

**Unit 1, Lesson 9:  
China's First Dynasties**

LEQ: How did geography effect early Chinese civilizations?

Explain how the Huang He River (Yellow River) controlled life, including it's name, "China's Sorrow."

Huang He- Yellow River: rich soil called loess blows into its waters and floods onto banks: this is where Chinese civilization began!

- Muddiest river on Earth
- Floods the valley often and has killed thousands: "China's Sorrow"
- Floods could destroy a harvest and create famine

Highlight the leaders, religion, culture, and accomplishments of the two Early Dynasties in China.

**Shang**

- Bronze weapons and horse drawn Chariots took over Huang He valley
- built China's first cities and capital
- warlords-military leaders-had own armies and ruled cities and parts of kingdom
- oracles could tell the future
- woman general named Fu Hao
- Polytheism.
- Made offerings to the gods for good Luck

**Zhou**

- rebelled Shang
- ruled 800 years-longer than any other dynasty
- better irrigation and flood control
- used iron weapons and invented crossbow that expanded kingdom by conquering territory
- built roads that helped them trade
- Confucius began his philosophy then.



# A Letter Home

Imagine that you are an Aryan herder who has decided to move to Mohenjo-Daro and live among the Harrapans. Write a letter home to your people. Tell them why they should settle in the Indus Valley with you and change their way of life.

