

Chapter 5 – Ancient India

Section 1 – Geography of Chinas River Valleys Notes

Geography	Civilization	Families
<p>North China Plain built up by soil deposits of the Huang River; dry climate</p>	<p>People of North China Plain were probably nomads who hunted and gathered food</p>	<p>Family was center of early Chinese society; a person's first responsibility was to family</p>
<p>Monsoons in southern China make the area warm and wet</p>	<p>First farming settlements in the Huang Valley probably began around 5000 B.C.</p>	<p>Households might contain five generations of extended family</p>
<p>Mountains and seas separate China from other civilizations; called themselves the Middle Kingdom</p>	<p>Shang dynasty first known civilization in China; arose some time after 1760 B.C.</p>	<p>In farming communities, extended families might live in separate cottages within walking distance</p>
<p>Civilization in China grew up along the Huang and Chang rivers</p>	<p>Shang people built first cities, did fine bronze work, and developed first Chinese writing, which could be used for different languages</p>	<p>Status of a person in a family was based on age and sex, with oldest male being the center of authority</p>
<p>The rivers provide good soil for farming, but also bring floods</p>		<p>Women's lives were governed by men: first by their father, then by husband, and then by sons</p>
<p>Early peoples built dikes to hold back the flood waters</p>	<p>Around 1160 B.C., the Zhou dynasty conquered the Shang</p>	<p>Chinese were first people known to use two names—one for the family and one for the individual</p>