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**Early Peoples Activity Sheet:  
Chinese of the Shang, Zhou, and Qin Dynasties**

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1. **Physical Features**
2. Name the two main geographical regions of China’s dynasties?
3. Describe the features of the two regions?
4. Identify the difference in climate between the northern and southern regions.
5. What does the Great Wall tell us about the landscape?
6. **Roles of key groups**
7. Which class of people stood directly below the rulers?
8. During the Shang dynasty, what did aristocratic leaders provide Shang rulers?
9. How did the role of aristocrats increase under the Zhou dynasty?
10. Who were the shih?
11. How was status given under the Qin dynasty?
12. Under what dynasty was the king the most important religious leader?
13. Who were the Diviners?
14. What archaeological evidence from the diviners of the Shang period have been found?
15. What was the role of the Invocators?
16. Who were the Shamans?
17. In the warrior classes, what did chariots symbolise during Zhou and Qin dynasties?
18. Name some of the different classes of people in Chinese society.
19. **Law**
20. How do we know what laws were like in ancient China?
21. During the Shang and Zhou dynasties, who made all the laws?
22. What were some of the punishments given to those that broke the law during the Zhou dynasty?
23. During the Qin dynasty, what was the goal of many of the laws?
24. What were the lu and ling?
25. What evidence do historians have that explains the punishment for robbers under the Qin laws. What is the punishment?
26. **Beliefs, values and practices:**
27. Of the gods worshipped by early Chinese dynasties, which gods were the highest during the Shang and Zhou dynasties?
28. Look at the ritual vessel on page 28, what does the inscription tell us about Chinese spiritual life?
29. How did people during the Shang era worship Di?
30. What was the difference between how the Shang worshipped their highest god, Di and how the Zhou worshipped their highest god, Tian?
31. Who was the spirit she?
32. What did people during the Zhou dynasty believe the spirits of their ancestors could do?
33. What is yin and yang?
34. During the Shang dynasty, what was involved in the veneration ceremonies?
35. Why did people take part in the veneration ceremonies?
36. Who were thought to be the victims of human sacrifice?
37. What is the fengchan ceremony?
38. What did the manner of burial reveal about a person’s social status?
39. Why did the wealthy sacrifice victims as part of a burial ceremony?
40. How were middle and lower classes buried?
41. Why did the wealthy include grave goods in their tombs?
42. What unique feature did the tomb of Shi Huangdi contain?
43. **Philosophy**
44. Who was Confucius?
45. Summarise Confucius’ teachings.
46. How were Confucius’ teachings different to those of Taoism/Daoism?
47. **Everyday life**
48. Explain the structure of the family in ancient China.
49. What is filial piety?
50. Who in the household was not ruled by the men of the family?
51. What did bearing sons mean for the family?
52. Who could not marry in ancient China?
53. What did the brother of one of the first Zhou kings invent to encourage monogamy?
54. How do historians and archaeologists know what houses looked like in ancient China?
55. Describe what an artisan’s house would have looked like during the Shang era.
56. What type of houses did peasants live in?
57. Describe the layout of the house of a ruler or noble.
58. What were the staple foods in ancient China?
59. Name two examples of bronzes used for cooking and what they were used for.
60. Describe the basic clothing during the Shang and Zhou dynasties.
61. What is the shenyi?
62. Who is said to have founded China’s first educational system?
63. Explain the first educational system.
64. Why did Shi Huangdi order the burning of books and execution of scholars?