were last (didn't own land, worked the fields, little food)

Writing System:

- calligraphy (a series of characters)

Chinese Teachings:

1. Confucianism: advocated social harmony through relationships and good government
2. Taoism: founded by Lao Tzu; people should follow nature's "harmony"

Powerful Dynasties:

1. Ch'in (or Qin): built the Great Wall of China
2. Han: opened trade along the Great Silk Road