**IV. Chinese Civilization**

1. Geography of China

* Last great civilization to develop but the only one that survives today
* **Huang He (Yellow) & Yangtze Rivers –**
* **Yellow River –**
* Natural barriers isolated China from others
* Chinese did not want to have contact with outsiders
* Viewed all people not Chinese as barbarians

1. Chinese Culture

* Family is central to Chinese society
* Most important value is respect for one’s parents and elders – filial piety
* Young children who spoke against their parents could be beheaded
* Young children who struck an older sibling could be imprisoned for 3 years
* Girls had arranged marriages around 13-16 and moved into their husband’s home
* **Confucius –**
* Every person was living for past members they had the duty to follow the right path
* **Mandate of Heaven –**
* If rulers are corrupt they lose the mandate and the people have the right to overthrow them
* China has been ruled by ten ruling families (dynasty)

1. Chinese Religion

* Family is closely linked to Chinese religion
* Families pay respect to their father’s ancestors and make sacrifices in their honor
* **Oracle Bones –**

1. Process of Reading Oracle Bones

1)

2)

3)

1. Development of Writing

* Earliest evidence of Chinese writing is the Oracle Bones
* Similar to other pictographic languages
* Person who knows 1,000 symbols is barely literate
* True scholars mastered over 10,000 of the over 80,000 symbols

1. China is Unified

* China is unified around 200 B.C. under the rule of Shi Huangdi
* **Shi Huangdi –**
* Ruled China as a ruthless dictator
* Burnt books he didn’t agree with and burnt and buried (460) Chinese scholars alive

1. Great Wall of China

* Shi Huangdi is also responsible for ordering the construction of the Great Wall of China
* Wall stretches 4,000 miles
* Millions of peasants built the wall
* One million people die during its construction and most are buried inside the wall
* **1974 –**
* Built over 4 square miles
* 700,000 people worked on its construction and were killed at its completion
* Only 1% of the shrine has been uncovered