

Ancient China

Module 6

Lesson 2



MAIN IDEAS

1. The Zhou dynasty expanded China but then declined.
2. Confucius offered ideas to bring order to Chinese society.
3. Daoism and Legalism also gained followers.

Key Terms and People

lords people of high rank

peasants farmers with small farms

Confucius the most influential teacher in Chinese history

ethics moral values

Confucianism the ideas of Confucius

Daoism an early Chinese belief that stressed living in harmony with the guiding force of all reality

Laozi the most famous Daoist teacher

Legalism an early Chinese belief that people were bad by nature and needed to be controlled

Lesson Summary

THE ZHOU DYNASTY

The Zhou (JOH) came from an area west of the Shang kingdom. The Zhou overthrew the Shang during the 1100s BC. The Zhou expanded its territory east and northwest. Then its army moved south to the Chang Jiang river. The Zhou established a new political order. The king granted land to **lords**, or people of high rank. They paid taxes and provided soldiers to the king. **Peasants**, farmers with small farms, received a small plot of land and had to farm additional land for a noble. The social system brought order for a time. However, the loyalty of the lords gradually lessened. Eventually, they began to fight each other. Family structure, which had been the foundation of Chinese life for centuries, was severely weakened. By the 400s BC, China had entered an era called the Warring States period.

Part 1

How did the Zhou establish their rule throughout China?

What kind of wars existed during the Warring States period? Why?

Lesson 2, *continued***CONFUCIUS AND SOCIETY**

Toward the end of the Zhou period, the most influential teacher in Chinese history, **Confucius**, traveled through China. He taught that order in society stems from **ethics**, or moral values. He wanted China to return to the ideas and practices from a time when people knew their proper roles in society. **Confucianism** has been a guiding force in human behavior and religious understanding in China through the centuries.

What was Confucius's goal?

DAOISM AND LEGALISM

Around the same time as Confucianism, other influential beliefs arose in China. **Daoism** (DOW-ih-ZUM) stressed living in harmony with the Dao, the guiding force of all reality. Daoists believed that people should be like water and simply let things flow in a natural way. They regarded humans as just a part of nature, not better than any other thing. **Laozi** was the most famous Daoist teacher.

Underline the sentence that describes the way Daoists regard human life.

Legalism is different from both Daoism and Confucianism. Legalists believed that society needed strict laws to control people. They believed in unity, efficiency, and punishment for bad conduct. They wanted the empire to continue to expand, so they urged the state to always be prepared for war. Legalists were the first to put their ideas into practice throughout China.

Why did Legalists want the state to always be prepared for war?

CHALLENGE ACTIVITY

Critical Thinking: Summarize Write a short play with two characters, a Daoist and a Legalist. Make sure each character clearly expresses his or her views on behavior, society, and government.

Part 2

Lesson 2, continued

Confucianism	Confucius	Daoism	ethics
Laozi	Legalism	lords	peasant

Part 3

DIRECTIONS Choose five of the vocabulary words from the word bank. On a separate sheet of paper, use these words to write a letter that relates to the lesson.

Part 4

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.

- _____ 1. a. ethics b. Confucius c. lords
- _____ 2. a. lords b. Daoism c. Laozi
- _____ 3. a. peasant b. lords c. Confucianism

Part 5

DIRECTIONS On the line provided before each statement, write **T** if a statement is true and **F** if a statement is false. If the statement is false, write the correct term on the line after each sentence that makes the sentence a true statement.

- _____ 4. Peasants, or farmers with small farms, were at the bottom of the social order during the Zhou dynasty.

- _____ 5. Daoism was the belief that people were bad by nature and needed to be controlled through strict laws and punishments.

- _____ 6. Confucianism stressed living in harmony with the Dao, the guiding force of all reality.
