2100 BC – AD 220

Ancient China Quiz

Name _____ Date _____

Fill in the circle beside the best answer.

1. What was the significance of the Shang Dynasty?

- (A) It is the first dynasty proven by archaeology and made China's first writing
- (B) It is the longest dynasty in Chinese history and the era when Confucius lived
- (C) It is the first dynasty to unite all of China under a single emperor
- (D) It is the dynasty that opened the Silk Road and invented cheap paper

2. Who was Confucius?

- (A) A philosopher who taught respect, duty, and virtuous government
- (B) A philosopher who taught that strict laws and harsh punishment keep order
- (C) A general who conquered the rival kingdoms and unified China
- (D) A Han court official who improved the way paper was made

3. What did Qin Shi Huang accomplish in 221 BC?

- (A) He sent a diplomat west and opened the Silk Road to trade
- (B) He overthrew the Shang kings and founded the Zhou Dynasty, the longest in China
- (C) He conquered the rival kingdoms and became the First Emperor of China
- (D) He overthrew the harsh Qin rulers and founded the Han Dynasty

4. What is the Terracotta Army?

- (A) Over 8,000 bronze statues placed along the Great Wall by the Han
- (B) Over 8,000 life-size clay soldiers buried with the First Emperor
- (C) Over 8,000 stone carvings of Zhou kings found in a temple in 1974
- (D) Over 8,000 clay soldiers made by the Shang to guard the Yellow River

5. Why is the Han Dynasty so important in Chinese history?

- (A) It was the first dynasty to create Chinese writing, on oracle bones
- (B) It was the longest dynasty in Chinese history, lasting nearly 800 years
- (C) It was the first dynasty to unify China and began building the first Great Wall
- (D) It was one of the great ancient empires and shaped Chinese cultural identity

6. What was the Silk Road?

- (A) Army roads linking the forts and towers of the Great Wall
- (B) Trade routes linking China to Central Asia, Persia, and Rome
- (C) Sea routes linking China to Japan, Korea, and the Pacific islands
- (D) Canal routes linking the Yellow River to cities in southern China

7. What did Cai Lun develop in AD 105?

- (A) A woodblock printing process that made cheap, fast copies
- (B) A better bronze-casting process that made strong, light armor
- (C) A silk-weaving process that made cloth for the Silk Road trade
- (D) A better papermaking process that made cheap, light paper

8. What was the Warring States Period?

- (A) A short war in which the Zhou overthrew the Shang Dynasty
- (B) A 400-year period of division after the Han Dynasty collapsed
- (C) A 250-year period when seven kingdoms fought for control of China
- (D) A series of rebellions that ended the Qin Dynasty in 206 BC

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Ancient China Quiz: Answer Key

1. **A** It is the first dynasty proven by archaeology and made China's first writing

2. **A** A philosopher who taught respect, duty, and virtuous government

3. **C** He conquered the rival kingdoms and became the First Emperor of China

4. **B** Over 8,000 life-size clay soldiers buried with the First Emperor

5. **D** It was one of the great ancient empires and shaped Chinese cultural identity

6. **B** Trade routes linking China to Central Asia, Persia, and Rome

7. **D** A better papermaking process that made cheap, light paper

8. **C** A 250-year period when seven kingdoms fought for control of China