ANCIENT CHINA

Use these maps of China to see the areas of settlement in the ancient world. As with other ancient cultures, the earliest ancient culture in China centered around large rivers. From 6500 BCE, in the Neolithic Age, farming was done in the valleys of the Yellow and Yangtze Rivers by the people of the Yangshao and Longshan cultures.

The Shang civilization grew in the Yellow River valley and was the earliest in Chinese history, starting around 2600 BCE. The beginnings of a pictographic language happened in this period. More complicated bronze casted pieces were made. This civilization came to an end in 1027 BCE.

The Zhou dynasty lasted for 700 years. The early civilization started in the Wei River valley. Warring states developed. There was an expansion of territories, to the north and south. Large populations of people were mobilized for war and for public works. Cities were built.

Late in this period the emperors of the Han dynasty ruled China. Trade moved westward and the Silk Road became established as a route. Confucius established a new philosophy and Taoism was developed. Paper was invented. The Great Wall was built gradually in sections. Traditional Chinese culture as we know it today was beginning.
Activities for ANCIENT CHINA map

Label the following bodies of water drawn in on the maps:
- Bay of Bengal
- East China Sea
- Pacific Ocean
- South China Sea
- Yellow River
- Yangtze River
- Ganges River (ancient India)

Using a blue colored pencil, shade these bodies of water.

Label these desert areas:
- Gobi Desert
- Taklamakan Desert

Shade the deserts with brown/tan colored pencil.

Outline early Yangshao, Longshan and Hemudu cultures.

Label the following cities and add others if you like:
- Chang’an
- Chengziyai

Draw in sections of the Great Wall and color yellow.
MAP ACTIVITIES

Label the SILK ROAD and color RED.
Label these bodies of water and shade with BLUE:    Indian Ocean    Red Sea    Mediterranean
Ganges River    Indus River    Caspian Sea    Yellow River    Yangtze River
Mark the city of Chang-an mark with a star and label it.
Modern day CHINA and surrounding countries

Label countries and bodies of water

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