Lesson #54

“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**

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.

- **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.

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**The Five Themes of Geography**

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?
   - 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).

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**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!
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.