

CONFUCIUS



Confucius was the most influential and respected **philosopher** in Chinese history. He lived during the Zhou dynasty in Ancient China, which was filled with chaos, disorder, and anarchy. Confucius' main interest was to figure out ways for the government to do a better job of taking care of the people, since the country was filled with problems like bribing, stealing, and killing. Confucius felt the answer to China's problems was **better moral leadership and respect** in families.

He created a system called **Confucianism**, which he wrote about in his famous book called the **Analects**. In Confucianism, it stressed different levels of honesty and trustworthiness, like how you should be honest to yourself, your family, and those around you. He also developed a system for how families should interact with one another. For example, he believed that sons and daughters should respect their parents, and that subjects should respect their rulers. In return, the rulers and parents should be kind and loyal to their people. **Filial piety**, or the unending devotion of children, especially sons, to their parents and family, was also a very important belief in Confucianism.

The impact of the thought of Confucius and his followers on China was and is immense. From the second century B.C.E to the 20th century C.E., with occasional breaks and various degrees of emphasis, Confucian thought was the official ideology of the dynasties, which ruled China. Many of Confucius's ideas were drawn from Chinese custom. These ideas include filial piety, emphasis on dealing with people according to their status, and respect for education. Confucius also stressed hierarchical relationships between people. He described the ideal family as one where sons obeyed fathers, wives obeyed husbands, younger sons were benevolent toward sons, wives and younger sons. A man's primary loyalty was to his father. A woman was to be loyal first to her father, then to her husband, and finally to her sons. Confucius's ideal state was modeled on his conception of the ideal family. The ruler was to be a shining example of fatherly benevolence and the subjects were to behave as filial children.



Today, Confucianism has impacted everything in China, from its education, government, public and private attitudes and, etiquette (manners). With a population of over 1.3 billion people (the biggest in the world), this country has used his ideas as a way to live and run its government. Furthermore, China's education is one of the best in the world because of Confucius' values. These beliefs have also influenced other parts of Asia today.

Source: The History Alive! The Ancient World textbook and pg. 24 of Clayton's Dube Chinese Philosophy text on Early Chinese History.

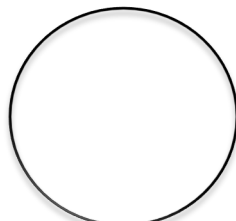


snapchat

Directions:

1) Using the Confucius reading, you will **create a “snapchat picture”** on 1-2 main ideas from the reading. Make sure to focus in on Confucius as a leader and his influence on China with Confucianism.

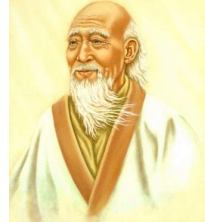
2) You also need to create a quick **10 word sentence or less (like a banner on snapchat)** to describe the picture you drew.



Name: _____
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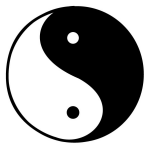
Daoism and Lao Zi

While Confucius tried to solve China's political and social problems, other thinkers were trying to grasp the mysteries of the universe. **Daoism** is an ancient Chinese philosophy that emphasizes a simple and natural life. According to legend, Daoism was founded by a scholar named **Lao Zi**, which means the "The Old Master."



Little is really known about Lao Zi (the Old Master). Tradition has it that he was born in 604 B.C.E. and lived for nearly two centuries. Supposedly, when he was 160 years old, he grew weary of squabbles within what is now China and headed West. When he reached the last Chinese outpost, it is said, the commander of the post asked him to write down what he knew of the Dao (the Tao or the Way). He is best known as the author of the *Tao-Te-Ching*, the work, which exemplifies his thought. The name by which he is known is not a personal name but an honorific title meaning 'Old Man' or 'Old Teacher' and there has been countless speculation as to whether an individual by that name ever existed or whether Lao Zi is an amalgam of many different philosophers.

Daoism is based on ancient Chinese beliefs about how the world works. They saw the quiet order of nature in the cycle of night and day, the movement of the stars, and the changing of the seasons. These observations led the Chinese to conclude that two great forces, called the **ying and yang**, are at work in the universe. Yin represents the female force, since it is dark, cool and quiet. Yang represents the male force, being bright, warm, and active.



How is Daoism different from Confucianism?

Besides Daoism and Confucianism, Buddhism also impacted Ancient China. **Missionaries** from India brought Buddhism to China in the first century A.D. The missionaries brought new ideas to China, like reincarnation, enlightenment and salvation, which appealed to many Chinese. Besides missionaries, traders who came into contact with one another via the **Silk Roads** exchanged ideas like Buddhism.

Source: The History Alive! The Ancient World textbook and pg. 26 of Clayton's Dube Chinese Philosophy text on Early Chinese History.

The Legalists

Shang Yang

Shang Yang (d. 338 B.C.E.) served as chief minister to the ruler of the western state of Qin (Ch'in). Shang Yang felt that the disorder in China stemmed from weak rulers who failed to lay out and enforce clear laws. Laws should be used to force people to concentrate on farming, which would enable the state to become rich and militarily strong. The laws should be clear and people should be made aware of the laws. Enforcement of laws should be consistent and offenders should be punished harshly.

During his time in office, order was established within Qin and the state became militarily powerful. Shang Yang's determination to enforce the law consistently, however, led to his downfall. He punished a prince who had broken the law. This prince later became king of Qin and had Shang Yang brutally executed. (He was pulled apart by four sets of horses charging in four directions.) The new king maintained the Legalist policies, however, and the Qin state eventually defeated all of its rivals and unified China.

Han Fei Zi

Han Fei Zi (Han Fei Tzu or Master Han Fei, 280–233 B.C.E.) was as important a Legalist thinker as Shang Yang. Han Fei Zi was a member of the ruling family of the Han state. He systematically outlined the principles upon which rulers should govern. Han Fei Zi believed that times change and new situations require new policies. He did not think the methods of China's sage kings were appropriate for China's current problems. He felt that population growth led to a scarcity of resources and this scarcity resulted in conflict between families and states. Within a state, rich families fought with each other to avoid taxes and to control large amount of land and laborers. This competition meant that the state could not collect taxes and was therefore not able to protect itself from other states. For a state to survive and become strong, Han Fei Zi felt its ruler must choose officials on the basis of their performance in office and not their wealth and social status. The officials must suggest appropriate laws, publicize these laws, and carry them out completely. According to Han Fei Zi, the two great motivators of people were fear and greed. Therefore, he advocated that rulers control people through a system of punishments and rewards. Han Fei Zi wanted to force people to do what the state wanted, not what their families wanted. In this way, chaos would be halted and order would be restored.