Chapter 5- Ancient China

Objectives: recognize the dynasties and geography of Ancient China.
Task: Travel Agent

You are a travel agent living in 2000 BCE. Your boss has given you an assignment: encourage more Sumerians to visit Ancient China. It is your job to create a travel brochure that advertizes Ancient China as a great vacation destination.

This week in class we will learn about Ancient China. After each lesson, you should have some new knowledge that will help you advertize.
Geography

- Ancient China was located between the Chang Jiang (Yangzte) and Huang He (Yellow) rivers.
Isolation

- Ancient China was surrounded by deserts and mountains, which isolated them from other civilizations.
Trade

- Mesopotamians, Ancient Egyptians, and Ancient Indians traded with each other. Ancient Chinese did not trade with other civilizations because the mountains and deserts made trade and travel difficult.
Check for Understanding

• Which rivers was Ancient China located on?
• How did the deserts and mountains around China affect the Ancient Chinese?
• Which civilizations traded with each other?
Dynasties

- Several dynasties ruled China. Dynasties are families that rule for several generations.
Mandate from Heaven

- Chinese believed that gods gave their Kings the power to rule. This is called the “Mandate from Heaven”.

Dynastic Cycle

1. Mandate of Heaven: The people believe the new dynasty has the gods' approval.
2. The dynasty's power grows weaker.
3. Disasters such as floods, famines, and invasions occur.
4. The people believe the dynasty has lost the gods' approval.
5. The dynasty is overthrown.
6. The new dynasty restores peace and order.
Losing the Mandate from Heaven

- In bad times of war or draught, other rulers took over, claiming that the Kings had lost their “Mandate from Heaven”.

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Dynasties

- The four dynasties which ruled Ancient China were:
  - Shang (1523-1028 BCE)
  - Zhou (1027-256 BCE)
  - Qin (221-206 BCE)
  - Han (206 BCE-220 CE)
To the Tune of “Head Shoulders Knees and Toes”

Shang, Zhou, Qin, Han, Qin, Han
Shang, Zhou, Qin, Han, Qin, Han
Ancient Chinese dynasties: from father to son,
Shang, Zhou, Qin, Han, Qin, Han
Check for Understanding

• What is a dynasty?
• What is a “Mandate from Heaven”?
• Why did dynasties end?