Dynasties of Ancient China

Gathering the Facts

1. Turn to pages 22–23 of the Atlas. Read the introduction and the history question, “What did Confucius say?” Use the information to fill in the blanks below.

   a. The first unified empire in China was established by the ___________ dynasty.

   b. The ___________ and the ___________ dynasties also helped develop ancient China.

   c. The name China comes from the ___________ dynasty. Qin can also be spelled ___________.

   d. The teachings of the ancient Chinese philosopher ________________ provided people with a guide to living a moral life.

Thinking About History

2. Look at map A, “Zhou Dynasty.” Then, for each pair of events below, write C next to the cause and E next to the effect.

   a. ______ Barbarian tribes invade Zhou territory.
      ______ Zhou capital moves from Hao to Luoyang.

   b. ______ Large states control smaller states.
      ______ Chinese states fight each other.

Links Far and Near

3. Look at picture B and read its caption. Use the photo to answer the following questions.

   a. Why was the Great Wall built? ________________

   b. Why do you think it was necessary to keep rebuilding the Great Wall? ________________

   c. What do you think the towers along the wall were used for? ________________

   d. The Great Wall is over 4,000 miles long. If you were walking at a speed of about 4 miles per hour, how long would it take you to walk the entire length of the Great Wall? ________________
Time and Change

4. Use map C. "Qin Dynasty," to sequence the events below in chronological order. Write 1 next to the event that occurred first and 5 next to the event that occurred last.
   a. Great Wall is built.
   b. Civil war breaks out.
   c. Qin rule begins.
   d. Qin dynasty ends.
   e. Qin conquers other states and unites China.

History Through Maps

5. Use map D. "Han Dynasty," to answer the following questions.
   a. In which cities were the two capitals of the Han dynasty located?

   b. To what city did the Han extend the Great Wall?

   c. What trade route did the Han build that linked China with Europe?

   d. The Han expanded west through which desert?

   e. How long did the Han dynasty last?

   f. How did the Han dynasty end?

People and Cultures

6. Look at map A. "Zhou Dynasty," map C. "Qin Dynasty," and map D. "Han Dynasty." Next to each statement below, write Z if it describes the Zhou dynasty, Q if it describes the Qin dynasty, or H if it describes the Han dynasty. Some statements describe more than one dynasty.
   a. The shortest-lasting dynasty
   b. Expanded China the most
   c. Capital was located at Luoyang.
   d. Built the Silk Road
   e. Built the Great Wall
   f. Was invaded by barbarians
   g. The Huang He flowed through its territory.