

NAME: _____

MAP TITLE: _____

Name: _____ Date: _____ Period: _____

Ancient China Map Activity

____ 1. Complete your map using the instructions on the "Ancient China Map Instructions" page. (not attached)

____ 2. Read the "Settling Along the Huang River" article to complete the following activities to learn about the geography of Ancient China.

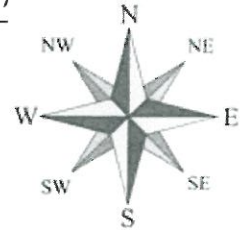
PART ONE: Read the whole article and answer the following questions to analyze the impacts of Ancient China's geography.

1. How does the Huang River get its nickname, the "Yellow River"?
2. How does loess help with Chinese agriculture?
3. What 3 physical features isolate China?
4. How did being isolated impact Ancient China's development?

PART TWO: Using the article information **AND** your own brainstorming, list and draw 4 ways the people of Ancient China used/benefitted from the Huang-He (Yellow) and Yangtze (Chang) rivers.

PART THREE:

Using the compass rose and a map, determine whether the statements written below are true (T) or false (F)



- ____ 1. The Yangtze River is south of the Huang He (Yellow) River.
- ____ 2. The Himalaya Mountains run along the northern border of China.
- ____ 3. China is in the northeastern hemisphere.
- ____ 4. The Gobi Desert is in northeastern China.
- ____ 5. The Pacific Ocean is on the eastern side of China.

Ancient China Map Instructions

1. Title your map: Ancient China

2. Label the following bodies of water in black (or pencil).
Then neatly color them blue.

Yellow Sea

East China Sea

South China Sea

Pacific Ocean

3. Trace in **blue** and then label the following key rivers of Ancient China in **black** or pencil.

Huang He (Yellow) River

Yangtze (Chang) River

***Yes, you must write both names of the rivers! ☺*

4. Shade the areas of the following deserts in **brown**.

Gobi Desert

Taklimakan Desert

5. Use the ^^^^ symbols to draw in the **Himalaya Mountains**.
Use **brown** to draw in the symbols for this range.

6. Draw a **compass rose** next to the key.

7. Complete the **key** with all symbols and color coding used on your map.

****NEATNESS COUNTS!!****



Section 1

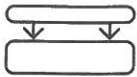
Settling Along the Huang River

Key Ideas

- Geographic features isolated ancient China from other early civilizations.
- Farming settlements along the Huang River were the beginning of Chinese civilization.
- Achievements of the Shang dynasty included advanced bronze work and the development of writing.

Key Terms • loess • dike • oracle bones • pictograph

Visual Glossary



Reading Skill Summarize Take notes using the graphic organizer in your journal.



Culture Close-Up

Shang artisans created beautiful bronze statues.

Chinese civilization arose along the Huang (hwong) River, also called the Yellow River. By around 5000 B.C., farmers had settled in a number of villages in this river valley. Over time, powerful rulers united these villages to create large kingdoms. Among these, the Shang kingdom rose to become the most influential.

Geography of China

Today, the country of China is a huge land, similar in size to the United States. Much of China is covered by rugged mountains and vast deserts. Despite the challenges of the geography, early people found the resources they needed along China's river valleys.

River Systems Rivers helped China's development, just as they aided the development of civilizations in Mesopotamia, Egypt, and India. China has two main rivers: the Huang and the Chang (chahng). They provide water for farming. People move goods along these waterways.

Both rivers begin in the high mountains of western China. The Chang is China's longest river, but the Huang River was especially important to China's early history. It flows east to the Yellow Sea. Along the way, this river crosses the flat North China Plain.

Winds from the Gobi Desert blow loess (LOH es) onto the Huang River valley. **Loess** is a fine, dustlike material that can form soil. The Huang River cuts through deep deposits of loess and picks it up.

myWorld
CONNECTIONS

The Chang is about 1,000 miles longer than the Missouri River, the longest river in the United States.



The loess makes the river muddy and turns the river yellow. The name of the Huang River comes from this mud. In Chinese, *huang* means yellow.

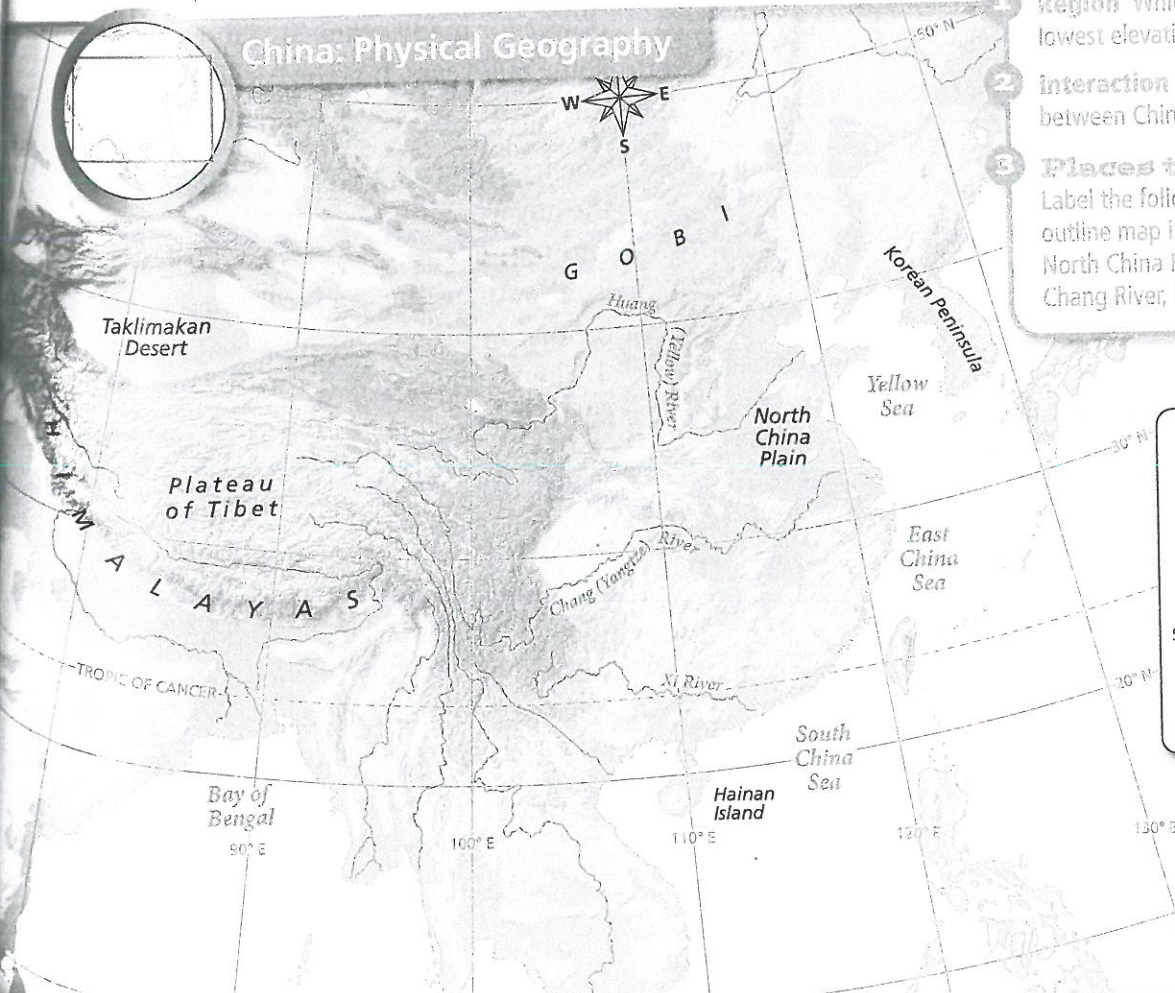
When the river overflows its banks, it deposits the loess on the surrounding plain. This fertile soil makes the North China Plain well suited for agriculture. Even with simple tools, ancient farmers could easily plant their crops in the soft soil. It is on this plain that people created the first large settlements in China.

Isolation China is nearly surrounded by physical barriers. Two great deserts, the Taklimakan (tah kluh muh KAHN) and the Gobi, lie to the north and west

of China. The towering Himalayas form a wall between China and India. To the south lie more mountains, and to the east stretches the vast Pacific Ocean.

Travel and trade between China and other civilizations was difficult. Some early innovations, such as the domesticated horse and the chariot, may have come to China from western Asia. However, ancient China was largely cut off from other civilizations. It developed its own traditions and way of life.

Reading Check What natural barriers isolated China from other civilizations?



Map Skills

- Region** Which part of China has the lowest elevation?
- Interaction** The Himalayas lie between China and which civilization?
- Places to Know!** Label the following places on the outline map in your Student Journal: North China Plain, Gobi, Huang River, Chang River, Himalayas.

