

Ancient China Teachers Notes



1. Introduction

Confucius, the great Chinese philosopher, said, "I hear and I forget, I see and I remember, I do and I understand."

This Timemap lets students see the history of Ancient China unfold before their eyes. The visual representation of the topic lets them grasp things in a much more immediate way than any text could do. It also taps into their visual memory, letting the topic "stick" in students' minds much more readily than might otherwise be the case.

The purpose of these notes is to provide exercises which will help them understand that history much more effectively.

What does the Timemap of Ancient China offer?

The Timemap contains a sequence of maps giving an overview of the history of Ancient China, from its origins in about 2000 BC through to the Han Empire at its height, in 100 BC.

The maps have a considerable amount of information linked to them - more than is offered in most text books. This information is accessed by clicking on the "i" button, just below the date, and then clicking the hotspots which appear in the maps.

Also just below the date is a "Q". This button accesses a brief explanation as to what the map is about. The explanation is followed by a key question, designed to get students thinking about what the map is illustrating.

2. Knowledge and skills

2.1. Knowledge

The information about Ancient China contained in this Timemap can be accessed to provide:

- A "Big Picture" overview of the topic
- A more detailed look at specific events, periods and episodes, such as the fall of the Shang, the age of Confucius, the rise and fall of the Qin dynasty, the triumph of Han
- The development of key features of Chinese civilization, such as the presence of ancestor worship in prehistory, the triumph of Confucianism, the rise of the scholar-gentry, the evolution of the imperial system

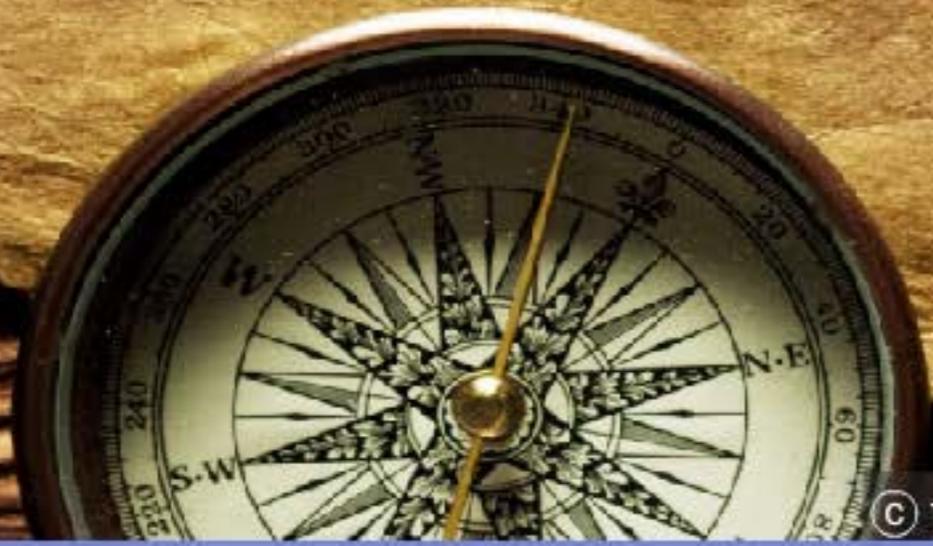
Ancient China



Start

Work Sheets

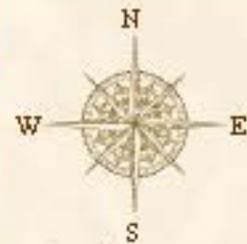
TimeMap of World History



TimeMaps



2000 BC



TIBET
LAYA

Yellow River

Yangtze

Mekong

Yellow Sea

East China Sea

South China Sea



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Ancient China

Worksheet

Activity 1: Chronology

Put the following events in chronological order:

The life of Confucius

The foundation of the Han dynasty

The sack of the Zhou capital by a rebel prince and a group of barbarians

The unification of China under the Qin

The fall of the Shang dynasty

Draw a timeline of Ancient Chinese history, starting in 2000 BC and ending in 100 BC. Place on it the above key events of Chinese history.

Activity 2: Continuity and Change



TimeMaps