

Name _____ Class _____ Date _____

Unit 5 Vocabulary Words– Ancient China

Word	Definition	Illustration
Shang Dynasty	the first Chinese dynasty which ruled from 1700 – 1122 B.C.E.	
Zhou Dynasty	a line of rulers in China from about 1045 – 256 B.C.E.	
Qin Shihuangdi	the first emperor to rule a unified China	
Han Dynasty	China’s golden age (a period of stability and wealth). The Han ruled from 206 B.C.E. -220 C.E.	
ancestor worship	a Shang religion that honored ancestors in the belief that dead ancestors had the power to help or harm the living	
oracle	a prediction	
Mandate of Heaven	a belief that Heaven gave power to a leader or King, and no one ruled without Heaven’s permission	
feudalism	a system of government based on landowners and tenants	
lords	loyal supporters of a king; people of high rank	
peasants	farmers with small farms who were expected to give a portion of their crops to the lord who owned the land	
philosophy	a belief, way or thinking, or search for wisdom about the way to live life	
Confucius	the most influential teacher in Chinese history	
Confucianism	The ideas and teachings of Confucius	

ethics	moral values, proper behavior	
Daoism	a philosophy that stresses living in harmony with the Dao, the guiding force of all reality; Daoists taught that the universe is a balance of opposites	
yin and yang	the Daoist concept of opposing forces of nature	
Legalism	a philosophy that believes people are bad by nature and need to be controlled	
Huang He	called the Yellow River because of the yellow silt in it that is carried by the wind from the Gobi Desert	
Chang Jiang	called the Yangtze River, the longest river in Asia	
silk	a soft, light, highly valued fabric made of threads from the cocoons of silk worms	
jade	a hard gemstone	
The Great Wall	a stone and earthen barrier built by Shihuangdi that linked earlier walls across China's northern boundary to defend it	
The Silk Road	a 4,000 mile long network of routes that connected China with the Mediterranean Sea in the west	
cultural diffusion	the spread of ideas and knowledge from one culture to another	