

Name\_\_\_\_\_

Date\_\_\_\_\_

## THE RISE OF EARLY CIVILIZATIONS

The Shang/Zhou Dynasties

Directions: Using the notes and lecture provided, fill in the following graphic organizers to the best of your ability.

**G**eography

Yellow River Valley Himalayan Mountains  
Pacific Ocean Gobi Desert

**R**eligion

Polytheistic  
Ancestor worship (filial piety)  
Oracle Bones → writings for ancestors

**A**chievements

Early Chinese writing → foundation for modern Chinese language  
Made weapons, jewelry, religious items  
use of Bronze  
created silk clothing

**P**olitical System

Monarchy → dynasty cycle  
Mandate of Heaven → right to rule comes from Heaven

**E**conomic System

Traditional Economic system → based on farming and trading

**S**ocial Systems

very strict social class structure divided by nobles and peasants and men and women.

1. Why is the Yellow River Valley known as “China’s Sorrow?”

**The Yellow river is known as “China’s Sorrow” because of the unpredictable nature of the floods and the destructive nature of the river. It is said that the river could either “make or break” Chinese life.**

2. Define what a mandate is? What does it mean to have a Mandate from Heaven?

**A mandate is a command from a higher authority. To have the Mandate of Heaven means that the gods have chosen you and/or your family to rule China.**

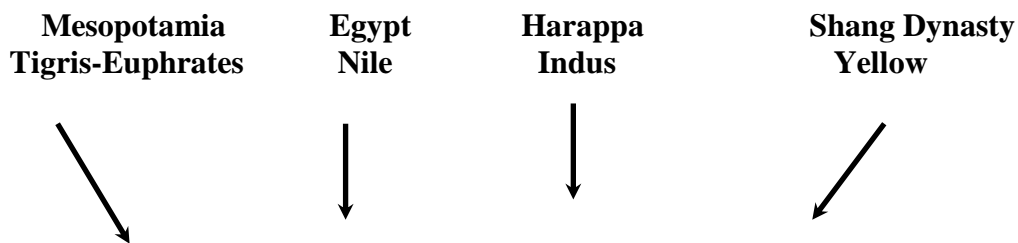
3. Compare the Mandate from Heaven with the way the Egyptian pharaohs justified their rule.

**The pharaohs in Egypt and the emperors in China were both selected by the gods. The major difference is that the emperor of China was a messenger of the gods where the pharaoh was seen as being a god.**

4. Describe at least 2 ways that geography has affected life in the Yellow River Valley.

- A. Yellow River Valley → fertile soil/farming**
- B. Himalayan Mountains → isolation/protection**
- C. Gobi Desert → isolation/protection**

5. Give 2 examples how all 4 of the river valley civilizations are similar.



1.           All developed writing systems, political systems, and economic

2.           All were polytheistic and religion played a major role in the daily life of the people.