



“Detail the political contributions of the Han dynasty to the development of the imperial Bureaucratic State and the expansion of the Empire.”

China Facts: The Han dynasty

The Five Themes of Geography

Break into pairs. Examine each fact. Using the chart, categorize each fact. When you are finished, play The Bell Game: **“Name that Theme!”**

More advanced:
Categorize facts from your textbook or the encyclopedia.

1. Location

Exact location: What is the latitude and longitude?
Relative location: “It is north of such and such.”

2. Place

What’s it like in this place? Describe the characteristics!
Physical features: Natural (land, rivers, mountains, vegetation, climate).
Cultural features: Human (everything that is man-made!)

3. Interaction

How people interact with the environment = land, rivers, sea, climate.
How people adapt to, modify, and depend upon the environment.
Interactions: Grow crops, dig canals, mine for minerals, wear thin clothing for hot climate.

4. Movement

People move in and out. Who? Why? By what means?
Goods move in and out. What? Why? By what means?
Ideas move in and out. What? Why? By what means?
As a result of all this movement, this place is connected to other places.
What places?

5. Region

A region is a territory or area that has common physical or human features.
North China is a region with a common physical feature (river, soil, climate) and cultural features (farming, culture, history).

The Han dynasty

1. The Han dynasty overthrew the Qin dynasty.
2. The Han continued most of the policies of the Qin dynasty.
3. The Han dynasty lasted 400 years.
4. The Han had such a powerful impact . . . that the Chinese people call themselves *“the sons of Han.”*
5. The Han capital began at Xian and moved to Luoyang.

Inventions

6. Paper was invented!
7. People began writing on paper scrolls (instead of on wood, bamboo, and silk).
8. Water clocks allowed people to tell time.
9. Wheelbarrows made hauling easier for peasants.
10. Water mills made grinding grain easier.

Expansion of the Empire

11. The Chinese Empire existed at the same time as the Roman Empire.
12. The Empire of China was as large and as powerful as the Roman Empire.
13. Under the Han dynasty, China greatly expanded its borders.
14. *Wu Ti* was the most famous emperor of the Han dynasty. He created the modern borders of China.
15. He conquered all of **South China**.
16. He moved into **Southeast Asia**.
17. He conquered **Central Asia**.
18. Conquering Central Asia made the Silk Road possible!
19. The Empire of China faced the same problem as the Roman Empire.
20. If it grew too large they could not govern the people and defend their borders.

Answers

If you can explain your answer, you are correct.

1. Movement
2. Place
(cultural feature)
3. Place
4. Place
5. Movement
6. Interaction (with trees)
7. Interaction
8. Place
9. Interaction (hauling dirt!)
10. Interaction (with river water)
11. Regions (two regions of the world)
12. Region
13. Movement (of soldiers)
14. Place
15. Movement, Region
16. Movement, Region
17. Movement, Region
18. Movement
19. Regions
20. Region, Movement (invaders)

The Silk Road

Causes

21. The Silk Road was possible because the Han dynasty conquered Central Asia.
22. They set up military bases along the caravan route.
23. China had something that Europeans wanted: Silk.
24. Central Asia had things that the Chinese wanted: Horses and Persian rugs.

What was the Silk Road?

25. Chinese merchants, loaded with silk, travelled in camel caravans.
26. Silk and spices were light to carry; jade and bronze were heavier.
27. From China, they travelled west across the Taklimakan Desert to Central Asia.
28. From Central Asia, merchants travelled to the Middle East.
29. The Middle East was part of the Roman Empire.
30. From the Middle East, merchants sailed to Rome and the Roman Empire.
31. The Silk Road was an *overland* trade route from China ... to Central Asia ... to the Middle East.

Results

32. For the first time in its history, China was connected to the outside world.
33. The Silk Road connected China to the Roman Empire.
34. The Silk Road connected China to Central Asia.
35. The Silk Road connected China to India.
36. What about "splendid isolation?" China traded with Europe because it was safe.
37. It would take the Roman Empire's army a year to reach China!
38. Buddhism was one of the biggest results of the Silk Road.
39. Buddhism was born in India and spread to Central Asia.
40. From Central Asia, Buddhism spread to China.
41. Buddhism became the main religion of East Asia and Southeast Asia.

Buddhism

Causes

42. As a result of the Silk Road, Buddhism spread to China.
43. Merchants from Central Asia introduced Buddhism to China.

Results

44. Unlike Confucianism, Buddhism focuses on the afterlife.
45. While Confucianism provides social order, Buddhism provides a spiritual life.
46. Buddha was concerned with suffering - a topic that peasants knew well.
47. People found that Buddhism provided them with compassion and comfort.

The Bureaucratic State

48. The Han continued the centralized government.
49. Since the Empire was much greater, they needed a strong central government.
50. Civil servants ran the government.
51. Dynasties come and go, but the bureaucracy rolls on!

Barriers to unity

52. Writing united the people of China; language was a barrier to unity.
53. The same written word is *pronounced* differently in different regions.
54. People from different regions cannot understand each other!

21. Movement, Region
22. Movement
23. Movement (goods, exports)
24. Movement (imports)
25. Movement
26. Movement (exports)
27. Movement, Region
28. Movement, Region
29. Region
30. Movement, Region
31. Movement, Regions
32. Movement
33. Movement, Region
34. Movement, Region
35. Movement, Region
36. Movement, Region
37. Movement
38. Movement (of an idea)
39. Movement
40. Movement
41. Movement
42. Movement
43. Movement
44. Place
(cultural feature)
45. Place
46. Place
47. Place
48. Region (the central government unites the whole region of China)
49. Region
50. Movement - They didn't "run," but they moved a lot between the provinces and the capital city.
51. Place
(cultural feature)
52. Region
53. Regions
54. Regions, Movement (When people move from one part of China to another, they cannot communicate!)

Adopted Confucianism

55. The Han adopted Confucianism as the philosophical basis of government.
56. Confucian principles became the basis for Chinese law.
57. Confucian philosophy became the basis for the civil service test.

Education for Civil Service

58. The Han dynasty created an educational system that lasted for 2,000 years.
59. First, they established the Imperial University at Xian.
60. Young men studied Confucian philosophy.
61. They memorized Confucius' *analects* (his sayings) and "*The Five Classics*" (his collection of Chinese history and literature).
62. They studied law, philosophy, history, literature, and calligraphy.
63. They did not study math and science, which were regarded as irrelevant.

The Civil Service Exam

64. If you wanted to be a government official, you had to take the test.
65. The Han dynasty invented the civil service test.
66. In order to pass the test, you had to spend YEARS of rigorous study.
67. A commoner could take the exam, but most could not afford the years of rigorous study.

What the test was like

68. It was a battery of tests on 3 levels - local, provincial, and national.
69. Each test took 3-7 days to finish.
70. The final exam was held by the Emperor.
71. A high score on the exam meant that you were set for life.
72. Government officials had political power, wealth, and social status.

The impact of the test

73. The civil service exam produced highly trained government officials.
74. No matter what province they governed, government officials were on the same sheet of music - in law, philosophy, history, literature, and calligraphy.
75. The Han educational system (and civil service exam) lasted for 2,000 years.
76. Because anyone could take the exam, a few commoners rose to high positions.
77. Confucianism became the main philosophy in China.

Why the Han dynasty ended

78. The Empire of China grew so large that the Han could not defend their borders.
79. When the Han dynasty fell, China fell back into the warring states.

55. Place (cultural feature)
56. Place
57. Place
58. Place
59. Place
60. Place
61. Place
62. Place
63. Place
64. Place
65. Place
66. Place
67. Place
68. Regions (the test was given in different regions)
69. Place
70. Place
71. Place
72. Place
73. Place
74. Regions (The goal was to unite all the regions/provinces into a united Empire.)
75. Place
76. Place
77. Movement (of a set of ideas)
78. Region, Movement
79. Movement (war = lots troop movements)
Regions (China was carved into little kingdoms again.)