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China: From Past to Present

Part Two: Life in the Ancient Capital Cities

Pre-Test

Directions: Answer each of the following either True or False:

1. In China, the New Year's festival is a more important holiday than Christmas. _____
2. For a large part of its history, China did not have extensive contact with people from the other great civilizations of the world. _____
3. Chinese emperors were carried about in portable chairs. _____
4. Throughout most of history, the emperors of China ruled more people than the most powerful European kings. _____
5. Confucius was the first emperor of China. _____

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True or False

Directions: Answer the following either True or False.

1. China's population has never exceeded that of the United States. _____
2. Mao Zedong was the last emperor of China. _____
3. In ancient times, the government of China was based on the ideals of the famous Greek philosopher, Aristotle. _____
4. In ancient China, imperial examinations had to be passed in order to obtain a job in the imperial government. _____
5. Shanghai was the capital city of China before the emperor and his government moved to Beijing. _____

Fill in the blanks:

1. The _____ Desert and the _____ Mountains physically isolate China from much of the rest of Asia
2. In Beijing, the emperors lived and worked in a vast complex of buildings called the _____.
3. The emperor's highest-ranking wife was called the _____.
4. In ancient China, the _____ was known as the "Son of Heaven."
5. The most important holiday in China is the _____ festival.

Short Answer

Describe some typical features (buildings, defenses, etc.) of the great cities of ancient China. Use the back of this sheet if necessary.

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Video Quiz

Answer each of the following questions either True or False:

1. True or False? China was never very isolated from the other great civilizations of the world. _____
2. True or False? In ancient China, the activities that took place in the bell and drum towers were related to time of day. _____
3. True or False? Elderly people have traditionally been treated with great respect in China. _____
4. True or False? For centuries the emperors of China were the most powerful rulers on Earth. _____
5. True or False? In ancient China, imperial examinations had to be passed in order to obtain a job in the emperor's government. _____