***GRAPES Notes- Ancient China***

**G- GEOGRAPHY—**

* MAJOR RIVER-
  + HUANG HE (YELLOW) RIVER
  + 3,400 MILES LONG
  + CALLED “CHINA’S SORROW” BECAUSE WHEN IT WOULD FLOOD, MANY PEOPLE WOULD BE LEFT HOMELESS OR DIE
* ROLE OF RIVER SYSTEM IS:
  + FOOD
  + WATER- irrigation, drinking, etc.
  + TRADE
  + TRANSPORTATION
* OTHER LANDFORMS- Positive and Negative
  + GOBI DESERT (NORTHERN CHINA)
  + HIMALAYAN MOUNTAIN RANGE (SOUTHWEST CHINA)
  + NORTH CHINA PLAIN
    - ISOLATED CHINA FROM THE REST OF THE WORLD
    - HELPED WITH THE DEFENSE OF THE COUNTRY
    - GAVE CHINA THE ABILITY TO GROW INTO A CIVILIZATION WITHOUT OUTSIDE INTERFERENCE

**R- RELIGION—**

* CONFUCIANISM-
  + BASED ON THE TEACHINGS OF KONG FU ZI (first called Confucius by Europeans) CHINA, 551-479 B.C.E.
  + WANTED TO RETURN CHINA TO THE MORAL STANDARDS OF THE ANCIENTS
  + THE PHILOSOPHY FOCUSES ON:
    - RESPECT FOR ELDERS AND ALL PEOPLE
    - EDUCATION
    - PROPER CONDUCT (MORALS)
    - GOVERNMENT SERVICE
  + USES FIVE (5) RELATIONSHIPS
    - KING (EMPEROR) AND SUBJECT
    - PARENT AND CHILD
    - HUSBAND AND WIFE
    - SIBLING AND SIBLING
    - FRIEND AND FRIEND
  + IN ORDER TO BE AT PEACE, ONE MUST SHOW ABSOLUTE RESPECT FOR AUTHORITY
  + FOLLOWERS SPREAD IT TO THE REST OF CHINA, KOREA, AND JAPAN
* DAOISM (TAOISM)
  + BASED ON THE PHILOSPOHY OF LAOZI CHINA, 606-530 B.C.E.
  + THE GOAL IN LIFE IS TO ACHIEVE DAO, WHICH IS:
    - “ONENESS WITH THE UNIVERSE/NATURE”
    - BEST WAY TO FIND PEACE IS BEING IN HARMONY WITH NATURE
    - BALANCE THE FORCES OF YIN AND YANG:
    - CALM AND POWERFUL
  + FOLLOWERS SPREAD IT TO AREAS IN AND AROUND CHINA
* BOTH RELIGIONS WERE TRYING TO CREATE STABILITY IN A CIVILIZATION (COUNTRY) THAT WAS CONSTANTLY AT WAR WITH ITSELF.

**A-ACHIEVEMENTS**

* HUANG HE (ANCIENT)
  + TERRACE CROPS
  + DIKES AND LEVEES FOR IRRIGATION SYSTEMS
  + STONE TOOLS AND POTTERY
  + PICTOGRAPHS – WRITING (follow the money!)
  + WOOD BLOCK PRINTING
  + CAST IRON PLOW
  + BRONZE
* EMPEROR QIN (First Emperor of China)
  + UNITED CHINA AND STARTED THE CONSTRUCTION OF THE GREAT WALL 220-206 B.C.E.
  + PURPOSE WAS TO PROTECT THE COUNTRY FROM NORTHERN INVADERS LIKE THE MONGOLS
* THE HAN DYNASTY (206 B.C.E.-A.D.220)
  + WHEELBARROW
  + SEISMOGRAPH- PREDICTS AND MEASURES EARTHQUAKES
  + SUNDIAL
  + PAPER- MADE OUT OF BAMBOO
  + PUPPETS
  + KITES
  + JADE
  + ESTABLISHED THE SILK ROAD
    - SEVERAL ROUTES THAT CARRIED TRADED GOODS ACROSS CHINA AND BACK AGAIN FROM ROME
    - ADVANCEMENTS IN TRADE AND TRANSPORTATION UNITED THE CHINESE CULTURE
* THE TANG DYNASTY- “THE GOLDEN AGE” (618-907A.D. beginning of Middle Ages)
  + SITTING IN CHAIRS (!?!?- Weird, I know)
  + POETRY AND LITERATURE FLOURISH
  + OLDEST BOOK*- THE DIAMOND SUTRA* (WRITTEN IN 868)
  + TRADE EXPANDED
  + CULTIVATE AND HARVEST TEA WHICH BECOMES A FAVORITE DRINK
* THE SUNG (SONG) DYNASTY (906 A.D.-1279 A.D. during Middle Ages)
  + PAPER- MADE FROM WOOD PULP WHICH INCREASED COMMERCIAL PRINTING
  + PAPER MONEY
  + CALLIGRAPHY
  + COMPASS
  + GUNPOWDER
  + PORCELAIN- glazed pottery
  + FIREWORKS
  + IRON
  + SALT
* THE MING DYNASTY- “THE BRILLIANT DYNASTY” (1368 A.D.-1644 A.D. during end of Middle Ages through Renaissance and Age of Exploration/Discovery)
  + BEIJING BECOMES THE CAPTIAL
  + BUILT THE FORBIDDEN CITY- THE HOME OF THE EMPEROR
  + JADE CARVINGS
  + BLUE AND WHITE PORCELAIN
  + FIRST NOVELS PRINTED
  + OPENED PORTS TO PORTUGUESE EXPLORERS
* THE QING OR MANCHU DYNASTY (1644 A.D.-1911 A.D. during Age of Exploration/Discovery and other stuff you’ll learn about in 7th grade!))
  + LAST DYNASTY TO RULE CHINA
  + OPENED PORTS TO FOREIGN TRADE
* YEARS BETWEEN DYNASTIES WERE FILLED WITH CIVIL WARS BETWEEN VARIOUS NOBILITY AND MILITARY FACTIONS, FIGHTING FOR CONTROL OF CHINA

**P-POLITICAL SYSTEMS**

* CHINA HAD A MONARCHY, RULED BY AN EMPEROR AND PASSED DOWN THE POWER THROUGH DYNASTIES
* TO WORK FOR THE GOVERNMENT, CIVIL SERVANTS TOOK EXAMS, WHICH ASKED QUESTIONS ABOUT CONFUCIANISM, LITERATURE, HISTORY, WRITING, AND MORALS
* SEVERE PUNISHMENT FOR THOSE WHO DID NOT OBEY LAWS

**E-ECONOMICS**

* NATURAL RESOURCES FOUND IN CHINA:
  + RICE
  + WHEAT
  + BAMBOO
  + SILK WORMS (CREATION OF SILK)
* TAXATION BEGAN IN 600 B.C.E.
* BRONZE COINS WERE DEVELOPED IN 220 B.C.E.
* FORMATION OF THE SILK ROAD
* EXPORTED (TRADED) SILK AND PORCELAIN
* IMPORTED GLASS, GOLD, AND HORSES

**S-SOCIAL STRUCTURE**

* CHINA HAS THE LONGEST CONTINOUS CULTURE.
* RESPECT FOR ELDERS AND ANCESTORS
* VERY RIGID HIERARCHY (during the dynasty periods)
  + EMPEROR
  + PALACE COURT, NOBILITY, CIVIL SERVANTS, PRIESTS
  + FARMERS & COMMON PEASANTS
  + ARTISANS
  + MERCHANTS (this ranked lower than farmers because their money came from someone else’s labor.)
  + SLAVES