**Ancient China Unit Summary**

A dynasty was a series of leaders in the same family. A dynasty is a system of government in which rulers passed on their titles and powers to a member of their family, usually when they died.

Dynasties shaped Ancient China because each dynasty contributed to the development of Chinese society, for example, the Shang dynasty build the first cities and Zhou dynasty developed feudalism.

The social groups that existed in Ancient China were the Shi (gentry scholars), the Nong (peasant farmers), the gong (artists and craftsmen), and the Shang (merchants and traders).

Ancient Chinese social groups were organised in the following hierarchy with the Shangs at the bottom, then there were the Gong class, the Nong, the Shi and at the top was the Emperor who was the ruler.

The role of the Emperor in ancient China was to participate in various rituals, supreme commander (who usually led the fighting against his enemies), and he was supposed to tour and inspect the land he owned.

The religious beliefs and practices in ancient China were Taoism, Confucianism, and Buddhism. Taoism was a Chinese philosophy based on the writings of Lao-Tzu advocating humility and religious piety, Buddhists believed that when the dead died they would be reborn. And Confucianism was a code whereby people should be helpful, kind and honest.

Some of the differences between Ancient Chinese and Ancient Egyptian burial customs are the Chinese buried their dead, while the Egyptians mummified.

While some of the similarities of are that they wrapped the bodies and buried them with items they needed in the afterlife.

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