Name _____

PUTTING SIGNS TOGETHER

Many characters are two simpler characters put together, and the meaning comes from both. The first one is done for you.

人 + 木 = 休

rest: a person leaning against a tree

日 + 月 = 明

It means: b _ _ _ _ _ _____

Why? _____

木 + 木 = 林

It means: _____

Why? _____

木 + 木 + 木 = 森

It means: _____

Why? _____

◆ READ AN ORACLE BONE ◆

今	this, now
日	? _____
雨	? _____
其	will
自	from
東	east
來	come
雨	? _____

More than 3,000 years ago, a Shang priest carved this question about the weather on an oracle bone. Here it is in modern characters, read from top to bottom. Use the chart to find the signs with a blank line, then read the question.

In plain English, the question is:

_____

_____

One script for one empire

During the Warring States, different kingdoms wrote many characters in different ways. After 221 BC, Qin Shi Huang made one standard script for the whole empire, so officials everywhere could read the same laws and orders.

1. **Pick two characters from the chart. For each, explain how it still looks a little like the picture it began as.**

_____

_____

2. **Look at 林 and 森. How were they made? Why do you think 森 has one more part?**

_____

_____

3. **Read the oracle bone question. What did the Shang king want to know? Why would rain matter so much to him? (Think about farming along the Yellow River.)**

_____

_____

4. **Chinese has no alphabet. What does each character stand for? Why did one standard script under Qin Shi Huang help him rule a huge empire?**

_____

_____